

Winchester District Local Plan Part 1 – Joint Core Strategy (JCS)

Habitats Regulation Assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (as amended) 2010 (Habitat Regulations)

This is a statement by Winchester City Council, setting out the record of appropriate assessment required under the Habitat Regulations undertaken on the Councils behalf by Enfusion¹.

Through the JCS HRA Screening² it was concluded that the emerging JCS policies have the potential for likely significant effect on a number of European sites³. Given that the JCS is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site, an appropriate assessment was subsequently undertaken to consider the effects associated with habitat fragmentation and loss, disturbance, water levels and quality and air quality on the identified European sites.

Consultations held

- Natural England was consulted under Reg 102 (2) in March 2009, May 2009, January 2012 and June 2012.
- The opinion of the general public was sought under Reg 102 (3) on January 2012 and June 2012 through the consultation on the Pre-Submission JCS and the modifications made at Pre-Submission.

The responses made to the representations are set out in Appendix 4 of the HRA¹.

The appropriate assessment concludes that:

1. **The JCS alone will not adversely affect the integrity of the European sites.**
2. There are a number of uncertainties when considering the potential for the JCS to act in-combination with other plans and programmes to have adverse effects on the integrity of identified European sites. To address these uncertainties the AA proposed a number of policy safeguards, which have subsequently been incorporated into the JCS.
Winchester City Council therefore concludes that the JCS will not have adverse effects on the integrity of European sites in-combination with other plans and programmes.

The amendments made are listed in Section 5 of the Submission HRA¹ and in the modifications made to the Submission JCS^{4,5}. Section 5 demonstrates how the JCS has been amended to reflect the findings and recommendations of the HRA process together with a commentary from the Council.

¹ [Submission HRA June 2012](#)

² [HRA Screening May 2009](#)

³ [Paragraph 3.22 Submission HRA June 2012](#)

⁴ [Schedule of Proposed Modifications June 2012](#)

⁵ REF to V3 of mods to be added when published