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**ATTACHMENT 4**

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS: 2<sup>nd</sup> INTERIM SUSTAINABILITY  
APPRAISAL OF MEDWAY CORE STRATEGY  
PUBLICATION DRAFT**



**Medway Council Core Strategy**

**Summary of Findings:  
Interim Sustainability Appraisal of Medway  
Core Strategy Publication Draft**

**July 2011**

prepared by

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*enfusion*



## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS: INTERIM SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF MEDWAY CORE STRATEGY PUBLICATION DRAFT

### Medway Council Core Strategy

<i>date:</i>	July 2011	
<i>prepared for:</i>	Medway Council	
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## 1. Introduction & Background

### Introduction:

- 1.1 Enfusion has been commissioned by Medway Council to provide Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and support for the remainder of the Core Strategy plan-making process. This includes providing an independent sustainability opinion of the developing Core Strategy and working closely with Officers to improve the overall sustainability of the plan, whilst ensuring compliance with the relevant SA/SEA legislation and guidance.
- 1.2 The approach to the SA of the publication draft is outlined as follows:
- Build-upon the existing SA work undertaken by the Council;
  - Appraise any significant changes made to previous drafts of the plan;
  - Ensure previous consultation responses received for the SA are incorporated;
  - Providing an overall appraisal of the cumulative effects of the plan;
  - Making any recommendations that can be incorporated into the draft plan before finalisation and progression to submission stage.
- 1.3 The following report provides a summary of the work Enfusion has undertaken to date and the initial findings of the Sustainability Appraisal, including any significant issues uncovered. The findings will be detailed in the forthcoming report, the Sustainability Appraisal of the Medway Core Strategy Publication Draft.

### The SA process to date:

- 1.4 The Sustainability Appraisal process is an iterative one, assessing the Core Strategy at key stages as it evolves. In this way it also informs the policies in the Core Strategy. Previous SA work on the Core Strategy includes:
- In December 2008 a draft Scoping Report was published as a consultation draft. Taking account of all the responses received, a Final Scoping Report was published in April 2009.
  - An initial Sustainability Appraisal was published in July 2009. This assessed the Issues and Options report published at the same time and considered the matters to be covered in the Core Strategy and SA.
  - An Interim Sustainability Appraisal of the Pre-Publication Draft document was published in November 2010, appraising the first full draft of the DPD.

1.5 These previous reports are available on Medway Council's website at:  
<http://www.medway.gov.uk/environmentandplanning/developmentplan/localdevelopmentframework/sustainabilityappraisal.aspx>

1.6 Following the current appraisal of the Publication Draft, an appraisal will be undertaken of the draft submission document submitted for an independent Examination. This will be documented in a full SA Report that includes all information required to satisfy the requirements for Sustainability Appraisal and the European Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

**SA Review:**

1.7 In June 2011 Enfusion prepared a Critical Friend/Compliance review of the previous SA work undertaken by Medway. The review found that overall the three SA Reports are well written and presented in an understandable style that is engaging for both the professional and public. The review included a number of suggestions for improvement that could be incorporated into the remainder of the SA work to ensure compliance with the SEA Directive, to reduce the risk of legal challenge and to uphold good SA practice.

**SA Workshop:**

1.8 On 29 June, Enfusion held a workshop with Officers of Council's Planning department to discuss the sustainability implications of the Medway Core Strategy and to help ensure that Officers local knowledge can inform the SA work. At the workshop, staff explored some of the key issues facing Medway including climate change/energy efficiency, health and transport and considered further opportunities for mitigation of the plan's negative effects.

**SA of Publication Draft:**

1.9 To maintain consistency, Enfusion has continued the SA work in the same format and style as used by Medway Council Officers and adopting the same appraisal methodology, including use of the Medway Sustainability Appraisal Framework. A detailed methodology will be provided in the SA report accompanying the Core Strategy on consultation.

## 2. SA FINDINGS

### SA Findings

- 2.1 Following is an initial summary of the SA findings, ordered in accordance with the environmental, social and economic indicators used in the Interim SA Report. For each topic, the findings of previous SA work are summarised. This is followed by an appraisal of significant changes made since the Pre-Publication Draft, and a commentary on the overall effects of the plan on each topic.

### Air quality

- 2.2 The SA of the Pre-Publication Draft notes that the main areas likely to be affected by increased emissions will be the key areas for new development; i.e. the urban waterfront and in/around the town centres. The proposed development at Lodge Hill, alongside economic development at the Hoo Peninsula will also lead to increased traffic on the peninsula.
- 2.3 Mitigation is proposed in CS policies, in particular CS 24: Transport and Movement, although it is recommended that the approach to lower parking standards could be strengthened, provision made for electric vehicles and a requirement for green travel plans included. Other changes made to the Publication Draft include some additional references with regard to minimising air pollution (e.g. in Policy CS 25: The River Medway) and increasing bus services which will help towards mitigation. The HRA will also look at the cumulative effects of possible increased emissions on designated biodiversity sites, which has been raised as a possible area of concern. Overall, the issue will require ongoing monitoring, with aversive action taken should acceptable standards be exceeded.

### Water and Soil

- 2.4 The SA of the Pre-Publication Draft identified the potential for negative effects on soil through minerals workings, especially in the area to the east of Hoo St. Werburgh. Policy CS7: Countryside and Landscape seeks to protect the best and most versatile agricultural land on the Hoo Peninsula, outside of the Lodge Hill strategic allocation, in the Capstone and Medway Valleys and to the North and East of Rainham. The changes made to the Publication Draft are not considered significant in terms of changing the overall appraisal for soils.
- 2.5 The key sustainability issues relating to water were identified by the Interim SA as the quality, amount and distribution of water supplies and the physical water environments. Policy CS3 of the Publication Draft includes stronger

targets for the Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM and also requires residential developments to seek to achieve water efficiency of no more than 80 litres per person per day. However, even with the proposed mitigation measures (both within other plans and the Core Strategy itself) it is likely that development proposed in Medway and the surrounding areas will have significant cumulative negative effects on water resources. The significance of this effect is likely to be exacerbated through the effects of climate change, which include a drier climate and higher temperatures. It is recommended that:

- The PPDCS contain a separate policy on the water environment that also incorporates the water-related aspects of Policy CS2 and CS3.
- The policy includes wording to ensure that development proposals that pose unacceptable risk or harm to the quality and/or quantity of ground waters, surface waters, wetlands or coastal water systems will not be permitted.
- It should also require that major proposals for new development should be able to demonstrate that there are, or will be, adequate water supply and waste-water treatment facilities in place to serve the whole development.
- It is also recommended that more aspirational targets are set for the Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM.
- The policy should require Sustainable Drainage Systems to be incorporated into all new development.

## **Waste**

- 2.6 The SA work to date notes the key issues in terms of waste are in waste reduction, increased provision for treatment/processing and striving for waste self-sufficiency. The key relevant policy in this instance is Policy CS23: Waste Management, which aims to reduce waste through provision of facilities in new development and addressing the required provision (in an environmentally- sensitive way). The policy has been amended for the Publication Draft to consider the potential for a soil treatment facility, which has been identified as a need due to the volumes of contaminated soil resulting from large-scale regeneration in the area. This change will help to further address the issues around waste self-sufficiency. The policy also now includes further references to rural landscape and character (addressed under heading: Biodiversity, Open Space and Landscape).
- 2.7 Due to the level of new housing and employment development proposed overall, the Core Strategy is likely to lead cumulatively to an increased level of waste production in Medway, however the measures proposed in Policy CS23, alongside a wider societal drive towards zero waste will help to minimise this impact, especially in the long term.



## **Biodiversity, open space and landscape**

- 2.8 The Interim SA of the Pre-Publication Draft noted that the proposed level of growth will have negative effects on biodiversity, open space and landscape but that the protection provided by CS policies would be sufficient to ensure that these effects would not be significant. The SA of the Pre-Publication Draft did not identify increased recreational activity as potentially having a significant negative effect on biodiversity. This was primarily due to a lack of evidence, which has now been addressed through the North Kent Visitor and bird disturbance studies commissioned by the North Kent Environmental Planning Group (NKEPG). Early findings of this work suggest that there may be a correlation between recreational disturbance and a decline of designated bird populations in North Kent. Enfusion has recommended (and Officers have included) new policy wording (in Policy CS6: Preservation and Enhancement of Natural Assets)) that seeks to support the findings and recommendations of the NKEPG work. This issue is considered in detail through the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Core Strategy - see separate report.
- 2.9 There have been no additional changes to the Publication Draft that significantly alter the findings of the Interim SA in relation to open space. With regard to landscape there have been a number of additions to the Publication Draft that will help to enhance the benefits of the Core Strategy. This includes the protection of the River Medway as a key landscape feature of natural beauty in its own right (Policy CS8) and encouraging opportunities for landscape enhancement in line with the objectives of the Kent Downs AONB designation (Policy CS32). The Publication Draft also ensures that waste management proposals take account of impacts on the rural landscape.

## **Climate adaptation and mitigation**

- 2.10 The Interim SA of the Pre-Publication Draft noted the steps taken in the CS to mitigate climate change (through reduced emissions) and adapt to climate change (for example through better flood defences). Measures outlined in policies included requirements for meeting the Code for Sustainable Homes for residential buildings and BREEAM ratings for commercial buildings. These requirements reflected the national situation at the time, however changes have since occurred and Enfusion has recommended further changes to the policy to reflect this included within the current Publication Draft (Policy CS4: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy).
- 2.11 As a cross-cutting issue, climate change is related to many of the policies in the plan; from CS4 to CS24: Transport and Movement. The area policies, retail and economic development policies also relate to climate change, as the

location and nature of development can have a significant impact on emissions through reducing the need to travel.

- 2.12 On the whole, the cumulative effect of the CS on Climate Change (emissions) is likely to be an adverse one; mostly due to the sheer volume of new development proposed. However, with the inclusion of Policies CS2, 3 and 4, and the strategic approach to development and transport, the SA has found that the CS includes some good measures to mitigate this effect. The suggestions (made through the SA workshop and subsequent advice) for amendments to Policy CS3 have been adopted in the current draft policy and are seen to be important in further mitigating greenhouse gas emissions in the Medway.
- 2.13 In terms of mitigation, the SA work to date has found that various mitigation measures, included in policies on flood risk (Policy CS5) and natural assets (Policy CS6) will help the Medway to adapt to the impacts of climate change (including increased flooding, habitat fragmentation and increased temperature extremes).

### **Community (population, crime, deprivation, health)**

- 2.14 SA work undertaken to date has shown that the overall effects of the CS on the community will be very positive, through enhanced prosperity, increased average earnings and much improved public spaces, community facilities and services. Other positive effects are likely through better transport services, safer neighbourhoods and centres and health benefits due to access to green spaces.
- 2.15 Changes made to the Publication Draft that are relevant to this issue are as follows:
- Policy CS15 (Housing Design and other housing requirements): Strengthened policy on student accommodation to restrict Houses of Multiple Occupation.
  - Policy CS27 (Rochester) and CS28 (Chatham): Additional text to seek local employment opportunities.
  - Policy CS28: Includes retention and development of services and facilities at Upper Halling and encourages communities to plan for village needs.
- 2.16 These amendments to the plan will ensure that the already significant community benefits from the CS will be further enhanced, with positive effects for community cohesion, social inclusion and poverty reduction.

### **Cultural Heritage and Material Assets**

- 2.17 The SA of the Pre-Publication Draft found that the CS will give a high level of protection to heritage assets and will expand the existing cultural offer in Medway. It notes the high level of protection afforded to heritage and culture through Policies CS11: Culture and Leisure and CS12: Heritage assets. Other policies that contribute positively to heritage are CS18: Tourism and CS10: Sport and recreation.
- 2.18 There have been no additional changes to the Publication Draft that enhance or detract from the benefits stated. However, one further observation is the overall cumulative effect of development on the maritime character of the Medway and the need to ensure this character is not lost to new development, but enhanced. Policy CS25: The River Medway partially recognises this, but it may be possible to expand to include reference to the distinct maritime heritage and character of the Medway.

### **Transport and accessibility**

- 2.19 Previous SA work has found that the CS will help to facilitate significant rail improvements, park and ride facilities, rationalisation of parking and junction improvements, whilst also increasing water-based transport. Policy CS24: Transport and Movement was seen to be of particular benefit. However the appraisal also cautioned that increased economic activity in the area may offset those benefits.
- 2.20 Few amendments have been made to the CS that will affect transport. Those changes that have been made include amendments to Policy CS27: Rochester to state that the Council will work with bus operators to extend access to services in the south of the area. Further changes have been made to Policy CS33: Lodge Hill, with less specificity given as to which transport improvements will be provided by developers. Overall the effect of these changes is not of major significance.
- 2.21 The overall effect of the CS on transport and accessibility is difficult to predict at a strategic level of SA. The transportation effects of the proposed increased development in Medway will be difficult to mitigate; the CS policy mitigations will go some way, however this must be seen in conjunction with the Local Transport Plan (LTP 3) and closely monitored in the future, with aversive action taken. The SA makes a number of further recommendations (see also Air Quality topic), in particular a policy in support of electric cars and electric car infrastructure would be a positive step.

## Housing

- 2.22 The SA of the Pre-Publication Draft identified that the Core Strategy would have significant benefits for the delivery and accessibility of housing. There have been no significant changes to the Publication Draft to alter the findings of the Interim SA. The effect of the Core Strategy on housing will be one of the most significant and long-lasting of the plan's effects on sustainability through meeting Medway's housing demand and increasing the stock of affordable housing.

## Economy and employment

- 2.23 SA work undertaken to date has shown that the overall effects of the CS on the economy will be very positive, with significant improvement in overall economic performance and much more activity in and around the town centres and particular benefits for Chatham town centre through new retail development. Benefits would be distributed throughout Medway, however, with employment provision at Lodge Hill, Grain, Kingsnorth and Rochester Airfield. Policy CS17: Economic Development was seen as instrumental in achieving these benefits and this policy remains little changed.
- 2.24 The key change to the Publication Draft relates to encouraging development of a business incubator and grow on space for new and expanding businesses - this will further enhance the economic benefits of the CS. Another change is a small drop in the provision of employment floorspace by approximately 60,000 sqm to reflect the current economic situation, which could be argued to be a more realistic scenario. A range of other policies (in particular the Area Policies) will all help to increase the economic benefits facilitated by the CS - this has been improved by the addition of wording to Policy CS27: Rochester and CS28: Chatham that further encourages local employment opportunities.
- 2.25 On the whole, the cumulative effect of the CS will have major significant effects for the economy and employment in Medway. A cautionary note from the previous SA still applies: that the employment provision at Lodge Hill should be carefully considered in terms of its linkages to existing businesses and to ensure that it does not draw people from the other nearby settlements on the Peninsula, which would be harmful to their vitality.

### **3. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS**

- 3.1 The SA process to date has made a number of recommendations for changes to the CS, which have been adopted. Recent recommendations relating to energy efficiency and habitat protection have been adopted by Officers in the current draft. This report has summarised further recommendations for the Council's consideration and this will be further detailed in the SA Report on the Publication Draft.
  
- 3.2 On the whole, the Core Strategy is developing well along the lines of sustainability. As expected with a plan of this nature, the key benefits are for social and economic sustainability. Environmental effects are more difficult to predict accurately at this strategic scale, but it is noted that effects on water, waste, climate, air, landscapes, soils and biodiversity are inevitable given the scale of development proposed. The Core Strategy contains numerous mitigation measures to minimise these effects, however we would emphasise the importance of the monitoring strategy in ensuring that mitigation is successful in the long term.



ATTACHMENT 5

DRAFT HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT  
(HRA SCREENING REPORT)



Medway Council Core Strategy

**DRAFT** Habitats Regulations Assessment  
(HRA) Screening Report

July 2011

prepared by

*enfusion*



**DRAFT** HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT  
SCREENING REPORT

**Medway Council Core Strategy**

<i>date:</i>	July 2011	
<i>prepared for:</i>	Medway Council	
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**APPENDICES (Available on request)**

- 1** European Site Characterisations
- 2** Plans, Programmes and Projects Review
- 3** Publication Draft Core Strategy Policy Screening
- 4** NKEPG Meeting Minutes

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 0.1 Habitats Regulations Assessment of spatial development plans is a requirement of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) as set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. This report details the HRA Screening undertaken for Medway Council's Core Strategy (Publication Draft). It sets out the methods, findings and the conclusions of the screening assessment.
- 0.2 The screening considered the potential for impacts arising from the Publication Draft Core Strategy and the likelihood that the impacts arising would result in significant effects on the six European sites scoped into the Screening Assessment.
- 0.3 The screening concluded that there is potential for likely significant effects at the six European sites as a result of identified impacts arising from the Publication Draft Core Strategy both alone and in combination with other plans and projects. As a result a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment will be undertaken to consider if there is the potential for adverse effects on European site integrity. These findings are subject to consultation comments and advice from NE and wider stakeholders.
- 0.4 In addition to the ongoing, statutory consultation undertaken with Natural England this HRA Report is available for wider public view and comment. Consultation on this HRA Report will take place in parallel with consultation on the Publication Draft Core Strategy. The consultation period is from 30th August to 10th October 2011. All responses should be sent to:

- **Email:** [ldf@medway.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@medway.gov.uk)
- **Post: Development Plans and Research Team, Regeneration, Community and Culture, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR**
- **Limehouse: This is an online consultation system and we would strongly encourage you to "register" as a user. If you do you will receive email alerts when new consultations are underway, you can submit your views in a structured way and see our responses to all representations we receive. To register please go to: <http://medway-consult.limehouse.co.uk/>**

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This is the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report for the Medway Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy. It has been prepared by Environmental Planning Consultants, Enfusion for Medway Council, and is the first formal stage of the HRA process for the Council's Core Strategy.
- 1.2 The report details the findings of the screening stage. Its aim is to provide information, which in consultation with Natural England (NE) and wider stakeholders, will allow the Council to come to a decision as to whether a full Appropriate Assessment (AA) is necessary, as a result of identified impacts arising from the LDF Core Strategy.

### Background

- 1.3 The HRA process for the Core Strategy began in June 2011 with the preparation of a Working Paper, which sought to provide a strategic HRA overview of the key issues arising from development proposed in the Pre-Publication Draft Core Strategy (PPDCS) and how these issues could affect particular European sites. Based on identified issues the Paper recommended a number of mitigation measures to help inform the development of the Publication Draft Core Strategy (PDCS) and minimise the potential impacts of proposed developments on European sites.
- 1.4 A meeting was held with members of the North Kent Environmental Planning Working Group<sup>1</sup> (NKEPG) on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2011 to discuss the initial findings and recommendations of the Working Paper. The notes from this meeting can be found in **Appendix 4**. The Working Paper was subsequently sent to NKEPG members for informal comments. Responses were received from NE, RSPB, the Kent Wildlife Trust and Greening the Gateway Kent and Medway. The findings of the Working Paper and comments received from stakeholders will help to inform future stages in the HRA.

### Structure of the Report

- 1.5 Following this introductory section the document is organised into four further sections:
- **Section 2** summarises the requirement for HRA and the background to Medway's Core Strategy.
  - **Section 3** outlines the HRA screening process and the findings of the screening assessment.
  - **Section 4** summarises the findings of the HRA screening process and sets out the next steps for the HRA, including consultation arrangements.

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<sup>1</sup> NKEPG comprises members from Dartford, Gravesham, Medway, and Swale councils, Kent Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Environment Agency, Greening the Gateway Kent and Medway, RSPB and Kent County Council.

- **Section 5** sets out the scope and method for the AA.

## 2.0 HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT (HRA) & THE PLAN

### Requirement for Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 2.1 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) [the Habitats Regulations] require that HRA is applied to all statutory land use plans in England and Wales. The aim of the HRA process is to assess the potential effects arising from a plan against the conservation objectives of any site designated for its nature conservation importance.
- 2.2 The Habitats Regulations transpose the requirements of the European Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna [the Habitats Directive] which aims to protect habitats and species of European nature conservation importance. The Directive establishes a network of internationally important sites designated for their ecological status. These are referred to as Natura 2000 sites or European Sites, and comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) which are designated under European Directive (2009/147/EC) on the conservation of wild birds [the Birds Directive]. In addition, Government guidance also requires that Ramsar sites (which support internationally important wetland habitats and are listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance [Ramsar Convention]) are included within the HRA process as required by the Regulations.
- 2.3 The process of HRA is based on the precautionary principle. Evidence should be presented to allow a determination of whether the impacts of a land-use plan, when considered in combination with the effects of other plans and projects against the conservation objectives of a European Site; would adversely affect the integrity of that site. Where effects are considered uncertain, the potential for adverse impacts should be assumed.

### Guidance and Good Practice

- 2.4 The application of HRA to Local Development Documents is an emerging field and has been informed by a number of key guidance and practice documents. Draft guidance for HRA 'Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment', was published by the Government (DCLG, 2006) and is based on the European Commission's (2001) guidance for the Appropriate Assessment of Plans. The DCLG guidance recommends three main stages to the HRA process:
  - **Stage 1:** Screening for Likely Significant Effect
  - **Stage 2:** Appropriate Assessment, Ascertaining Effects on Integrity
  - **Stage 3:** Mitigations Measures and Alternatives Assessment.

- 2.5 If alternative solutions or avoidance/ mitigation measures to remove adverse effects on site integrity cannot be delivered then current guidance recommends an additional stage to consider Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) for why the plan should proceed. For the HRA of land use plans IROPI is only likely to be justified in a very limited set of circumstances and must be accompanied by agreed, deliverable compensation measures for the habitats and species affected. For this reason the IROPI stage is not detailed further in this report.
- 2.6 More recently Natural England has produced additional, detailed guidance on the HRA of Local Development Documents (Tyldesley, 2009) that complements the DCLG guidance, and builds on assessment experience and relevant court rulings. The guidance: sets out criteria to assist with the screening process; addresses the management of uncertainty in the assessment process; and importantly outlines that for the HRA of plans; ' ... what is expected is as rigorous an assessment as can reasonably be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations ... '.
- 2.7 The approach taken for the HRA of the PDCS follows the method set out in formal guidance documents and has additionally been informed by recent good practice examples. The key stages of the HRA process overall, and the specific tasks undertaken for the first, Screening Stage as detailed in this report; are set out in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Habitats Regulations Assessment: Key Stages	
Stages	Habitats Regulations Assessment
<b>Stage 1: Screening for Likely significant Effects</b>	1. Identify European sites in and around the plan area.
	2. Examine the conservation objectives of each interest feature of the European site(s) potentially affected.
	3. Analyse the policy/ plan and the changes to environmental conditions that may occur as a result of the plan. Consider the extent of the effects on European sites (magnitude, duration, location) based on best available information.
	4. Examine other plans and programmes that could contribute (cumulatively) to identified impacts/ effects.
	5. Produce screening assessment based on evidence gathered and consult statutory nature conservation body on findings.
	6. If effects are judged likely or uncertainty exists – the precautionary principle applies. Proceed to <b>Stage 2</b> .
<b>Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment</b>	1. Agree scope and method of Appropriate Assessment with statutory nature conservation body.
	2. Collate all relevant information and evaluate potential impacts on site(s) in light of conservation objectives.
<b>Stage 3: Mitigation Measures and Alternatives Assessment</b>	1. Consider how effect on integrity of site(s) could be avoided by changes to plan and the consideration of alternatives (e.g. an alternative policy/ spatial location). Develop mitigation measures (including timescale and mechanisms for delivery).
	2. Prepare HRA/ AA report and consult statutory body.
	3. Finalise HRA/AA report in line with statutory advice to accompany plan for wider consultation.

## The Medway Core Strategy

- 2.8 The Medway Core Strategy sets out how the Council sees Medway developing over the period up to 2028. When adopted, the Core Strategy will guide all major development decisions and investment plans. It sets out the overall vision and strategy for the area and will guide the development of further documents in Medway's Local Development Framework, including Allocations and Other Development Management Policies Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).
- 2.9 A Pre-Publication Draft Core Strategy (PPDCS) was consulted upon in November 2010. Comments received on the PPDCS were then considered in the preparation of the Publication Draft Core Strategy (PDCS). The PDCS sets out the context, options considered, vision and objectives and draft policies based around the following themes:
- Cross Cutting Themes;
  - Housing;
  - Economic Development;
  - Energy Waste and Minerals;
  - Transport and Movement;
  - The River Medway, and
  - Area policies.
- 2.10 The PDCS proposes to build approximately 17,930 new homes and 935,995 sq m of employment floorspace up to 2028. A key component of housing supply will be the large waterfront regeneration sites within the main urban area and a new settlement at Lodge Hill.

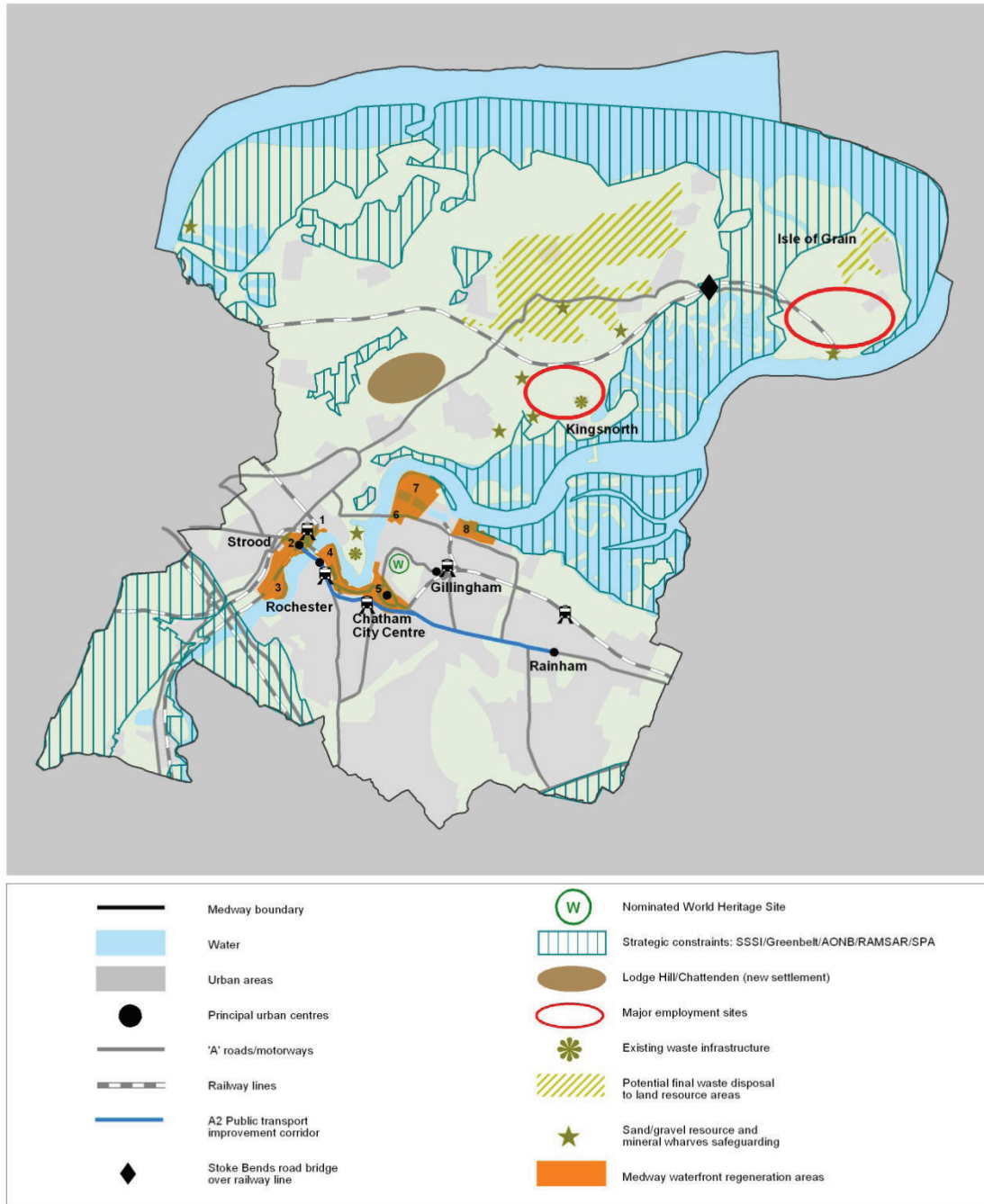
## Overview of the Plan Area

- 2.11 **Figure 1** illustrates the main features of the Plan area including transport and infrastructure links and key environmental areas.



Figure 1

## Medway Core Strategy Key Diagram



### 3.0 HRA SCREENING METHOD & FINDINGS

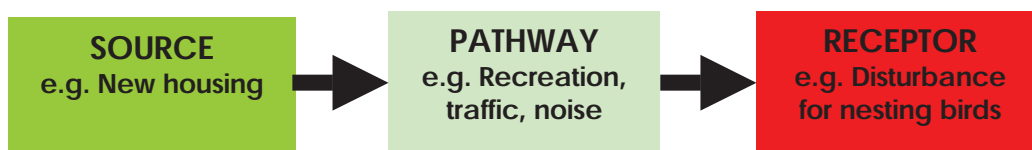
3.1 As detailed in Section 2, **Table 1**, HRA typically involves a number of stages. This section of the report sets out our approach to Stage 1, HRA Screening for the PDCS and also details the findings arising. The aim of the screening stage is to assess in broad terms whether the policies and proposals set out in the plan are likely to have a significant effect on a European site(s), and whether in the light of available avoidance and mitigation measures, an AA is necessary.

#### Scope of HRA

3.2 Plans such as the PDCS can have spatial implications that extend beyond the intended plan boundaries. In particular, it is recognised that when considering the potential for effects on European sites, distance in itself is not a definitive guide to the likelihood or severity of an impact. Other factors such as inaccessibility/ remoteness, the prevailing wind direction, river flow direction, and ground water flow direction will all have a bearing on the relative distance at which an impact can occur. This means that a plan directing development some distance away from a European Site could still have effects on the site and therefore, needs to be considered as part of the HRA screening.

3.3 Therefore, rather than rely on distance alone, a more effective mechanism for considering the scope of the HRA is to use a 'source-pathway-receptor' model (see Figure 2) which focuses on whether there is a pathway by which impacts from the plan can affect the identified sensitivities/ vulnerabilities of European site(s)' environmental conditions.

**Figure 2: Source, Pathway, Receptor Model**



3.4 Using this approach the following sites that lie both within and outside the plan were scoped into the HRA Screening for the PDCS.

Table 2: European Sites within HRA Scope	
European Sites within Plan Area	Designation
Medway Estuary & Marshes	SPA/ Ramsar
North Downs Woodland	SAC
Thames Estuary & Marshes SPA/Ramsar	SPA/ Ramsar
European Sites outside Plan Area	Designation
Peters Pit SAC	SAC
Queendown Warren SAC	SAC
The Swale SPA/Ramsar	SPA/ Ramsar

## Identification & Characterisation of European Sites

- 3.5 Summary site characterisations of the six sites scoped into the assessment are provided below in **Figure 3**. More detailed descriptions including conservation objectives and the specific sensitivities and vulnerabilities for each site are provided in **Appendix 1**.

<b>Figure 3: European Site Characterisations</b>	
<b>Medway Estuary &amp; Marshes SPA/Ramsar</b>	
	The Medway Estuary feeds into and lies on the south side of the outer Thames Estuary in Kent. It forms a single tidal system with the Swale and joins the Thames Estuary between the Isle of Grain and Sheerness. It has a complex arrangement of tidal channels, which drain around large islands of saltmarsh and peninsulas of grazing marsh. The mud-flats are rich in invertebrates and also support beds of Enteromorpha and some Eelgrass <i>Zostera</i> spp. Small shell beaches occur, particularly in the outer part of the estuary. Grazing marshes are present inside the sea walls around the estuary. The complex and diverse mixes of coastal habitats support important numbers of waterbirds throughout the year. In summer, the estuary supports breeding waders and terns, whilst in winter it holds important numbers of geese, ducks, grebes and waders. The site is also of importance during spring and autumn migration periods, especially for waders.
<b>North Downs Woodland SAC</b>	
	This site consists of mature beech forests ( <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> ) and also yew ( <i>Taxus baccata</i> ) woods on steep slopes, with scrub and small areas of unimproved grassland on thin chalk soils. The stands lie within a mosaic of scrub and other woodland types and are the most easterly of the beech woodland sites selected. Where the shade is less dense dog's mercury <i>Mercurialis perennis</i> predominates in the ground flora.
<b>Peters Pit SAC</b>	
	Peter's Pit is an old chalk quarry situated in the North Downs in north Kent, with large ponds situated amongst grassland, scrub and woodland. The ponds have widely fluctuating water levels and large great crested newt ( <i>Triturus cristatus</i> ) populations have been recorded breeding here.
<b>Queendown Warren SAC</b>	
	Queendown Warren consists of grassland ( <i>Bromus erectus</i> ) and contains an important assemblage of rare and scarce species, including early spider-orchid ( <i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> ), burnt orchid ( <i>Orchis ustulata</i> ) and man orchid ( <i>Aceras anthropophorum</i> ).
<b>Thames Estuary &amp; Marshes SPA/Ramsar</b>	
	The Thames Estuary and Marshes SPA is located on the south side of the Thames Estuary. The marshes extend for about 15 km along the south side of

the estuary and also include intertidal areas on the north side of the estuary. To the south of the river, much of the area is brackish grazing marsh, although some of this has been converted to arable use. At Cliffe, there are flooded clay and chalk pits, some of which have been infilled with dredgings. Outside the sea wall, there is a small extent of saltmarsh and broad intertidal mud-flats. The estuary and adjacent grazing marsh areas support an important assemblage of wintering waterbirds including grebes, geese, ducks and waders. The site is also important in spring and autumn migration periods.

***The Swale SPA/Ramsar***

The Swale is located on the south side of the outer part of the Thames Estuary. The Swale is an estuarine area that separates the Isle of Sheppey from the Kent mainland. To the west it adjoins the Medway Estuary. It is a complex of brackish and freshwater, floodplain grazing marsh with ditches, and intertidal saltmarshes and mud-flats. The intertidal flats are extensive, especially in the east of the site, and support a dense invertebrate fauna. These invertebrates, together with beds of algae and Eelgrass *Zostera* spp., are important food sources for waterbirds. Locally there are large Mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) beds formed on harder areas of substrate. The SPA contains the largest extent of grazing marsh in Kent (although much reduced from its former extent). There is much diversity both in the salinity of the dykes (which range from fresh to strongly brackish) and in the topography of the fields. The wide diversity of coastal habitats found on the Swale combine to support important numbers of waterbirds throughout the year. In summer, the site is of importance for Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), breeding waders and Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*). In spring and autumn migration periods, as well as during winter, the Swale supports very large numbers of geese, ducks and waders.

**Effects of the Plan**

- 3.6 The PDCS proposes the development of approximately 17,930 new homes and 935,995 sq m of employment floorspace up to 2028. Housing, employment and infrastructure development has the potential to generate a range of environmental impacts which can, (depending on their nature, magnitude, location and duration), have effects on European sites. A summary of the types of impacts and effects that can arise from these types of development is provided in **Figure 4**.

<b>Figure 4: Housing, Employment and Infrastructure Development: Summary of Impacts and Effects on European Sites</b>	
<b>Effects on European Sites</b>	<b>Impact Types</b>
<b>Habitat (&amp; species) fragmentation and loss</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Direct land take, removal of green/ connecting corridors/ supporting habitat, changes to sediment patterns (rivers and coastal locations)</li> <li>▪ Coastal squeeze</li> <li>▪ Introduction of invasive species (predation)</li> <li>▪ Disturbance</li> </ul>

**Figure 4: Housing, Employment and Infrastructure Development: Summary of Impacts and Effects on European Sites**

Effects on European Sites	Impact Types
<b>Disturbance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased recreational activity (population increase)</li> <li>▪ Noise and light pollution (from development and increased traffic)</li> </ul>
<b>Changes to hydrological regime/ water levels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased abstraction levels (new housing)</li> <li>▪ Increased hard standing non-permeable surfaces/ accelerated run-off</li> <li>▪ Laying pipes/ cables (surface &amp; ground)</li> <li>▪ Topography alteration</li> </ul>
<b>Changes to water quality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase in run-off/ pollutants from non-permeable surfaces (roads, built areas)</li> <li>▪ Increased air pollution (eutrophication) (traffic, housing)</li> <li>▪ Increased volume of discharges (consented)</li> </ul>
<b>Changes in air quality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased traffic movements</li> <li>▪ Increased emissions from buildings</li> </ul>

3.7 The first stage in the Screening process is to consider whether the policies and allocations proposed in the plan, have the potential to lead to likely significant effects (LSE), such as those identified in **Figure 4**, on the European sites scoped into the assessment. In order to do this the policies and allocations were screened and categorised according to their potential effects. The approach taken was in accordance with Natural England guidance which details four main categories (supported by more detailed sub categories) of potential effect, as summarised in Figure 5.

**Figure 5: Categorising the Potential Effects of the Plan (Tyldesley, 2009)**

<b>Category A:</b> elements of the plan/options that would have no negative effect on a European site at all.
<b>Category B:</b> elements of the plan/options that could have an effect, but the likelihood is there would be no significant negative effect on a European site either alone or in combination with other elements of the same plan, or other plans or projects.
<b>Category C:</b> elements of the plan/options that could or would be likely to have a significant effect alone and will require the plan to be subject to an appropriate assessment before the plan may be adopted.
<b>Category D:</b> elements of the plan/options that would be likely to have a significant effect in combination with other elements of the same plan, or other plans or projects and will require the plan to be subject to an appropriate assessment before the plan may be adopted.

3.8 Proposals falling with categories A and B are considered not to have an effect on a European site and can be eliminated from the assessment procedure. Proposals falling within category C and Category D require further analysis, including the consideration of in

combinations effects to determine whether they should be included in the next stage of the HRA process.

### Publication Draft Core Strategy Policy Screening

3.9 **Appendix 3** details the results of the HRA screening process for the PDCS policies, the key findings are summarised below.

#### Effects of the plan - alone

3.10 The PDCS policies which were considered to potentially lead to significant effects alone on European sites are listed in **Table 3**.

<b>Table 3</b>	
<b>Publication Draft Core Strategy policies screened in to the assessment process</b>	<b>Assessment Category</b>
Policy CS1: Regenerating Medway	<b>C<sup>2</sup></b>
Policy CS4: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	<b>C</b>
Policy CS13: Housing Provision and Distribution	<b>C<sup>3</sup></b>
Policy CS16: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	<b>C</b>
Policy CS17: Economic Development	<b>C</b>
Policy CS18: Tourism	<b>C</b>
Policy CS21: Conventional Energy Generation	<b>C</b>
Policy CS22: Provision for Minerals	<b>C</b>
Policy CS23: Waste Management	<b>C</b>
Policy CS24: Transport and Movement	<b>C</b>
Policy CS25: The River Medway	<b>C</b>
Policy CS26: Strood	<b>C</b>
Policy CS27: Rochester	<b>C</b>
Policy CS28: Chatham	<b>C</b>
Policy CS29: Gillingham	<b>C</b>
Policy CS30: Rainham	<b>C</b>
Policy CS31: Hoo Peninsula and the Isle of Grain	<b>C</b>
Policy CS32: Medway Valley	<b>C</b>
Policy CS33: Lodge Hill	<b>C</b>

3.11 Policies CS1, CS4, CS16 and CS21 make provision for a type and/ or quantity of development but the effects are uncertain because the

<sup>2</sup> An option, or policy that makes provision for a quantity/ type of development (and may indicate one or more broad locations e.g. a particular part of the plan area), but the effects are uncertain because the detailed location of the development is to be selected following consideration of options later in the plan or in a separate more specific plan. The consideration of options in the later plan will assess potential effects on European Sites, but because the development could possibly affect a European site a significant effect cannot be ruled out on the basis of objective information.

<sup>3</sup> The option, policy could indirectly affect a European site e.g. because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development that may be very close to it, or ecologically, hydrologically or physically connected to it or it may increase disturbance as a result of increased recreational pressure.



detailed location of the development won't be determined until the preparation of a later, more specific plan (the Allocations DPD). The consideration of options in the later plan will need to assess potential effects on European sites, meanwhile a significant effect cannot be ruled out at this stage.

- 3.12 Policies CS13, CS17, CS18 and CS22 to CS33 make provision for a type and quantity of development in locations that have potential for indirect Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) on European sites alone. The potential impacts arising from proposed development and the nature and significance of effects on European sites requires further consideration.

### Effects of the plan - in combination

- 3.13 Other plans, programme and projects that are being prepared and/ or implemented in the area have the potential to have significant effects on European sites. Effects from different plans may interact leading to a cumulative, significant effect overall for the area's biodiversity interests. It is a key requirement of the Habitats Regulations that effects identified through the plan screening are considered for their potential in combination effects. Guidance recommends that the in combination assessment is undertaken in a targeted way, to ensure that the assessment is most effective, by focusing on those plans most likely to interact with the plan under consideration.
- 3.14 The plans and projects listed below have formed the basis of the in combination test for this policy screening. This list is not exhaustive and represents the most relevant current plans (further details are provided in **Appendix 2**).

- Swale Borough Council Core Strategy
- Gravesham Borough Council Core Strategy
- Dartford Borough Council Core Strategy
- Maidstone Borough Council Core Strategy
- Tonbridge and Malling Borough Core Strategy
- Southern Water - Water Resource Management Plan
- South East Water - Water Resource Management Plan
- Thames Estuary 2100 Plan (TE2100)
- Kent Local Transport Plan
- Medway Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 Moving forward together
- Kent County Council Minerals and Waste Core Strategy
- Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan
- Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan
- London Gateway - Deep Sea Container Port

- 3.15 The Screening identified that the policies listed in **Table 4** make provision for a type and quantity of development that could

potentially lead to significant effects on European sites when considered in combination with other plans and projects.

Table 4	
Publication Draft Core Strategy policies screened in to the assessment process	Assessment Category
Policy CS7: Countryside and Landscape	D <sup>4</sup>
Policy CS11: Culture and Leisure	D
Policy CS13: Housing Provision and Distribution	D
Policy CS17: Economic Development	D
Policy CS18: Tourism	D
Policy CS19: Retail and Town Centres	D
Policy CS22: Provision for Minerals	D
Policy CS23: Waste Management	D
Policy CS24: Transport and Movement	D
Policy CS25: The River Medway	D
Policy CS26: Strood	D
Policy CS27: Rochester	D
Policy CS28: Chatham	D
Policy CS29: Gillingham	D
Policy CS30: Rainham	D
Policy CS31: Hoo Peninsula and the Isle of Grain	D
Policy CS32: Medway Valley	D
Policy CS33: Lodge Hill	D

### Screening Assessment

- 3.16 HRA screening good practice combines both a **plan** and a **site** focus. The policy screening removes from consideration, those elements of the **plan** unlikely to have effects on European sites. The remaining plan elements (summarised above) can then be considered in more detail for their impacts on European sites. The **site** focus considers the impacts and potential effects identified through the policy screening, in the light of the environmental conditions necessary to maintain site integrity for the European sites scoped into the assessment (**Table 2**).
- 3.17 **Table 5** considers the impacts arising from the PDCS (policy screening) against the sensitivities and conservation objectives of the identified European sites (**Appendix 1**) to determine if there is the potential for likely significant effects.

Key		
Likely Significant Effect	✓	Further Appropriate Assessment required
No Likely Significant Effect	✗	No further Appropriate Assessment

<sup>4</sup> Options, policies or proposals that alone would not be likely to have significant effects but if their effects are combined with the effects of other plans and projects and possibly the effects of other developments provided for in the Local Development Document as well, the combined effects are likely to be significant.



		required as no pathways identified
<b>Significant Effect Uncertain</b>	<b>?</b>	Precautionary approach taken and further Appropriate Assessment required

<b>Table 5: Screening Matrix</b>				
<b>European sites</b>	<b>Potential Likely Significant Effects</b>			
	<b>Habitat (&amp; species) Fragmentation &amp; Loss</b>	<b>Disturbance</b>	<b>Water Levels &amp; Quality</b>	<b>Air Quality</b>
Medway Estuary & Marshes SPA/Ramsar	?	✓	?	?
North Downs Woodlands SAC	×	×	?	?
Peters Pit SAC	×	×	?	?
Queendown Warren SAC	×	×	?	?
Thames Estuary & Marshes SPA/Ramsar	?	✓	?	?
The Swale SPA/Ramsar	?	✓	?	?

- 3.18 The screening assessed that given the location, size and sensitivity of the North Downs Woodlands, Peters Pit and Queendown Warren SACs in relation to the location of proposed development, the PDCS will not have likely significant effects (either alone or in combination) through disturbance and/or habitat fragmentation and loss.
- 3.19 Based on the early findings of the visitor and bird disturbance studies commissioned by the North Kent Environmental Planning Group (NKEPG), which suggest there may be a correlation between recreational disturbance and bird decline and that recreational visitors tend to be from within the local area - it is assessed that there is the potential for likely significant effects on Medway Estuary & Marshes SPA/Ramsar, Thames Estuary & Marshes Spa/Ramsar and The Swale SPA/Ramsar as a result of increased recreational activity. The effects of increased recreational activity on the integrity of the identified European sites will be considered in more detail through AA.
- 3.20 The screening assessment also identified uncertainty with regard to the potential for significant effects on European sites as a result of changes to air quality and water levels and quality. Based on the precautionary approach these issues will be considered in more detail through AA.

## 4.0 SCREENING CONCLUSIONS

4.1 At this stage it is assessed that the policies proposed in the PDCS have the potential for likely significant effects (both alone and in combination) on the following European sites:

- Medway Estuary & Marshes SPA/Ramsar
- North Downs Woodlands SAC
- Peters Pit SAC
- Queendown Warren SAC
- Thames Estuary & Marshes SPA/Ramsar
- The Swale SPA/Ramsar

4.2 As a result a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment will be undertaken to consider the effects associated with habitat fragmentation and loss, disturbance, water levels and quality and air quality on the identified European sites. These findings are subject to consultation comments and advice from NE and wider stakeholders.

### Consultation Arrangements

4.3 In addition to the ongoing, statutory consultation undertaken with Natural England this HRA Report is available for wider public view and comment. Consultation on this HRA Report will take place in parallel with consultation on the Publication Draft Core Strategy. The consultation period is from 30<sup>th</sup> August to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011. All responses should be sent to:

- **Email:** [ldf@medway.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@medway.gov.uk)
- **Post: Development Plans and Research Team, Regeneration, Community and Culture, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR**
- **Limehouse: This is an online consultation system and we would strongly encourage you to “register” as a user. If you do you will receive email alerts when new consultations are underway, you can submit your views in a structured way and see our responses to all representations we receive. To register please go to: <http://medway-consult.limehouse.co.uk/>**

## 5.0 AA SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

### AA Scope

- 5.1 The screening assessed that there is potential for likely significant effects on European sites as a result of development proposed in the PDCS and surrounding areas. **Table 6** shows (shaded red) the European sites against the potential issues that will be considered in further detail for each site through the AA.

Table 6: AA Scope				
European sites	Potential Effects			
	Habitat (& species) Fragmentation & Loss	Disturbance	Water Levels & Quality	Air Quality
Medway Estuary & Marshes SPA/Ramsar				
North Downs Woodlands SAC				
Peters Pit SAC				
Queendown Warren SAC				
Thames Estuary & Marshes SPA/Ramsar				
The Swale SPA/Ramsar				

### AA Method

- 5.2 Assessing the impacts of plans, policies and proposals against the European site conservation objectives is required by Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Guidance recommends three main stages to the HRA process:
- **Stage 1:** Screening for Likely Significant Effect
  - **Stage 2:** Appropriate Assessment, Ascertaining Effects on Integrity
  - **Stage 3:** Mitigations Measures and Alternatives Assessment.
- 5.3 The AA is the second stage of the HRA process and the approach will follow the method set out in formal guidance documents. The key stages of the AA and the specific tasks to be undertaken are set out in **Table 7**.

<b>Table 7</b>	
<b>Appropriate Assessment Stage: Key Tasks</b>	
<p><b>Task 1</b></p> <p><b>Scoping and Additional Information Gathering</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gathering additional information on European sites</li> <li>▪ Gathering additional data on background environmental conditions</li> <li>▪ Further analysis of plans/ projects that have the potential to generate 'in-combination' effects</li> </ul>
<p><b>Task 2</b></p> <p><b>Assessing the Impacts (in-combination) Appropriate Assessment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Examination of the policies and proposals identified during the screening phase and their likely significant effects on European sites</li> <li>▪ Consideration of whether effects are direct/ indirect/ cumulative</li> <li>▪ Consideration of whether other plans and programmes are likely to generate effects that have the potential to act cumulatively with those arising from the plan</li> </ul>
<p><b>Task 3</b></p> <p><b>Developing Mitigation Measures (including initial avoidance)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If effects identified – either arising from the plan alone and/or 'in-combination' with other plans - consider initial opportunities to avoid (e.g. delete/ remove or amend policy from plan)</li> <li>▪ Develop mitigation measures – must be deliverable by the plan and have clear delivery/ monitoring responsibilities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Task 4</b></p> <p><b>Findings &amp; Recommendations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conclude the assessment, explain key findings and analysis informing conclusions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Task 5</b></p> <p><b>Consultation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Undertaken further consultation with NE (assumes that consultation has also been an iterative process throughout the HRA/AA).</li> </ul>

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## Appendix 1: European Site Characterisations

MEDWAY ESTUARY & MARSHES	
<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Ramsar</b>
<b>Designation[s]</b>	
<b>Area (ha)</b>	4684.36
<b>Site Code</b>	UK9012031
<b>Reason for Designation</b>	<p>SPA</p> <p>During the breeding season the area regularly supports (Article 4.1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> 6.2% of the GB breeding population</li> <li>■ <i>Sterna albifrons</i> 1.2% of the GB breeding population</li> <li>■ <i>Sterna hirundo</i> 0.6% of the GB breeding population</li> </ul> <p>Over winter the area regularly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> 0.2% of the GB population</li> <li>■ <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> 24.7% of the GB population</li> </ul> <p>Over winter the area regularly supports (Article 4.1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <i>Anas acuta</i> 1.2% of the population</li> <li>■ <i>Anas clypeata</i> 0.8% of the population in GB</li> <li>■ <i>Anas crecca</i> 1.3% of the population in GB</li> <li>■ <i>Anas Penelope</i> 1.6% of the population in GB</li> <li>■ <i>Arenaria interpres</i> 0.9% of the population in GB</li> <li>■ <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> 1.1% of the population</li> <li>■ <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> 1.9% of the population</li> </ul> <p>Criterion 2: Site supports number of rare plant and animal species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <i>Hordeum marinum</i> sea barley</li> <li>■ <i>Parapholis incurva</i> curved hard-grass</li> <li>■ <i>Polygonum monspeliensis</i> annual beard-grass</li> <li>■ <i>Puccinellia fasciculata</i> Borrer's saltmarsh-grass</li> <li>■ <i>Bupleurum tenuissimum</i> slender hare's-ear</li> <li>■ <i>Trifolium squamosum</i> sea clover</li> <li>■ <i>Chenopodium chenopodioides</i> saltmarsh goose-foot</li> <li>■ <i>Inula crithmoides</i> golden samphire</li> <li>■ <i>Sarcocornia perennis</i> perennial glasswort</li> <li>■ <i>Salicornia pusilla</i> one-flowered glasswort</li> </ul> <p>Total of at least twelve British Red Data Book species of wetland invertebrates have been recorded on the site.</p> <p>Criterion 5: Assemblages of international importance – species with peak count in winter 47637 waterfowl</p> <p>Criterion 6: Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <i>Calidris canutus</i> 0.2% of the population</li> <li>■ <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> 1.6% of the population</li> <li>■ <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> 1% of the population in GB</li> <li>■ <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> 12.9% of the population in GB</li> <li>■ <i>Numenius arquata</i> 1.7% of the population in GB</li> <li>■ <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> 2% of the population</li> <li>■ <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> 1.5% of the population</li> <li>■ <i>Tringa nebularia</i> 2.6% of the population in GB</li> <li>■ <i>Tringa tetanus</i> 2.1% of the population</li> </ul> <p>Article 4.2 Qualification: An internationally important assemblage of birds: During the breeding season the area regularly supports <i>Alcedo atthis</i>, <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>, <i>Asio flammeus</i>, <i>Aythya ferina</i>, <i>Circus cyaneus</i>, <i>Falco columbarius</i>, <i>Gavia stellata</i>, <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>, <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>.</p> <p>Over winter the area regularly supports 65496 waterfowl including: <i>Gavia stellata</i>, <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>, <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>, <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>, <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>, <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>, <i>Anas penelope</i>, <i>Anas crecca</i>, <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>, <i>Anas acuta</i>, <i>Anas clypeata</i>, <i>Aythya ferina</i>, <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>, <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>, <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>, <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>, <i>Calidris canutus</i>, <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>, <i>Numenius arquata</i>, <i>Tringa totanus</i>, <i>Tringa nebularia</i>, <i>Arenaria interpres</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) 1.2% of the population</li> <li>■ Common redshank (<i>Tringa totanus totanus</i>) 1.4% of the population</li> <li>■ Dark-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>) 1.1% of the population</li> <li>■ Common shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) 3.3% of the GB population</li> <li>■ Northern pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) 1.8% of the population</li> <li>■ Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) 1.6% of the GB population</li> <li>■ Red knot (<i>Calidris canutus islandica</i>) 1% of the population</li> <li>■ Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) 1.4% of the GB population</li> </ul>
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<b>Conservation Objectives</b>	<p>The Conservation Objectives for this site are, subject to natural change, to maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*), with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features (habitats, vegetation types, species, species assemblages etc.) for which the land is designated (SSSI, cSAC, SPA, Ramsar).</p> <p><b>Habitat Types represented (Biodiversity Action Plan categories)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved Grassland</li> <li>Fen, Marsh and Swamp</li> <li>Littoral Sediment</li> <li>Coastal Lagoon</li> </ul> <p><b>Geological features (Geological SiteTypes)</b></p> <p>N/A</p> <p>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable.</p>
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<b>Site Name</b>	<b>NORTH DOWNS WOODLANDS</b>
<b>Designation[s]</b>	<b>SAC</b>
<b>Area (ha)</b>	287.58
<b>Site Code</b>	UK0030225
<b>Reason for Designation</b>	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests</li> <li>■ <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles * Priority feature</li> </ul> <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation Objectives</b>	<b>Wouldham to Detling Escarpment SSSI</b>

	<p>The Conservation Objectives for this site are, subject to natural change, to maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*), with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features (habitats, vegetation types, species, species assemblages etc.) for which the land is designated (SSSI, cSAC, SPA, Ramsar).</p> <p><b>Habitat Types represented (Biodiversity Action Plan categories)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland</li> <li>Lowland calcareous grassland</li> </ul> <p><b>Geological features (Geological Site Types)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disused Quarries, Pits and Cuttings</li> </ul> <p>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable.</p> <p><b>Halling to Trottscliffe Escarpment SSSI</b></p> <p>The Conservation Objectives for this site are, subject to natural change, to maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*), with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features (habitats, vegetation types, species, species assemblages etc.) for which the land is designated (SSSI, cSAC, SPA, Ramsar).</p> <p><b>Habitat Types represented (Biodiversity Action Plan categories)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland</li> <li>Lowland calcareous grassland</li> </ul> <p><b>Geological features (Geological Site Types)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul> <p>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable.</p>
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<b>Site Name</b>	<b>PETERS PIT</b>
<b>Designation[s]</b>	<b>SAC</b>
<b>Area (ha)</b>	28.3
<b>Site Code</b>	UK0030237
<b>Reason for Designation</b>	Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i></li> </ul>
<b>Conservation Objectives</b>	<p>The Conservation Objectives for this site are, subject to natural change, to maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*), with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features (habitats, vegetation types, species, species assemblages etc.) for which the land is designated (SSSI, SAC, SPA, Ramsar).</p> <p><b>Habitat Types represented (Biodiversity Action Plan categories)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standing open water and canals</li> <li>Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland</li> <li>Lowland calcareous grassland</li> <li>Inland Rock</li> </ul> <p><b>Geological features (Geological SiteTypes)</b></p> <p>N/A</p> <p>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable.</p>

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>QUEENDOWN WARREN</b>
<b>Designation[s]</b>	<b>SAC</b>
<b>Area (ha)</b>	14.28

<b>Site Code</b>	UK0012833
<b>Reason for Designation</b>	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation Objectives</b>	The Conservation Objectives for this site are, subject to natural change, to maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*), with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features (habitats, vegetation types, species, species assemblages etc.) for which the land is designated (SSSI, cSAC, SPA, Ramsar). <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Habitat Types represented (Biodiversity Action Plan categories)</b> Lowland Calcareous Grassland</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Geological features (Geological Site Types)</b> Not applicable</p> <p>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable.</p>

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>THAMES ESTUARY &amp; MARSHES</b>	
<b>Designation[s]</b>	<b>SPA</b>	<b>Ramsar</b>
<b>Area (ha)</b>	4838.94	5588.59
<b>Site Code</b>	UK9012021	UK11069
<b>Reason for Designation</b>	Over winter the area regularly supports (Article 4.1): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Circus cyaneus</i> 1% of the population in GB</li> <li><i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> 28.3% of the population in GB</li> </ul> Over winter the area regularly supports (Article 4.2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> 2.1% of the population</li> </ul>	Criterion 2: Site supports one endangered plant species ( <i>Lactuca saligna</i> ) and at least 14 nationally scarce plants of wetland habitats. Site also supports 20 British Red Data Book invertebrates.  Criterion 5: Assemblages of international importance – species with

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <i>Calidris canutus</i> 1.4% of the population</li> <li>■ <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> 2.4% of the population</li> <li>■ <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> 1.7% of the population</li> <li>■ <i>Tringa tetanus</i> 2.2% of the population</li> </ul> <p>On passage the area regularly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> 2.6% of the population</li> </ul> <p>Article 4.2 Qualification: An internationally important assemblage of birds: Over winter the area regularly supports 75019 waterfowl including <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> , <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> , <i>Calidris canutus</i> , <i>Calidris alpina</i> , <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i></p>	<p>peak counts in winter, 75019 waterfowl.</p> <p>Criterion 6: Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Ringer plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) 2.6% of the GB population</li> <li>■ Black tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>) 2.6% of the GB population</li> <li>■ Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) 1.7% of the GB population</li> <li>■ Red knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) 1.4% of the population</li> <li>■ Common redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>) 2.2% of the GB population</li> <li>■ Avocet (<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>) 28.3% of the GB population</li> <li>■ Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) 1.0% of the GB population</li> </ul>
<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b></p>	<p>The Conservation Objectives for this site are, subject to natural change, to maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*), with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features (habitats, vegetation types, species, species assemblages etc.) for which the land is designated (SSSI, cSAC, SPA, Ramsar).</p> <p><b>Habitat Types represented (Biodiversity Action Plan categories)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supralittoral Sediment</li> <li>Littoral Sediment</li> <li>Fen, Marsh and Swamp</li> <li>Neutral Grassland – Lowland</li> <li>Standing Open Water and Canals</li> <li>Coastal Lagoon</li> </ul> <p><b>Geological features (Geological Site Types)</b> N/A</p>	

	(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable.
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THE SWALE	
Site Name	SPA
<b>Designation[s]</b>	<b>Ramsar</b>
<b>Area (ha)</b>	6514.71
<b>Site Code</b>	UK11071
<b>Reason for Designation</b>	<p>Ramsar criterion 2 The site supports nationally scarce plants and at least seven British Red data book invertebrates.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 5 Assemblages of international importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 77501 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</li> </ul> <p>Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Common redshank , <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i></li> </ul> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p>
	<b>SPA</b>
	6514.71
	UK9012011
	Over winter the area regularly supports (Article 4.1):
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> 0.7% of the population</li> <li>■ <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> 2.3% of the population in Great Britain</li> <li>■ <i>Tringa tetanus</i> 0.9% of the population</li> </ul> <p>During the breeding season the area regularly supports (Article 4.2):</p> <p><i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus, Anas crecca, Anas platyrhynchos, Anas strepera, Charadrius hiaticula, Emberiza schoeniclus, Fulica atra, Gallinula chloropus, Haematopus ostralegus, Numenius arquata, Pluvialis squatarola, Tadorna tadorna, Tringa totanus, Vanellus vanellus.</i></p> <p>Over winter the area regularly supports (Article 4.2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 65588 waterfowl (5 year peak mean</li> </ul>

	<p>01/04/1998) Including: <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> , <i>Anas strepera</i> , <i>Anas crecca</i> , <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> , <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> , <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> , <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> , <i>Numenius arquata</i> , <i>Tringa totanus</i> .</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Dark-bellied brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i></li> <li>■ Grey plover, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i></li> </ul> <p>Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6.</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Ringed plover , <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i></li> </ul> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Eurasian wigeon , <i>Anas penelope</i>,</li> <li>■ Northern pintail , <i>Anas acuta</i></li> <li>■ Northern shoveler , <i>Anas clypeata</i></li> <li>■ Black-tailed godwit , <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b></p>	<p>The Conservation Objectives for this site are, subject to natural change, to maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*), with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features (habitats, vegetation types, species, species assemblages etc.) for which the land is designated (SSSI, cSAC, SPA, Ramsar).</p> <p><b>Habitat Types represented (Biodiversity Action Plan categories)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neutral grassland</li> <li>Fen, marsh and swamp</li> <li>Standing open water and canals</li> <li>Littoral sediment</li> </ul> <p><b>Geological features (Geological Site Types)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable</li> </ul> <p>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable.</p>	





## Appendix 2: Plans, Programmes & Projects Review

River Basin Management Plan for the Thames River Basin District 2009		
Aim of the document	Elements of the plan that could cause 'in-combination' effects	HRA of the RBMP for the Thames RBD Nov 2009
<p>The River Basin Management Plan is about the pressures facing the water environment in this river basin district, and the actions that will address them.</p>	<p>Darent and Cray catchment</p> <p>Some key actions for this catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Environment Agency will investigate the reasons for low ecological quality.</li> <li>▪ Thames Water and the Environment Agency will investigate sewage misconnections the Darent and Cray.</li> <li>▪ Thames Water and the Environment Agency will seek to fulfil the Darent Action Plan to secure sustainable abstraction in the Darent between Otford and Hawley.</li> <li>▪ Thames Water will assess options for improving groundwater abstraction in the Upper Cray once approved in the Periodic Review.</li> <li>▪ The Environment Agency will investigate sources of hydrocarbons and solvents in Crayford and Dartford and undertake pollution prevention visits at priority sites such as Westerham.</li> <li>▪ The Environment Agency will work with landowners to address barriers to fish passage at sites including Vitbe Mill and Wellcome's structure at Dartford.</li> <li>▪ The Environment Agency will carry out investigative monitoring and field work into the origins of, causes of and solutions to pollution.</li> <li>▪ The Environment Agency will establish a 'Regional Better Rivers Programme' to improve habitat and</li> </ul>	<p>The assessment concluded that the river basin management plan is unlikely to have any significant negative effects on any Natura 2000 sites. The conclusion is reliant on the fact that before any measures in the plan are implemented they must be subject to the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. Any plans, project or permissions required to implement the measures must undergo an appropriate assessment if they are likely to have a significant effect.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ecology in a first round of waters.</li> <li>▪ The Environment Agency will carry out investigative monitoring and field work into the origins, causes and solutions to sedimentation.</li> <li>▪ The angling club which controls the fishing at Preston Farm will have an enhancement plan that endeavours to improve the fish habitat. It will provide challenging and varied fly fishing, by installing flow deflectors, where it is deemed necessary.</li> <li>▪ Pollution prevention campaigns around groundwater abstractions to decrease the inputs of nitrates, pesticides, hydrocarbons and solvents.</li> </ul> <p>Medway catchment</p> <p>Some key actions for this catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Southern Water will improve sewage works at five locations to reduce inputs of nutrients including phosphate and improve shellfish waters.</li> <li>▪ The Environment Agency will promote good practice to avoid pollution from construction sites in the Loose and Somerhill stream.</li> <li>▪ South East Water will investigate abstraction from the Greensand Sources in the Leybourne and Bourne in the Periodic Review process.</li> <li>▪ The Environment Agency will educate and raise awareness of the impact that small discharges to ground and surface water have on water quality of the receiving waters. This is with a view to advising residents of the need to connect to the mains sewer system across many of the rivers including the Barden Mill Stream, Teise, Eden, and Medway between the Eden, Crowborough and Yalding.</li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Environment Agency will identify and improve private discharges in rivers such as Eden at Bough Beech, Len and the Loose.</li> <li>▪ The Environment Agency will carry out additional investigative monitoring and field work into the origins of, causes of and solutions to sedimentation in rivers including Somerhill Stream, Hammer Stream and the Medway at Weir Wood.</li> <li>▪ The Environment Agency will carry out investigative monitoring and field work into the origins of, causes of and solutions to pollution where we need to improve certainty in many water bodies such as the river Bourne, Eridge Stream, Pippingford Brook and the Beult.</li> <li>▪ The Environment Agency will establish a 'Regional Better Rivers Programme' to improve habitat and ecology in a first round of waters in rivers such as the Beult, Len and Loose Stream.</li> <li>▪ The Environment Agency will work with landowners to address barriers to fish passage at sites including Allington and East Fattleigh.</li> <li>▪ The Environment Agency will re-survey of the upper reaches of the river Grom to establish current ecological quality, after improvements to the existing combine sewer outfall system.</li> <li>▪ Pollution prevention campaigns around groundwater abstractions to decrease the inputs of nitrates, pesticides, hydrocarbons and solvents.</li> </ul>	
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Southern Water - Water Resource Management Plan 2010 - 2035 (October 2009)	
Aim of the document	Elements of the plan that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>Sets out how Southern Water proposes to ensure that there is sufficient security of water supplies to meet the anticipated demands of all its customers over the 25-year planning period from 2010 to 2035.</p>	<p><b>AA of the SW WRMP October 2009</b></p> <p>The AA concluded that the WRMP as proposed, and with the mitigation measures suggested at the more detailed project level that follows, would not adversely affect the integrity of the sites.</p> <p><b>Kent Medway Water Resource Zone</b></p> <p><b>Schemes during AMP5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Universal metering</li> <li>▪ Asset improvement schemes for groundwater sources (10.25 MI/d peak, 8.75 MI/d average)</li> <li>▪ Optimisation of interzonal transfers (to Kent Thanet)</li> </ul> <p><b>Schemes beyond AMP5 - company only solution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Renewal of the C522 scheme bulk supply to South East Water</li> <li>▪ Licence variation to the River Medway Scheme</li> <li>▪ Licence variation of S271 groundwater source</li> <li>▪ 6.5 MI/d of further leakage reduction</li> </ul> <p><b>Schemes beyond AMP5 - Water Resources in the South East of England</b></p> <p>As previous column, but additional schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aylesford wastewater recycling scheme</li> <li>▪ Raising Bewl Water</li> </ul> <p>An the assumption that these will enable the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bulk Supply from Bewl Water to South East Water</li> <li>▪ Bulk Supply from Burham to South East Water</li> </ul>

South East Water – Water Resource Management Plan 2010 - 2035		
Aim of the document	Elements of the plan that could cause 'in-combination' effects	HRA of SEW WRMP 2009
<p>The Water Resource Management Plan outlines how South East Water intends to maintain the long-term balance between increasing demand and its available supplies.</p>	<p>A number of the water supply options have the potential to impact upon the integrity of European designated (Natura 2000) conservation sites. The HRA of the WRMP considered this in further detail.</p>	<p>An initial screening process identified that 27 feasible options had the potential to impact upon a Natura 2000 site through an impact pathway or proximity to such a site. These options were passed through a formal screening to determine whether any Likely Significant Effect existed.</p> <p>This 'LSE' test identified that 15 of these feasible options had the potential to have a Likely Significant Effect on the designated features of a Natura 2000 site. For these options, Appropriate Assessment would be required if the option was selected by SEW's final preferred strategy.</p> <p>Only one Appropriate Assessment was carried out, for Option 30a (Broad Oak Reservoir), as none of the other feasible options passing through Step 2 of the screening process was selected by SEW's final preferred strategy. This concluded that the option would have no significant effect on the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites affected by the proposals either alone, in-combination with other EA permissions, in-combination with the plans or projects of other competent authorities and prevailing background conditions or in-combination with other SEW proposed options. It should be noted that the outline</p>

		<p>and strategic nature of the assessment completed, combined with the uncertain timescale for the final implementation of this strategic option, make this 'in combination' assessment with other projects, plans and policies very uncertain. However, the assessment is undertaken 'in-combination' in order to try to ensure that all potential effects on Natura 2000 sites through the implementation of an option are explored and assessed, even if this is only a strategic level.</p> <p>Three options [30a, WRSE1 and 25(vii)] within SEW's final preferred strategy are likely to require Appropriate Assessment as part of any future scheme implementation. While it must be noted that the Appropriate Assessments completed as part of the WRMP option appraisal process are at a strategic level, as scheme definition and design are not yet finalised, the conclusions reached suggest that none of these options, with the inclusion of suitable mitigation, should adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites.</p>
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<b>Creating Sustainable Communities: Greening the Gateway; a Greenspace Strategy for Thames Gateway (ODPM/DEFRA 2004)</b> <b>Creating Sustainable Communities: Greening the Gateway: Implementation Plan (ODPM/DEFRA 2005)</b>	
<p><b>Aim of the document</b></p> <p>The objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ That a network of varied and well-managed greenspace should be the setting for new and existing residential and commercial areas;</li> <li>▪ That the landscape should be regarded as functional green infrastructure, recognising a wide range of potential benefits from healthy recreation, to wildlife protection and enhancement, to flood risk management.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Elements of the plan that could cause 'in-combination' effects</b></p> <p>Encouraging inclusiveness and integration (integrating landscapes, private and public, green and built), protecting local character and distinctiveness, protecting designated sites (from SAMs to local and international ecological designations), habitat restoration and creation, a dynamic landscape (land management should be responsive, making use of temporary brown field sites, and combining greenspace with flood management, etc).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Housing growth – associated development/ construction and ongoing pressures from increased population e.g. recreation</li> <li>▪ Enhanced transport infrastructure, potential impacts on air, water, land, landscape and townscape</li> <li>▪ Increased recreational pressures</li> </ul>

Waterfronts and Waterways in Kent Thameside - A Strategic Agenda 2005	
Aim of the document	Elements of the plan that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>The paper represents a synopsis of the issues and opportunities of the Kent Thameside area raised by stakeholders and relevant Government Agencies. The Kent Thameside Delivery Board aims to provide the strategic leadership required to secure optimal use of this unique asset, and to create a waterfront to international standards.</p>	<p>The principal waterfront opportunity sites in Kent Thameside are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ River Darent – neglected site with little public access, proposed plans recommend a mix of employment, retail and residential uses with landscaped promenade linking the town centre.</li> <li>▪ Dartford Marsh – enormous potential as major open space due to designation as potential SSSI.</li> <li>▪ Dartford Wharves and Ports – stakeholders wish to see these ports safeguarded for continued operational use.</li> <li>▪ Greenhithe and Swanscombe Peninsula West – valued asset should be maintained for river related use.</li> <li>▪ Swanscombe Peninsula East and Northfleet Embankment – conflict between industrial and residential use, problems with access</li> <li>▪ Gravesend Town Centre – proximity to waterfront gives major advantage over other Thames Gateway towns.</li> <li>▪ The Canal Basin Area and the Thames and Medway Canal – important feature in terms of local heritage, recreation potential and nature conservation.</li> <li>▪ Blue Lake – major landscape feature provide dramatic setting for business/office space leisure development.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potential impacts on air, noise and water pollution</li> <li>▪ Indirect effects via recreation</li> <li>▪ Habitat fragmentation and loss</li> <li>▪ Increased access to sites via public transport</li> <li>▪ Site disturbance</li> <li>▪ Increase traffic generation</li> </ul>



Thames Estuary 2100 Plan (TE2100)	
<b>Aim of the document</b>	<b>Elements of the plan that could cause 'in-combination' effects</b>
The Environment Agency's Thames Estuary 2100 project (TE2100), is developing a tidal flood risk management plan for London and the Thames estuary.	<p>Tidal defences in the context of the wider Thames Estuary setting; Assessing the useful life of the existing defences and gaining an understanding of the 'drivers' (i.e. climate change, urban development, social pressures and the environment); Inform and gain support of political and funding partners and stakeholders; and Prepare and manage a programme of studies (linked with consultation) that will eventually lead to a strategy for flood risk management in the Thames Estuary for the next 100 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construction process - direct impacts and knock on effects</li> <li>▪ Potential impacts on air, noise and water pollution</li> <li>▪ Reduced area of adjacent habitats</li> <li>▪ Site disturbance</li> <li>▪ Pollution from runoff</li> </ul>

Thames Gateway Strategic Framework Interim Report: Key Points, Policy Framework, Development Prospectus/Technical Annex 2006	
Aim of the document	Elements of the plan that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>The Interim Report describes in more detail what is planned for the three sub-regions of the Gateway (London, South Essex and North Kent) and what developments are going to happen when with supporting information and links to data sources and other research.</p>	<p>The strategy will build on the following opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>economic opportunity</b> in the key transformational locations – Canary Wharf, Ebbsfleet Valley, the Olympic site/Stratford City and the Gateway Ports cluster</li> <li>▪ <b>housing opportunity</b> to accommodate the region's growing workforce and improve conditions for current residents</li> <li>▪ <b>employment opportunity</b> in town centres and in key regeneration areas, developing the potential in local businesses and brownfield sites</li> <li>▪ <b>environmental opportunity</b> through the creation of the Thames Gateway Parklands and new approaches to addressing climate change and flood risk</li> <li>▪ <b>community opportunity</b> through investment in education and training, better quality public services and support for inclusive communities.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construction process - direct impacts and knock on effects</li> <li>▪ Increase in waste</li> <li>▪ Increase in abstraction rates and water use</li> <li>▪ Potential impacts on air, noise and water pollution</li> <li>▪ Indirect effects via recreation</li> <li>▪ Obstruct foraging routes</li> <li>▪ Reduced area of adjacent habitats</li> <li>▪ Increased access to sites via public transport</li> <li>▪ Site disturbance</li> <li>▪ Increase traffic generation</li> <li>▪ Pollution from runoff</li> </ul>

Thames Gateway Interim Plan 2006	
Aim of the document	Elements of the plan that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>This document is Government and The Thames Gateway Strategic Partnerships statement of common purpose that reflects their ambitions for the Gateway and how they will work together to achieve them. It aims to build on the opportunities offered by the Gateway.</p>	<p>A statement of common purpose that reflects ambitions for the Gateway, it explains how they will build on the opportunities it offers including economic opportunity in key locations and housing opportunity to accommodate the region's growing workforce.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construction process – direct impacts and knock on effects</li> <li>▪ Increase in waste</li> <li>▪ Increase in abstraction rates and water use</li> <li>▪ Contribution to traffic generation</li> <li>▪ Potential impacts on air, noise and water pollution</li> <li>▪ Indirect effects via recreation</li> <li>▪ Obstruct foraging routes</li> <li>▪ Reduced area of adjacent habitats</li> <li>▪ Increased access to sites via public transport</li> <li>▪ Site disturbance</li> <li>▪ Increase traffic generation</li> <li>▪ Pollution from runoff</li> </ul>

Thames Gateway The Delivery Plan 2007	
Aim of the document	Elements of the plan that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>The Plan provides a framework for making the best use of public investment, local ownership, big project expertise and private sector entrepreneurship, while also setting out a proposed spending programme for 2008-11.</p>	<p>The Plan is structured around the three driving forces for positive change in the Gateway: a strong economy, improvements in the quality of life for local communities and the development of the Gateway as an eco-region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enhanced transport network between the four spatial transformers, potential impacts on air, water, land, landscape and townscape</li> <li>▪ The development of the new Estuary Path which will run along both banks of the river could increase recreational pressure.</li> <li>▪ The Plan also supports the mixed-use development proposed as part of the Kent Thameside Waterfront Development.</li> </ul>

Strategic Planning Guidance for the River Thames - RPG3B/9B 1997	
Aim of the document	Elements of the plan that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>Sets out the Governments planning policies for the River Thames and gives formal planning guidance to local planning authorities. Guidance presents a vision for the river to enhance its status and vitality and develop and exploit its potential.</p>	<p>For the built environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhance vitality of river front development potential and attract a range of users. Regenerate redundant land.</li> </ul> <p>River and Riverside</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage transport potential of river.</li> <li>- Promote the river for recreational purposes.</li> <li>- Maintain and improve public access to, along and across the river.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construction process – direct impacts and knock on effects</li> <li>▪ Contribution to traffic generation</li> <li>▪ Contribution to water traffic movement</li> <li>▪ Obstruct foraging routes</li> <li>▪ Reduced area of adjacent habitats</li> <li>▪ Site disturbance</li> <li>▪ Increase access to sites</li> <li>▪ Potential impacts on air, noise and water pollution</li> <li>▪ Indirect effects via recreation</li> </ul>

The Adopted Kent and Medway Structure Plan 2006	
Aim of the document	Elements of the plan that could cause 'in-combination' effects
Provides strategic guidance for development and includes policies on pollution control.	<p>Provides for: at, and between, the principal urban areas of Dartford and Gravesend/Northfleet major mixed use developments based on previously developed or other damaged land. Development will be comprehensively planned, including appropriate measures to integrate new development with existing communities, and phased in conjunction with the provision of new highway and public transport infrastructure, community services and facilities, air quality management initiatives, flood defences, and water resources and wastewater treatment infrastructure.</p> <p>Potential in-combination impacts arising from housing and economic development, population growth associated travel and recreational pressures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construction process – direct impacts and knock on effects</li> <li>▪ Contribution to traffic generation</li> <li>▪ Increased air, noise and water pollution</li> <li>▪ Increased pressure on abstraction levels</li> <li>▪ Increased levels of effluents</li> <li>▪ Increased access to sites via public transport</li> <li>▪ Site disturbance</li> </ul>

Local Transport Plan for Kent 2011-2016		
Aim of the document	Elements of the plan that could cause 'in-combination' effects	SA & HRA of Kent's Local Transport Plan 3 Final Report (April 2011)
<p>Its purpose is to set out Kent County Council's (KCC) Strategy and Implementation Plans for local transport investment for the period 2011-16.</p>	<p>Kent's approach to LTP3 has been based on the County Council's new Regeneration Framework, <i>Unlocking Kent's Potential</i>; a 25 year masterplan which identifies the opportunities and challenges facing the County over the coming decades. Supporting this is a Transport Delivery Plan for Kent, <i>Growth without Gridlock</i>, which highlights the key transport solutions needed over the next 20 years. The key elements of this delivery plan are securing a Lower Thames Crossing to support housing and employment growth in the Thames Gateway; delivering a long-term solution to Operation Stack; cutting congestion along the A21 corridor; improving rail journey times to East Kent; creating an integrated bus network; and linking new infrastructure process.</p> <p>The strategy approach for LTP3 has been to develop five Themes, based on the previous Government's five National Transport Goals as set out in the LTP3 Guidance, but made relevant to Kent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth Without Gridlock</li> <li>• A Safer and Healthier County</li> <li>• Supporting Independence</li> <li>• Tackling a Changing Climate</li> <li>• Enjoying Life in Kent</li> </ul>	<p>The HRA screening concluded that there are no likely significant effects on European sites.</p> <p>The screening recommended that two schemes mentioned in the LTP3 - Kent International Airport Parkway Station and the Lower Thames Crossing - will require project-level HRA when more detailed proposals are developed.</p>

Kent County Council Minerals and Waste Core Strategy - Strategy and Policy Directions Consultation (May 2011)	
Aim of the document	Elements of the plan that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>Kent's new Minerals and Waste Development Framework (M&amp;WDF) will set out the Council's strategy and planning policies for mineral extraction, importation and recycling as well as waste management of all of the waste streams that are generated or managed in Kent. It will only cover the county of Kent. Medway Council are addressing minerals and waste matters themselves in their own Local Development Framework (LDF). However Kent and Medway Councils have worked together in the preparation of part of the evidence base required for their Development Plan Documents (DPDs).</p> <p>The Core Strategy identifies the need and makes provision for the amount of waste treatment, mineral extraction and recycling that will be required in the County up to the end of 2030. It will also identifies the spatial pattern for minerals and waste development and broad areas showing where new facilities and sites are needed. It safeguards existing mineral importation facilities at wharves and rail sidings.</p>	<p><b>Suggestions for Strategic Sites for Minerals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Option 1A</b> - The permitted, but as yet, undeveloped <b>cement works at Medway Works, Holborough</b> (which straddles the Medway/ Kent administrative boundary) and its associated, permitted, land-won minerals needed to supply the cement works.</li> <li>• <b>Option 1B - Northfleet Bulk Aggregate Import Terminal</b>, which has now been granted planning permission subject to Section 106 legal agreements. As it has an extant planning permission, there is no need to identify it as a 'Strategic Site', instead it will be safeguarded in policy.</li> <li>• <b>Option 1C</b> - The ragstone quarry at <b>Hermitage Farm, Maidstone</b>, which currently is the subject of a planning application for a major extension.</li> <li>• <b>Option 1D</b> - The extraction of clay at <b>Norwood</b> to provide void space for hazardous waste disposal. The stock of planning permissions for clay for engineering and sea defence work is more than sufficient for the plan period.</li> <li>• <b>Option 1E</b> - The underground limestone mine at <b>Richborough</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Option 1F</b> - Operational wharves at <b>Greenhithe (Johnsons Wharf) and Northfleet Works</b>. As these are operational they do not need to be strategic sites, instead they will be covered by safeguarding policies.</li> <li>• <b>Option 1G</b> - Other unspecified wharves and rail connected facilities with known connectivity /jetty capability that must be preserved for the future. Again, these will be better covered by safeguarding policies.</li> <li>• <b>Option 1H</b> - An extension at <b>H&amp;H Ightham Works</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Possible Options for Strategic Sites for Waste</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Option 11A</b> - A site which can deal with contaminated soil, asbestos and incinerator ash. A site located in <b>Medway</b> was suggested for this. However, Kent County Council cannot identify Strategic Sites outside its county boundaries.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Option 11B</b> - The site at <b>Richborough Power Station</b> will be able to accommodate large scale Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plant which could receive household and non household waste for treatment by rail or water. Waste biomass fuel can also be delivered to a power/Combined Heat and Power (CHP) station from the site by rail or water.</li> <li>• <b>Option 11C</b> - The clay quarry and hazardous waste landfill site at <b>Norwood Farm, Sheppey</b>. The operators have promoted an extension to this site through the 'Call for Sites'.</li> <li>• <b>Option 11D</b> - The existing Integrated Waste Management Centre at <b>Richborough Hall</b> and its proposed extensions.</li> <li>• <b>Option 11E</b> - The existing, operational composting facility at <b>Blaise Farm (West Malling)</b>, which has capacity to treat up to 100,000tpa. The site has been promoted to the 'Call for Sites' for other waste management uses.</li> </ul>
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London Gateway		
Development proposed	Elements of the development that could cause 'in-combination' effects	HRA
The development of a major deep-sea container port and logistics park on the north bank of the River Thames.	Disturbance to feeding and roosting birds and loss of and disruption to the grazing marsh.	<p>It was determined that direct effects on internationally and nationally designated sites would not be significant, however, indirect effects would be. The sites potentially affected are those listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the Thames Estuary and Marshes SPA/Ramsar</li> <li>▪ the Benfleet and Southend Marshes SPA/Ramsar</li> <li>▪ the Foulness SPA/Ramsar</li> <li>▪ the Essex Estuaries SAC</li> </ul> <p>Compensatory measures include the creation of a new specially protected area of inter-tidal mudflats, known as Site A, for birds and wildlife.</p>

Medway Local Transport Plan 2011 - 2026	
Aim of the document	Elements of the plan that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>Medway's third Local Transport Plan (LTP) sets out Medway's transport strategy for the next 15 years and acts as a mechanism to obtain significant funding to deliver transport projects.</p>	<p>The Transport Strategy support Medway's plans by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensuring highway infrastructure is maintained to the highest possible standard within the available resources</li> <li>• efficiently managing and improving Medway's local highway network to ensure reliability of journey times</li> <li>• ensuring public transport becomes a realistic alternative choice to the private car</li> <li>• contributing to better health by encouraging walking and cycling and by improving accessibility to key services</li> <li>• ensuring that people can move around safely in Medway</li> </ul>

Maidstone Core Strategy Preferred Options, 2007	
Planned Development	Elements of the plan that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p><b>Housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The final dwelling requirement for Maidstone between 2006-2026 will be determined through the South East Plan. However, it is likely to range between 8,200 – 10,080 (or 410pa – 504pa). The KMSP requirement is 6,500 between 2001-2016 (or 415pa)</li> <li>▪ The Council will have regard to a number of other national, regional and local guidance when planning for affordable housing and other housing needs</li> </ul> <p><b>Employment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New employment locations will be identified to meet the Kent and Medway Structure Plan (KMSP) requirement (36ha minimum) in the Land Allocations DPD.</li> <li>▪ These will include high quality, mixed use business park environments, aimed at attracting companies in the technology and knowledge driven sectors which offer highly skilled, high wage employment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Transport</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To promote additional strategically located quality Park &amp; Ride (P&amp;R) locations, which promotes Best Practice and sustainability and has increased capacity and service levels together with a restriction on non-residential parking on town centre locations to influence modal choice in favour of alternative modes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Disturbance</b> - as a result of development near/ adjacent to European sites, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recreation</li> <li>○ Light Pollution</li> <li>○ Noise Pollution</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Atmospheric Pollution</b> - generated as a result of housing, employment and transport growth.</li> <li>▪ <b>Water Pollution</b> - increased pressure on sewerage capacity and an increase in non-permeable surfaces.</li> <li>▪ <b>Water Abstraction</b> - as a result of proposed development, potential for reduced water levels.</li> <li>▪ <b>Modified Drainage</b> - as a result of proposed development altering surface and groundwater flow.</li> <li>▪ <b>Land Take</b> - as a result of proposed development.</li> <li>▪ Coastal Squeeze</li> </ul>

<b>Swale Borough Council Core Strategy: Pick your own - Issues and Strategic Spatial Options (Jan 2011)</b>	
<p><b>Aim of the document</b></p> <p>The Core Strategy sets out the vision and overall spatial strategy for the area and how it will be achieved for the period until 2031 and beyond. It focuses on outcomes, setting out broad areas and principles, and where, how and when development should be delivered across the Borough.</p>	<p><b>Elements of the plan that could cause 'in-combination' effects</b></p> <p><b>Option 1 Continuing previous policy provision for development concentrated at urban areas</b></p> <p><i>Results in housing provision of 13,500 homes, alongside the delivery of previously identified employment sites to meet a lower growth scenario of 415,000 sq m. The option focuses upon urban areas within Thames Gateway, whilst at Faversham, policies promote the meeting of local needs. Rural areas are addressed by Development Management Policies intended to encourage their continued social, economic and environmental health. For new housing, some 4,500 houses would need to be identified, with most of these (circa 3,280 homes) requiring greenfield sites as urban extensions. At the Kent Science Park, further expansion is limited to existing environmental and transport capacity. The Sittingbourne Northern Relief Road would be completed to the A2, whilst further assessment of the capacity of Junction 5 of the M2 undertaken.</i></p> <p><b>Option 2 Continuing previous policy provision for development concentrated at urban areas and larger villages.</b></p> <p><i>As per option 1, with additional greenfield housing provision (circa 3,250) diverted from urban areas to larger village centres to support/expand their sustainability, as an alternative to urban extensions. Rural areas (outside identified larger villages) are addressed by Development Management Policies intended to encourage their continued social, economic and environmental health.</i></p> <p><b>Option 3 Step change in employment growth and continuing previous policy provision for development concentrated at urban areas.</b></p> <p><i>Housing growth levels and distribution as outlined in option 1, but led by employment provision at higher growth level (595,000 sq m), with additional 'step change' provision. Development provisions extending beyond plan period aimed at capturing greater share of economic development and meeting specific needs in key employment sectors. Greater housing focus upon urban previously developed land due to regeneration and expansion at Port of Sheerness. Villages close to employment locations considered for remaining</i></p>

	<p><i>greenfield housing provision. Major expansion of Kent Science Park with a new junction to M2 to form access to the Kent Science Park.</i></p> <p><b>Option 4 Step change in employment and housing growth</b>  <i>Higher growth levels for housing (18,500 dwellings) and employment (595,000 sq m), with additional 'step change' provision. Development provisions extending beyond plan period aimed at capturing greater share of economic development and meeting specific needs in key employment sectors, supported by new housing. Additionally, the option focuses on the need to grow Sittingbourne as a main centre for enhanced retail and leisure facilities and to develop new transport infrastructure for the town. Focus for both greenfield and previously developed land for housing upon main urban areas at greater levels than options 1 and 2, including expansion of Port of Sheerness for housing, as part of wider employment expansion proposals. Circa 5,850 new homes on greenfield urban extensions and key village locations where close to employment opportunities and proposed new infrastructure, but with primary focus for both greenfield housing and employment growth on Sittingbourne and environs (inc. Bapchild).</i></p> <p>Potential for proposed development to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase traffic</li> <li>▪ Increased air, noise and water pollution</li> <li>▪ Increased pressure on abstraction levels</li> <li>▪ Increased levels of effluents</li> <li>▪ Increased recreational activity</li> </ul>
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Tonbridge and Malling Adopted Core Strategy 2007		
Aim of the document	Elements of the plan that could cause 'in-combination' effects	HRA of Tonbridge and Malling Local Development Framework, Jan 2009
<p>The Core Strategy is a key planning document under the new planning regime. It sets out the Council's vision, aims and objectives which will determine the future pattern of development in the Borough over the period up until 2021 and the way in which the social, economic and environmental needs of the area can be delivered in the most sustainable way.</p>	<p><b>Policy CP15</b> The submission version of the South East Plan requires an average rate of development in Tonbridge and Malling Borough of 425 dwellings per annum for the 2006-21 period; a total of 6,375 dwellings (or such other figure as may ultimately be included in the approved South East Plan).</p> <p>Over 90% of all housing developments will take place on previously developed land; well in excess of the Government's target.</p> <p>The Employment Land Review concluded that, subject to regular monitoring, the existing supply of land for employment development is sufficient, in quantitative and qualitative terms, to meet the employment needs of the Borough at least until 2016. In accordance with the precautionary approach, employment needs beyond 2016 will be reassessed at a future review of the Development Land Allocations DPD having regard to the results of monitoring.</p> <p>In order to deliver the strategic development sites identified in policy CP15, accommodate predicted traffic growth, improve air quality and relieve sensitive areas from traffic congestion, new transport infrastructure will be needed.</p> <p>Potential for proposed development to:</p>	<p>The HRA was conducted on two European sites. Neither of relevance to this study.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Increase traffic</li><li>▪ Increased air, noise and water pollution</li><li>▪ Increased pressure on abstraction levels</li><li>▪ Increased levels of effluents</li><li>▪ Increased recreational activity</li></ul>	
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Gravesham Borough Council (2011) Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document - Regulation 25 Consultation					
Development proposed					
Strategic Site	Approximate Housing Development Requirement (No. of dwellings from draft SLAA)	Approximate Employment Development Requirement (Employment SOM)	Approximate Other Development Requirement (SOM – No. of jobs created from draft SLAA to be added)	Elements of the development that could cause 'in-combination' effects	Appropriate Assessment Report (July 2010)
Over the period 2006 to 2026 the Council will make provision for 10,000 net new full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs and the delivery of 9,300 net dwellings, of which 9,200 should be within the Kent Thames Gateway sub-region. The strategic sites are:					
Ebbsfleet	1,064	107,000	49,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taking a strategic approach the AA identified the following aspects of the emerging Core Strategies that were considered to have implications for European sites:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dartford and Gravesham Boroughs contain the area known as the 'Kent Thameside' regeneration area, one of the largest areas for development in the Thames Gateway. This scale of redevelopment has potential significant environmental effects on the Thames Gateway environment, including European sites.</li> <li>The Draft South East Plan (revoked July 2010, however the level of development is still relevant) outlines requirements for 17,340 dwellings for Dartford and 9,200 for Gravesham in the period 2006 to 2026, in the urban area- this is a significant level of growth that will potentially have impacts on the built and natural environment of the Boroughs.</li> <li>The Draft South East Plan (revoked July 2010, however the level of development is still relevant) also outlines requirements for 58,000 new jobs, and associated employment land</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The AA jointly considered the potential effects of the Dartford and Gravesham Core Strategies both alone and in-combination (with development proposed in surrounding areas) on the integrity of the Medway Estuary and Marshes SPA/Ramsar and the Thames Estuary &amp; Marshes SPA/Ramsar. The findings of the AA indicate that there will not be an adverse effect on the integrity of the European sites, as the policies within the Core Strategies and existing regulatory and management measures provide a sufficient level of protection to mitigate potential likely significant effects.</p> <p>The AA recommends that Dartford and Gravesham Borough Council's give</p>
Land at Swanscombe Peninsula	-	40,000 (B1-B8)	70,000 (D2)		
Land at Northfleet Embankment West	910	850 (A1), 46,500 (B1, B2, B8)	180 (D2)		
Land at Northfleet Embankment East	1500	20,000 and 40,000 committed (B1, B2, B8)	33,000 (D1 and D2)		
Town Centre	810	42,330 (A1, A3, B1a, B2 and B8)	5,400 (D2, C1)		
Canal Basin	1,268	35,000 (rationalising existing employment)	-		
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,552</b>				

	<p>in North Kent (Dartford, Gravesham, Medway and Swale) between 2006 and 2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development is planned to be focused close to existing urban areas and facilities. Development preferences are for redundant quarries, damaged land and brownfield sites, and river frontage development where possible and desirable.</li> <li>• New facilities and services, including strategic transport and green infrastructure, will be required to meet the needs of this increased growth. However, all development will need to reflect approaches that reduce the need for car travel and provide access to [transport] facilities.</li> <li>• The level of planned growth is likely to place significant strain on resources (particularly water resources, including the identified requirement for a 40 mega litre reservoir within the Dartford Borough), increase energy usage and waste production and increased pollution, particularly air pollution. There will be additional pressure placed on the Thames Estuary and its natural environment from development pressure, including increased risk of water pollution and recreational activity.</li> <li>• There may be an increase in recreation at existing natural sites, for</li> </ul>	<p>material consideration to the findings of the work undertaken by the North Kent Environmental Planning Group and to any avoidance, management actions and mitigation measures proposed to ensure that the requirements of the Habitats Directive are met.</p>
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	<p>example woodlands, marshes and estuarine sites due to increased population, although this will be dependent on levels of access.</p> <p>Potential for proposed development to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase traffic</li> <li>▪ Increased air, noise and water pollution</li> <li>▪ Increased pressure on abstraction levels</li> <li>▪ Increased levels of effluents</li> <li>▪ Increased recreational activity</li> </ul>	
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Dartford Borough Council (2011) Core Strategy Submission Document.		
Development proposed	Elements of the development that could cause 'in-combination' effects	Appropriate Assessment Report (July 2010)
<p>Development focussed in three priority areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dartford Town Centre &amp; Northern Gateway</li> <li>Ebbsfleet to Stone</li> <li>The Thames Waterfront</li> </ol> <p>The CS seeks provide sufficient capacity to achieve a net growth of up to approximately 26,500 jobs through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The development of 760,000 sq m gross of employment floorspace (B1, B2, B8, A2 and sui generis)</li> <li>Take-up of vacancies of existing employment estates</li> <li>Protection of existing employment land for B1, B2, B8 and A2 uses</li> <li>Facilitating job growth in services needed to support the growth in population, through identification of sites and granting of planning permission for retail, leisure and community facilities and working in partnership with service providers, including Kent County Council and the Health Authority to ensure that the provision comes forward.</li> </ol>	<p>Taking a strategic approach the AA identified the following aspects of the emerging Core Strategies that were considered to have implications for European sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dartford and Gravesham Boroughs contain the area known as the 'Kent Thameside' regeneration area, one of the largest areas for development in the Thames Gateway. This scale of redevelopment has potential significant environmental effects on the Thames Gateway environment, including European sites.</li> <li>The Draft South East Plan (revoked July 2010, however the level of development is still relevant) outlines requirements for 17,340 dwellings for Dartford and 9,200 for Gravesham in the period 2006 to 2026, in the urban area- this is a significant level of growth that will potentially have impacts on the built and natural environment of the Boroughs.</li> <li>The Draft South East Plan (revoked July 2010, however the level of development is still relevant) also outlines requirements for 58,000 new jobs, and associated employment land in North Kent (Dartford, Gravesham, Medway and Swale) between 2006 and 2026.</li> <li>Development is planned to be focused close to existing urban areas and facilities. Development preferences are for redundant quarries, damaged land and brownfield sites, and river frontage development where possible and desirable.</li> <li>New facilities and services, including strategic</li> </ul>	<p>The AA jointly considered the potential effects of the Dartford and Gravesham Core Strategies both alone and in-combination (with development proposed in surrounding areas) on the integrity of the Medway Estuary and Marshes SPA/Ramsar and the Thames Estuary &amp; Marshes SPA/Ramsar. The findings of the AA indicate that there will not be an adverse effect on the integrity of the European sites, as the policies within the Core Strategies and existing regulatory and management measures provide a sufficient level of protection to mitigate potential likely significant effects.</p> <p>The AA recommends that Dartford and Gravesham Borough Council's give material consideration to the findings of the work undertaken by the North Kent Environmental Planning Group and to any avoidance, management actions and mitigation measures proposed to ensure that the requirements of the Habitats Directive are met.</p>

<p>The CS seeks to provide 17,340 homes in Dartford during the period 2006-2026. The indicative capacity is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dartford Town Centre inc Northern Gateway up to 3,100</li> <li>• Ebbsfleet to Stone up to 7,850</li> <li>• Thames Waterfront up to 3,750</li> <li>• Other sites north of A2 up to 2,400</li> <li>• Sites south of A2, normally provided within village boundaries 200</li> </ul>	<p>transport and green infrastructure, will be required to meet the needs of this increased growth. However, all development will need to reflect approaches that reduce the need for car travel and provide access to [transport] facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The level of planned growth is likely to place significant strain on resources (particularly water resources, including the identified requirement for a 40 mega litre reservoir within the Dartford Borough), increase energy usage and waste production and increased pollution, particularly air pollution.</li> <li>• There will be additional pressure placed on the Thames Estuary and its natural environment from development pressure, including increased risk of water pollution and recreational activity.</li> <li>• There may be an increase in recreation at existing natural sites, for example woodlands, marshes and estuarine sites due to increased population, although this will be dependant on levels of access.</li> </ul> <p>Potential for proposed development to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase traffic</li> <li>▪ Increased air, noise and water pollution</li> <li>▪ Increased pressure on abstraction levels</li> <li>▪ Increased levels of effluents</li> <li>▪ Increased recreational activity</li> </ul>	
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Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan Review 2010		
Aim of the document	Elements of the plan that could cause 'in-combination' effects	Appendix J – Habitats Regulations Assessment 2009
<p>The document provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal evolution and presents a policy framework to address these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner. It identifies identify policies to manage coastal flood and erosion risks, deliver a wide ranging assessment of risks, opportunities, limits and areas of uncertainty.</p>	<p>Managed Realignment and Hold the Line Policies have the potential to result in freshwater habitat displacement and intertidal habitat growth.</p>	<p><b>Stage 2 - Assessment of Likely Significant Effect</b></p> <p>Stage 2 identified that the SMP would have a likely significant effect on the Ramsar sites / SPAs and SACs due to freshwater habitat displacement and intertidal habitat growth through Managed Realignment and Hold the Line Policies. Based on the 2002 North Kent Coastal Habitat Management Plan (CHaMP) for the area, coastal squeeze was not considered a likely significant effect at the time of the Stage 2 work. Stage 2 identified that there would be No Likely Significant Effect on Sandwich Bay and Dover to Kingsdown Cliffs SACs.</p> <p><b>Stage 3 - Appropriate Assessment</b></p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessment concludes that, Alone and In Combination, it is not possible to demonstrate that Managed Realignment policies would not have an Adverse effect on the integrity of the Thames Estuary and Marshes and The Swale SPA / Ramsar sites through displacement of Grazing Marsh and Standing Water habitats.</p> <p><b>Stage 4 Alternatives, Imperative Reasons for Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) and Compensation</b></p> <p>The competent authority identified the following less damaging alternatives: a) Hold the Line, or</p>

		<p>b) Managed Realignment with a Controlled Extent (to minimise ecological impact)</p> <p>The least damaging alternative for implementing this plan was considered to cause adverse effect either through freshwater habitat displacement or coastal squeeze. As such, the competent authority need to consider whether the plan is necessary and needs to be implemented for 'IROPI.'</p> <p>The Shoreline Management Plan was considered to have the following 'Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Importance:'</p> <p>A need to address a serious risk to human health and public safety (uncoordinated and uncontrolled flood and erosion risks to large residential populations and major infrastructure);</p> <p>Where failure to proceed would have unacceptable social and/or economic consequences (loss of economic infrastructure, commercial property and community areas) through coastal flood and erosion damage;</p> <p>Whilst this is a damaging plan, it is the least damaging option for the designated sites in adjusting to the climate change impacts of sea level rise. This SMP therefore has beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment.</p> <p><b>Proposed Freshwater Compensation Sites for Habitat Creation Programme</b></p> <p>Rank 1 – South Swale (Grazing Marsh &amp; Standing Water) <b>665 ha</b></p> <p>Rank 2 – Possible additional sites within the Thames</p>
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		<p>Estuary to be identified by the TE2100 programme (Grazing Marsh &amp; Standing Water) <b>tbc</b></p> <p>Should sufficient areas not be available within these sites, the RHCP will secure investigate locations increasingly further afield until suitable sites are found.</p>
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Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan Review 2010		
Aim of the document	Elements of the plan that could cause 'in-combination' effects	Appendix J – Habitats Regulations Assessment (amended 2007)
<p>The document provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal evolution and presents a policy framework to address these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner. It identifies identify policies to manage coastal flood and erosion risks, deliver a wide ranging assessment of risks, opportunities, limits and areas of uncertainty.</p>	<p>Managed Realignment and Hold the Line Policies have the potential to result in freshwater habitat displacement and intertidal habitat growth.</p>	<p><b>Stage 2 - Assessment of Likely Significant Effect</b></p> <p>Stage 2 identified that the SMP would have a likely significant effect on the Ramsar sites / SPAs due to freshwater habitat displacement and intertidal habitat growth through Managed Realignment Policies. Based on the 2002 North Kent Coastal Habitat Management Plan (CHAMP) for the area, coastal squeeze was not considered a likely significant effect at the time of the stage 2 work. Stage 2 identified that there would be No Likely Significant Effect on Peter's Pit SAC.</p> <p><b>Stage 3 Appropriate Assessment</b></p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessment concludes that, Alone and In Combination, it is not possible to demonstrate that Managed Realignment policies would not have an Adverse effect on the integrity of the Thames Estuary and Marshes and The Swale SPA / Ramsar sites through displacement of Grazing Marsh and Standing Water habitats.</p> <p><b>Stage 4 Alternatives, Imperative Reasons for Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) and Compensation</b></p> <p>The competent authority identified the following less damaging alternatives: a) Hold the Line, or</p>

		<p>b) Managed Realignment with a Controlled Extent (to minimise ecological impact)</p> <p>The least damaging alternative for implementing this plan was considered to cause adverse effect either through freshwater habitat displacement or coastal squeeze. As such, the competent authority need to consider whether the plan is necessary and needs to be implemented for 'IROPI.'</p> <p>The Shoreline Management Plan was considered to have the following 'Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Importance:'</p> <p>A need to address a serious risk to human health and public safety (uncoordinated and uncontrolled flood and erosion risks to large residential populations and major infrastructure);</p> <p>Where failure to proceed would have unacceptable social and/or economic consequences (loss of economic infrastructure, commercial property and community areas) through coastal flood and erosion damage;</p> <p>Whilst this is a damaging plan, it is the least damaging option for the designated sites in adjusting to the climate change impacts of sea level rise. This SMP therefore has beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment.</p> <p><b>Proposed Freshwater Compensation Sites for Habitat Creation Programme</b></p> <p>0-20 Years Rank 1 - North Swale (Grazing Marsh &amp; Standing Water) 370ha</p>
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		<p>20-50 Years Rank 2 - South Swale (Grazing Marsh &amp; Standing Water) 665ha</p> <p>50-100 Years Rank3 - Hoo St. Werburg (Grazing Marsh &amp; Standing Water) 860ha</p> <p>Should sufficient areas not be available within these sites, the RHCP will secure investigate locations increasingly further afield until suitable sites are found.</p>
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### Appendix 3: Publication Draft Core Strategy Policy Screening

Policy Screening: Categorising the Potential Effects of the Plan (Tyldesley, 2009)	
Criteria Category	Rationale
<b>Category A: No negative effect</b>	
<b>A1</b>	Options/ policies that will not themselves lead to development e.g. because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development, or they are not a land use planning policy.
<b>A2</b>	Options/ policies intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity.
<b>A3</b>	Options/ policies intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on a European site.
<b>A4</b>	Options/ policies that positively steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.
<b>A5</b>	Options/ policies that would have no effect because no development could occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through later policies in the same plan, which are more specific and therefore more appropriate to access for their effects on European Sites and associated sensitive areas.
<b>Category B: No significant effect</b>	
<b>B</b>	Options/ policies that could have an effect but would not be likely to have a significant (negative) effect on a European site (alone or in-combination with other plans or projects) because the effects are trivial or 'de minimis' even if combined with other effects.
<b>Category C: Likely significant effect alone</b>	
<b>C1</b>	The option, policy could <b>directly affect</b> a European site because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development onto a European site, or adjacent to it.
<b>C2</b>	The option, policy could <b>indirectly affect</b> a European site e.g. because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development that may be very close to it, or ecologically, hydrologically or physically connected to it or it may increase disturbance as a result of increased recreational pressure.
<b>C3</b>	Proposals for a <b>magnitude of development</b> that, no matter where it is located, the development would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site.
<b>C4</b>	An option, or policy that makes provision for a quantity/ type of development (and may indicate one or more broad locations e.g. a particular part of the plan area), but the effects are uncertain because the detailed location of the development is to be selected following <b>consideration of options later in the plan or in a separate more specific plan</b> . The consideration of options in the later plan will assess potential effects on European Sites, but because the development could possibly affect a European site a significant effect cannot be ruled out on the basis of objective information

<b>Policy Screening: Categorising the Potential Effects of the Plan (Tyldesley, 2009)</b>	
<b>Criteria Category</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
<b>C5</b>	Options, policies or proposals for developments or infrastructure projects that <b>could block options or alternatives</b> for the provision of other development or projects in the future, which will be required in the public interest, that may lead to adverse effects on European sites, which would otherwise be avoided.
<b>C6</b>	Options, policies or proposals which <b>depend on how the policies etc are implemented</b> in due course, for example, through the development management process. There is a theoretical possibility that if implemented in one or more particular ways, the proposal could possibly have a significant effect on a European site
<b>C7</b>	Any other options, policies or proposals that would be <b>vulnerable to failure</b> under the Habitats Regulations at project assessment stage; to include them in the plan would be regarded by the EC as 'faulty planning'.
<b>C8</b>	Any other proposal that may have an adverse effect on a European site, which might try to pass the tests of the Habitats Regulations at project assessment stage by arguing that the <b>plan provides the imperative reasons</b> of overriding public interest to justify its consent despite a negative assessment.
<b>Category D: Likely significant effects in combination</b>	
<b>D1</b>	The option, policy or proposal alone would not be likely to have significant effects but if its effects are combined with the effects of other policies or proposals <b>provided for or coordinated</b> by the Local Development Document (internally) the <b>cumulative</b> effects would be likely to be significant.
<b>D2</b>	Options, policies or proposals that alone would not be likely to have significant effects but if their effects are <b>combined with the effects of other plans and projects</b> and possibly the effects of other developments provided for in the Local Development Document as well, the combined effects are likely to be significant.
<b>D3</b>	Options or proposals that are, or could be, part of a <b>programme or sequence of development</b> delivered over a period, where the implementation of the early stages would not have a significant effect on European sites, but which would dictate the nature, scale, duration, location, timing of the whole project, the later stages of which could have adverse effects on such sites.

Publication Draft Core Strategy Policies	Assessment Category	Commentary
Policy CS1: Regenerating Medway	<b>C4</b>	The policy identifies locations for development but does not provide any detail on the quantum of development.
Policy CS2: Quality and Sustainable Design	<b>A1</b>	Policy will not lead to development itself.
Policy CS3: Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change	<b>A1</b>	Policy will not lead to development itself.
Policy CS4: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	<b>C4</b>	The policy requires that for all new developments of 10 dwellings or more, or over 1,000 sq m of floor space 20% of the remaining on-site energy loading will be delivered from renewable energy sources. It also promotes the development of large scale district heating schemes that utilise waste heat from conventional power generation.
Policy CS5: Development and Flood Risk	<b>A1</b>	Policy will not lead to development itself.
Policy CS6: Preservation and Enhancement of Natural Assets	<b>A3</b>	Policy intends to protect and enhance biodiversity.
Policy CS7: Countryside and Landscape	<b>D2</b>	The policy permits development in the countryside depending on a number of criteria.
Policy CS8: Open Space, Green Grid and Public Realm	<b>A1</b>	Policy will not lead to development itself.
Policy CS9: Health and Social Infrastructure	<b>B</b>	The policy permits the development of health and social infrastructure.
Policy CS10: Sport and Recreation	<b>B</b>	The policy seeks to safeguard and extend existing sport facilities and to continue developing a strategy to maximise local benefits of the London Olympics in 2012.
Policy CS11: Culture and Leisure	<b>D2</b>	Policy supports the implementation of Medway's Cultural Strategy, which includes the development of new cultural venues centered on Chatham and extending along the Medway waterfront.
Policy CS12: Heritage Assets	<b>B</b>	Policy seeks to preserve and enhance the historic environment.
Policy CS13: Housing Provision and Distribution	<b>C2 &amp; D2</b>	The policy makes provision for at least 17,930 new homes to be delivered between 2006 and 2028 (average of 815 per year). This includes provision for 5,000 dwellings at the strategic allocation of Lodge Hill.
Policy CS14: Affordable Housing	<b>A1</b>	Policy sets criteria for the provision of affordable housing and will not lead to development itself.

Publication Draft Core Strategy Policies	Assessment Category	Commentary
Policy CS15: Housing Design and Other Housing Requirements	A1	Policy sets criteria for housing design and will not lead to development itself.
Policy CS16: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	C4	The policy seeks to provide sufficient sites for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople pitches to be allocated within the Allocations and Development Management DPD
Policy CS17: Economic Development	C2 & D2	The policy makes provision for a supply of around 935,995 sq m of employment floorspace to be delivered up to 2028.
Policy CS18: Tourism	C2 & D2	Policy seeks to positively promote sustainable tourism development this includes development of the leisure use of the river.
Policy CS19: Retail and Town Centres	D2	Policy makes provision for retail development, predominantly in Chatham.
Policy CS20: Education and Personal Development	A1	Policy seeks to improve the Medway's educational offer.
Policy CS21: Conventional Energy Generation	C4	Policy supports proposals for additional power generation and energy storage capacity on the Hoo Peninsula and the Isle of Grain.
Policy CS22: Provision for Minerals	C2 & D2	The policy makes provision for the extraction of at least 0.18 million tonnes per annum of land won aggregates within the area identified to the east of Hoo St. Werburgh, together with at least a 7 year land bank of permitted reserves in the areas of search identified on the Hoo Peninsula over the plan period.
Policy CS23: Waste Management	C2 & D2	The policy makes provision for the collection, reuse. Recycling, treatment and disposal of Medway's waste. The policy identifies potential areas for disposal to land on the Hoo Peninsula and the Isle of Grain.
Policy CS24: Transport and Movement	C2 & D2	The policy seeks to extend walking and cycling networks and safeguard a network of piers and landing places in order to facilitate the introduction of water bus/taxi services along the urban waterfront, linking visitor and other attractions and providing capacity for visiting vessels.
Policy CS25: The River Medway	C2 & D2	The policy promotes mixed use development along the urban waterfront as well as a riverside walk and cycle way and increased public access to the river. It also promotes greater use of the river. Existing infrastructure that provides access to the river will be protected and new facilities, including piers for river taxis will be encouraged. Leisure activities on and along the river are also supported as long as they will not harm the environment or natural ecosystems.



Publication Draft Core Strategy Policies	Assessment Category	Commentary
Policy CS26: Strood	<b>C2 &amp; D2</b>	Policy promotes housing and mixed use developments, which includes the provision of 2,331 new dwellings, 38,435 sq m of employment floorspace and 27,520 sq m of retail floorspace in Strood.
Policy CS27: Rochester	<b>C2 &amp; D2</b>	Policy promotes housing and mixed use developments, which includes the provision of 3,117 new dwellings, 26,338 sq m of employment floorspace and 10,075 sq m of retail floorspace in Rochester.
Policy CS28: Chatham	<b>C2 &amp; D2</b>	Policy promotes the redevelopment of Chatham, which includes the provision of 3,843 new dwellings, 56,590 sq m of employment floorspace and 90,790 sq m of retail floorspace in Chatham.
Policy CS29: Gillingham	<b>C2 &amp; D2</b>	Policy promotes housing and mixed use developments, which includes the provision of 1,488 new dwellings, 19,221 sq m of employment floorspace and 8,384 sq m of retail floorspace in Gillingham.
Policy CS30: Rainham	<b>C2 &amp; D2</b>	Policy promotes housing and mixed use developments, which includes the provision of 123 new dwellings, 14,132 sq m of employment floorspace and 5,483 sq m of retail floorspace in Rainham.
Policy CS31: Hoo Peninsula and the Isle of Grain	<b>C2 &amp; D2</b>	Policy promotes housing and mixed use developments, which includes the provision of 5,522 new dwellings, 712,294 sq m of employment floorspace and 5,161 sq m of retail floorspace in Hoo Peninsula and Isle of Grain.
Policy CS32: Medway Valley	<b>C2 &amp; D2</b>	Policy promotes housing and mixed use developments, which includes the provision of 548 new dwellings, 3,660 sq m of employment floorspace and 700 sq m of retail floorspace in Medway Valley.
Policy CS33: Lodge Hill	<b>C2 &amp; D2</b>	Provision of 5,000 new dwellings, employment opportunities generally in balance with the resident population working age and 5,000 sq m of retail floorspace in Lodge Hill.
Policy CS34: Implementation of the Core Strategy	<b>A1</b>	Policy sets out measures to ensure the effective implementation of the Core Strategy.
Policy CS35: Developer Contribution	<b>A1</b>	Policy sets out criteria for developer contributions.



**Appendix 4: Medway Core Strategy HRA Meeting Minutes**

<b>Project:</b>	Medway Council Core Strategy HRA
<b>Date:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> June 2011
<b>Time:</b>	12.15- 1.15
<b>Venue:</b>	Canterbury Council Offices
<b>Attendance:</b>	Toney Hallahan - Enfusion Alastair Peattie - Enfusion Brian McCutcheon – Medway Council Charlotte Hardy – Medway Council Andrea Wright- Gravesham Borough Council Nigel Jennings- Natural England Francis Davies- Natural England Sophie Flax- RSPB Debbie Salmon-Kent Wildlife Trust Martin Hall- Greening the Gateway Kent &Medway Apologies- Swale Borough Council, Environment Agency

**1. Introduction**

- Toney explained purpose of meeting: updating NKEPG on HRA findings to date, discussing early ideas for mitigation, considering the findings/implications of the Footprint study.

Medway Core Strategy- progress to date

- Brian discussed progress to date on the Medway Core Strategy- next consultation on Pre-publication draft taking place in September 2011. Council working in an open and transparent way on the strategy and also with the HRA/SA work. A draft of the Core Strategy will be completed 15 July for 2 August Cabinet Meeting.

Core Strategy HRA Progress

- Alastair discussed HRA progress to date: draft working paper prepared for Council and sent to Natural England; agreed to circulate this to wider group by week's end.

**2. Discussion of the issues/mitigations/early findings:**

- Alastair provided a summary of the key issues identified to date and discussion was held around early findings and possible mitigations (list of proposed mitigations circulated).

### Air Quality

- A number of the European sites are within 200m of a major road that could see a significant increase in traffic as a result of development proposed in the Core Strategy and surrounding areas.
- KWT discussed concerns around cumulative effects across the Gateway, especially in relation to nitrogen deposition.

### Habitat loss/fragmentation

- Role of group in helping identifying important supporting habitats.
- Discussed Thames Estuary 2100 proposals for habitat replacement within Medway boundaries.
- Role of greenspace and green grid discussed.

### Water levels/quality

- Review of consents process will help identify if any problems. Early findings suggest new Core Strategy policy on water resources/ quality required. This reflects comments from other stakeholders- Council Officers support this and suggest it could be linked to Southern Water's business plan targets.

### Disturbance

- This is the key significant issue for the Core Strategy. Enfusion have been awaiting results of the Footprint study before doing further work. This issue will be carried into the Appropriate Assessment stage of the work. Discussed the importance of taking a precautionary approach to this.
- Findings of Footprint study to date are showing that a local element is exacerbating the national picture of bird decline; a correlation between dog-walking and the disturbance of birds has been shown through the study; also that most visitors to the estuary are local to Medway.
- Discussed use of SANGS (Strategic Alternative Natural Greenspace). Debbie commented that this would not be sufficient, that appropriate management actions will also be required at a European site level.
- Discussion around Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and whether it is possible to obtain developer contributions to support management of habitat sites- Brian suggested this is something the Council could look into.
- Agreed that given timescales and the need for ongoing work on the issue (Stage 2 of Footprint work due October, may not be ready to inform Medway draft submission document), a precautionary approach will need to be taken to the disturbance issues.
- Discussed possible wording: it should include a precautionary approach, recognise the probability of increased disturbance as a result of development and the need to mitigate this. That SANGS and active management will be required. That should future work find evidence of developments contribution to the decline, that developments may be required to provide a contribution towards management of the issue.
- Enfusion to draft policy wording and circulate to the group for comments.
- Natural England discussed need to consider disturbance on other species, e.g. invertebrates.

### 3. Next steps

- Enfusion to send HRA working paper to the group for comments- to include the current list of draft mitigations-any comments welcome. Actioned.
- Enfusion to draft policy wording on disturbance and circulate to the group for comments. Actioned.
- Group asked to think about and forward any relevant studies/information to Alastair at Enfusion; also any comments on Draft HRA Working paper: [alastair.peattie@enfusion.co.uk](mailto:alastair.peattie@enfusion.co.uk)
- HRA Screening report under preparation, and will send consultation version to the NKEPG group.
- HRA Appropriate Assessment will be prepared September/October to accompany draft Submission Core Strategy.

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