



Cambridge South East Transport Phase 2

Environmental Statement

Appendix 10.11 Habitat Regulations Screening Assessment

31st July 2023

Introduction

10.12.1 A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required by Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (Habitats Regulations) for all plans and projects which may have a Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on and are not directly connected with, or necessary to, the nature conservation management of a European Site. The Proposed Development is not directly connected with, or necessary to, the nature conservation management of any European Site, but is within 30 km of the Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is designated for bats. The Proposed Development therefore needs to undergo Stage 1 screening.

10.12.2 The stages of the HRA process are:

- Stage 1 – Screening: To determine whether a plan or project either alone or in combination with other plans and projects is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site. Mitigation measures shall not be taken into account in the Stage 1 assessment;
- Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment: if a LSE on a European site cannot be excluded then an appropriate assessment must be undertaken to determine whether, in view of the relevant European Site's conservation objectives, the plan (either alone or in combination with other projects and plans) would have an adverse effect (or risk of this) on the integrity of the European Site with respect to the site structure, function and conservation objectives. If adverse impacts are predicted, then potential mitigation measures can be proposed and taken into account in determining whether the 'integrity' test is passed, which is where the appropriate assessment shows that there is no reasonable scientific doubt that the proposal will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the European site ;
- Stage 3 – Derogation : Where a plan fails the integrity test it can only be permitted if it satisfies all three derogation tests: There should be no feasible alternative solutions that would be less damaging or avoid damage to the European site; The proposal needs to be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest; and Necessary compensatory measures can be secured.

10.12.3 This report comprises Stage 1 – Screening of LSE of the Proposed Development.

Method

Determination of European Sites Included in the HRA

10.12.4 With regards to determining the European Sites to include in the screening assessment ('Scoping'), the guidance in DMRB LA 115 states that as a general guide, subject to professional judgement about potential effect pathways, consideration should be given to including a European Site in the HRA if the Proposed Development:

- is less than 2 km from any Special Area of Conservation (SAC), possible SAC (pSAC), Site of Community Importance (SCI), Special Protection Area (SPA), possible SPA (pSPA), Ramsar site or possible Ramsar site;
- is less than 30 km from any SAC, pSAC, cSAC where bats are one of the qualifying features;
- crosses or lies adjacent to, upstream of, or downstream of, a watercourse which is designated in part, or wholly, as a European Site;
- has a potential hydrological or hydrogeological linkage to a European Site containing a Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystem (GWDTE) which triggers assessment in accordance with LA 113¹; or,
- has an Affected Road Network (ARN) within 200 m of any SACs (SCIs or cSACs), SPAs, pSPAs, Ramsar sites and p Ramsar site, which triggers the air quality criteria for assessment of European Sites within LA 105². This approach is further confirmed in recent Natural England guidance³ which states that protected sites falling within 200 m of the edge of a road affected by a plan or project need to be considered within HRA.

10.12.5 The search for European Sites was undertaken using the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website⁴.

10.12.6 Additionally, as outlined in LA105, SSSI Impact Risk Zone (IRZ), which are available on the MAGIC website, were reviewed to identify whether European Sites could be impacted by virtue of falling within the IRZ of the SSSIs underpinning the European Sites' nature conservation designation.

Obtaining Information on the European Sites with the Potential to be Affected

10.12.7 Information on the qualifying features, conservation objectives and supplementary advice on conservation objectives were obtained from the following sources:

- MAGIC website⁵ for information on the location of the European Sites and SSSI IRZs;
- JNCC⁶ for data sheets and Natura 2000 Standard Data Forms; and,
- Natural England Designated Site Information⁷ for the citation, conservation objectives and supplementary advice on conservation objectives.

Obtaining Information on Other Projects and Plans

10.12.8 The Habitats Regulations requires assessment of the potential for LSEs of the project 'in combination' with other projects and plans.

10.12.9 The effects of this project in combination with other projects and plans are the cumulative effects which will, or might, result from the addition of the effects of other relevant plans or projects to the effects of this project.

10.12.10 The Habitats Regulations Handbook⁸ advises that any plans or projects at the following stages may be relevant to an in-combination assessment:

- Applications lodged but not yet determined;

¹ LA 113 Road drainage and the water environment. Available from: <https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/dmrb/>

² LA 105 Air quality. Available from: <https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/dmrb/search/10191621-07df-44a3-892e-c1d5c7a28d90>

³ NE Internal Guidance – Approach to Advising Competent Authorities on Road Traffic Emissions and HRAs V1.4 Final – June 2018.

⁴ <http://magic.defra.gov.uk>

⁵ <https://magic.defra.gov.uk>

⁶ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk>

⁷ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSearch.aspx>

⁸ Tyldesley, D., and Chapman, C., (2013) The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook, January 2018 edition UK: DTA Publications Limited www.dtapublications.co.uk

- Projects subject to periodic review, e.g. annual licences, during the time that their renewal is under consideration;
- Refusals subject to appeal procedures and not yet determined;
- Projects authorised but not yet started;
- Projects started but not yet completed;
- Known projects that do not require external authorisation;
- Proposals in adopted plans; and
- Proposals in finalised draft plans formally published or submitted for final consultation, examination, or adoption.

10.12.11 A search was undertaken of the following local authority websites for relevant planning applications and consents:

- Cambridgeshire County Council⁹;
- South Cambridgeshire District Council¹⁰;
- Cambridge City Council¹¹;
- Hertfordshire County Council¹²;
- Central Bedfordshire Council¹³;
- North Hertfordshire¹⁴;
- Bedford Borough Council¹⁵;
- Huntingdonshire District Council¹⁶.

10.12.12 The National Infrastructure Planning¹⁷ website was also searched to review for LSE of the project 'in combination' with other projects and plans.

Assessing Likely Significant Effects

10.12.13 The HRA Screening process should determine whether it is possible to rule out the risk of a proposal having a significant effect on the conservation objectives of a European site. A precautionary approach should be taken. If the risk cannot be ruled out, then an Appropriate Assessment must be undertaken to assess beyond all reasonable scientific doubt whether a proposal will have an adverse effect on the integrity of the European site. The concept of 'likely significant effect (LSE)' as embodied in Regulation 63(1) is central to their operation. Its interpretation is well established in law and guidance and embraces the precautionary principle.

10.12.14 As the Habitats Regulations constitute EU Retained Law regard should continue to be had to the jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in their interpretation. The CJEU's Waddenzee judgement¹⁸ provides clarification regarding the term 'likely'. It concludes that: "any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site is to be subject to an Appropriate Assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that it will have a significant effect on that site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects."

10.12.15 Clarification has also been provided through case law on the meaning of 'likely' in relation to Bagmoor Wind Ltd. v The Scottish Ministers¹⁹: "the word 'likely' in the regulation is not to be construed as an expression of probability, in a legal sense, but as a description of the existence of a risk (or possibility)." Consequently, if the possibility of a significant effect cannot be excluded based on objective information, an Appropriate Assessment will be required.

10.12.16 The CJEU Waddenzee judgement also provides further clarification regarding the term 'significant': "where a plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a site is likely to undermine the site's conservation objectives, it must be considered likely to have a significant effect on that site. The assessment of that risk must be made in the light inter alia of the characteristics and specific environmental conditions of the site concerned by such a plan or project."

10.12.17 The Bagmoor Wind case also provides guidance on the term 'objective.' It states: "objective, in this context, means information based on clear verifiable fact rather than subjective opinion." The Habitats Regulations Handbook²⁰ states: "it will not normally be sufficient for an applicant merely to assert that the plan or project will not have an adverse effect on a site, nor will it be appropriate for a competent authority to rely on reassurances based on supposition or speculation. On the other hand, there should be credible evidence to show that there is a real rather than a hypothetical risk of effects that could undermine the site's conservation objectives. Any serious possibility of a risk that the conservation objectives could be undermined should trigger an 'appropriate assessment'."

10.12.18 The test for likelihood of significant effects requires that consideration is given to potential causes and potential effects (i.e. any potential impact pathways). To do this, information on the Proposed Development is needed to identify the potential causes of effects and information on the European Site is needed to identify any potential implications related to these effects. In the absence of a potential impact pathway, it can be concluded that no LSE would arise. Relevant aspects (effects) of the Proposed Development have been checked against all features of the relevant European Sites (i.e. screened) to determine whether an LSE may arise.

10.12.19 The judgement as to whether a significant effect is likely needs to be based on the best readily available information. Sources of information may include evidence from projects where similar operations have affected sites with similar qualifying features and conservation objectives and the judgement of relevant specialists that an effect is likely, as well as survey data collected to date for a particular project. In line with the precautionary principle, where there is uncertainty and/or information is lacking in relation to the capacity of the effect to undermine the site's conservation objectives, it must be assumed that there will be an effect, unless further information can be made available to eliminate any areas of doubt.

⁹ <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

¹⁰ <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/>

¹¹ <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/>

¹² <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/home.aspx>

¹³ <https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/>

¹⁴ <https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/>

¹⁵ <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/>

¹⁶ <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/>

¹⁷ National Infrastructure Planning. Available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/> (Accessed January 2023)

¹⁸ Case C – 127/02 Waddenzee, reference for a preliminary ruling from the Raad van State: Landelijke Vereniging tot Behoud van de Waddenzee, Nederlandse Vereniging tot Bescherming van Vogels v Staatssecretaris van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij, 7th September 2004.

¹⁹ Bagmoor Wind Limited v The Scottish Ministers, Court of Sessions [2012] CSIH 93.

²⁰ Tyldesley, D., and Chapman, C., (2013) The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook, January 2018 edition UK: DTA Publications Limited www.dtapublications.co.uk

10.12.20 The effect of the CJEU judgement referred to as People Over Wind (Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta, Case C-323/17) is that competent authorities cannot take account of any “measures that are intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the envisaged project on the site concerned”, when considering at the HRA screening stage whether the plan or project is likely to have an adverse effect on a European Site. The effect of this is that the screening stage must be undertaken on a precautionary basis with no regard to any proposed integrated or additional avoidance or reduction measures. Where the likelihood of significant effects cannot be excluded on the basis of objective information, the competent authority must proceed to carry out an Appropriate Assessment to establish whether the plan or project will affect the integrity of the European Site, which can include at that stage consideration of the effectiveness of the proposed avoidance or reduction measures. However, subsequent case law indicates that plainly established and uncontroversial mitigation measures, such as pollution control that is part of normal good practice on development sites, can be considered at the screening stage.

10.12.21 Case law in 2017 referred to as the ‘Wealden Judgement’²¹ prompted Natural England to make their internal guidance on assessing the effects of road traffic emissions on European Sites public²². The guidance provides further information on the in-combination assessment at screening stage with regard to air quality effects following the Wealden Judgement.

Stage 1 – Screening assessment

Identification of European sites

10.12.22 Four European Sites have been identified that meet one or more of the screening criteria:

- Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC is located approximately 11 km to the west and includes barbastelle bats as a qualifying feature;
- The Wash Ramsar site is hydrologically linked to the Proposed Development and is located approximately 70 km downstream (direct line);
- The Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC is hydrologically linked to the Proposed Development and is located approximately 70 km downstream (direct line);
- The Wash SPA is hydrologically linked to the Proposed Development and is located approximately 70 km downstream (direct line).

10.12.23 Owing to the distance between The Wash Ramsar site, The Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC, and The Wash SPA and the Proposed Development, it is possible to exclude the potential for any LSE on these European sites and so they were not taken forward for Stage 1 – Screening. A European sites location plan is shown in Figure A10.11.1.

10.12.24 There is no ARN associated with the Proposed Development which would trigger the criteria for assessment of European Site, in accordance with LA 105²³.

10.12.25 On a precautionary basis, a review of the biological SSSI IRZ on the MAGIC website showed the Proposed Development falls within the IRZ for the following SSSIs:

- Sawston Hall Meadows SSSI located approximately 1.05 km south west of the Proposed Development;
- Gog Magog Golf Course SSSI located approximately 1.08 km north of the Proposed Development;
- Dernford Fenn SSSI located approximately 1.09 km south west of the Proposed Development;
- Roman Road SSSI located approximately 1.79 km north of the Proposed Development;
- Cherry Hinton Pitt SSSI located approximately 2.1 km east of the Proposed Development;
- Eversden and Wimpole SSSI located approximately 11 km to the west of the Proposed Development;
- Kingston Wood and Outliers SSSI located approximately 12.9 km west of the Proposed Development.

10.12.26 Of the SSSI IRZs identified, only The Sawston Hall Meadows SSSI and Dernford Fen SSSI IRZ list that any transport proposal including road, rail, and by water (excluding routine maintenance) require consideration of the potential to result in an impact on SSSIs. However, in this case, no additional considerations are required as the Sawston Hall Meadows SSSI and the Dernford Fen SSSI are not considered to meet the classification criteria for European sites and so are not subject to HRA.

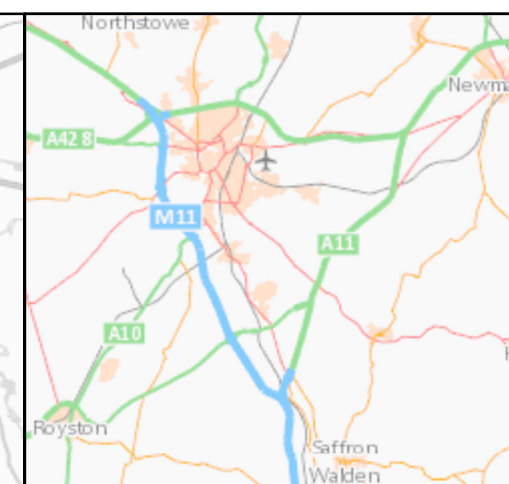
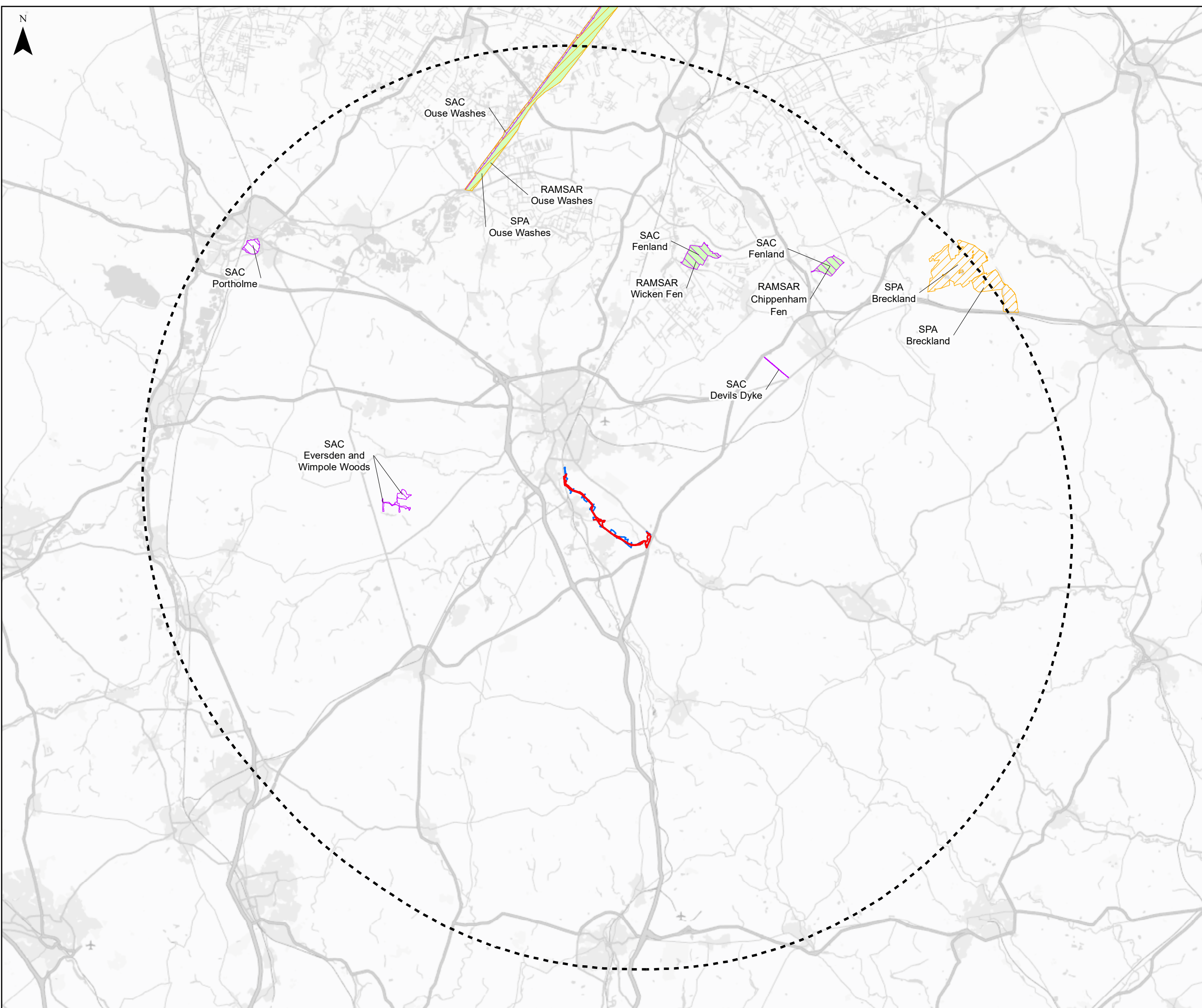
In-combination assessment

10.12.27 The schemes have been considered within this report for potential “in-combination” effects on the below screened in European sites. These are summarised in Table A10.11.1.

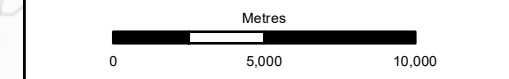
²¹ Case no: CO/3943/2016 – Between Wealden District Council and Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Lewes District Council and South Downs National Park Authority and Natural England.

²² NE Internal Guidance – Approach to advising Competent Authorities on Road Traffic Emissions and HRAs V1.4 Final – June 2018.

²³ [LA 105 - Air quality \(standardsforhighways.co.uk\)](https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/la-105-air-quality)



- Permanent Site
- Temporary Site
- 30Km Site Buffer
- SPAs
- SACs
- RAMSAR



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Client



GREATER CAMBRIDGE PARTNERSHIP

Project

CAMBRIDGE SOUTH EAST TRANSPORT PHASE 2

Title

LOCATION OF EUROPEAN SITES RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Sheet Size A3	Original Scale 1:250,000	Designed / Drawn JM	Checked WR	Authorised LM
		Date 10/08/23	Date 10/08/23	Date 10/08/23
Drawing Number FIGURE A10.11.1				Rev 00

Table A10.11.1 In-combination assessment result for Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC

Authority	Document Title	Summary of risks to the European Sites from the proposed project/plan that may have an LSE	In-combination effect?
Cambridgeshire County Council	Cambridgeshire County Council LTP3: Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 2014, Refresh, incorporating Transport Strategy for Cambridge, and South Cambridgeshire (April 2014) & draft Long, Term Transport Strategy (April 2014) Habitats Regulations Assessment: Stage 1 – Screening October 2014	The assessment concluded that there were no proposed interventions that could have a direct or indirect effect on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC. It concluded that any interventions could avoid an LSE through not cutting foraging and commuting features used by barbastelle bat, avoid light spill and if there is uncertainty implement further survey.	The HRA did not identify any potential impacts to the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC and this assessment has concluded that the proposed scheme would not have an LSE on the SAC. Therefore, there is no potential for in-combination effects.
	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2036 Proposed Submission Draft Habitats Regulations Assessment November 2019	The assessment concluded that in respect of Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC that the following potential impacts would require screening: Physical loss or damage of habitat (off-site, functionally connected); Noise, vibration and light pollution. The assessment concluded there would be no LSE as a result of these effects on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC and, therefore, the SAC was not taken forward for Stage 2 Assessment.	The scheme did not identify potential habitat loss and direct disturbance from noise, vibration, and light as potential likely significant effects. Therefore, there is no potential for in-combination effects.
	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment – Addendum Report January 2021	The HRA assessed the Councils' Post Submission Suggested Main Modifications for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan. The assessment concluded that there were no changes to the plan which changed the findings of the HRA conclusion.	The scheme did not identify potential habitat loss and direct disturbance from noise, vibration and light as potential likely significant effects. Therefore, there is no potential for in-combination effects.
South Cambridgeshire District Council	South Cambridgeshire District Council Local Development Framework Habitats Regulations Assessment	The Council undertook a number of HRA scoping reports whilst preparing the Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Area Action Plans (AAPs) that form part of the LDF for South Cambridgeshire. In all cases it was found by the Council that there was not likely to be any significant impact from the policies and proposals contained within these documents.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
Cambridge City Council	Greater Cambridge Local Plan: First Proposals 2021 HRA Report South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council Final report Prepared by LUC August 2021	Stage 1 The Stage 1 Screening concluded the following LSE on Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC, which were taken through to Appropriate Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• offsite physical damage and loss;• physical disturbance for offsite functional habitat. Stage 2 Offsite physical damage and loss The assessment concluded that mitigation in the form of bat surveys and commitment to mitigation is required within	The plan will lead to development, but it does contain protection for the SAC, and any project coming forward from the plan would need to be subject to an HRA. As the assessment of the Cambridge South East Transport Phase 2 busway found no potential LSE and any projects coming forward from the plan would need to consider this HRA. Therefore, there is no potential for an in-combination effect.

Authority	Document Title	Summary of risks to the European Sites from the proposed project/plan that may have an LSE	In-combination effect?
		<p>plan. It was also recommended that the plan incorporated further wording to protect the SAC.</p> <p>Non-physical Disturbance</p> <p>The assessment concluded that mitigation in the form of bat surveys and commitment to mitigation is required within plan. The plan included a policy which provides protection to the European sites, however, it was recommended that the plan incorporated further wording to protect the SAC.</p>	
	Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) & Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report June 2021 (v2 Dec 2021 with Natural England comments)	In respect of the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC, the HRA concluded that negative impacts could be screened out and only positive impacts can be assumed. The plan also included protection for the SAC through the inclusion of Policy 69.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	North East Cambridge Area Action Plan (NECAAP), HRA Report, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council Final report Prepared by LUC November 2021	In respect of the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC the HRA concluded that there would be no LSE as the NECAAP is located over 14 km from the SAC.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
Hertfordshire County Council	Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan (LTP4) Strategy, Habitats Regulations Assessment Report HRA Report, Prepared by LUC September 2017	The Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC was not screened in for assessment.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	Hertfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Minerals & Waste Local Plan, Habitats Regulations Assessment, Draft report, Prepared by LUC June 2022	<p>The Stage 1 screening identified the following LSE in relation to Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC: air pollution from industrial emissions.</p> <p>The Stage 2 assessment concluded that Policy 15 within the plan provides protection to the SAC and that waste developers would need to apply for licences.</p>	As this HRA has not identified air quality as a potential LSE, there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
Central Bedfordshire Council	Central Bedfordshire Local Plan: Pre-Submission Regulation 19 Consultation Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report December 2017	No LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC were identified.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	Central Bedfordshire Local Plan: Pre-Submission Habitats Regulations Assessment Revised Screening Report & Appropriate Assessment August 2018	No LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC were identified.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
North Hertfordshire	North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011-2031 Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report and Appropriate Assessment November 2018	The Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC was screening out as none of the policies/allocations were within the foraging distance of barbastelle bat.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
Bedford Borough Council	Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Carlton and Chellington Neighbourhood Plan, October 2018	No LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC were identified.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.

Authority	Document Title	Summary of risks to the European Sites from the proposed project/plan that may have an LSE	In-combination effect?
	Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Bromham Neighbourhood Development Plan, October 2018	No LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC were identified.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Stevington Neighbourhood Development Plan, January 2019	No LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC were identified.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Clapham Neighbourhood Plan, January 2019	No LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC were identified.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Thurleigh Neighbourhood Development Plan, June 2019	No LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC were identified.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Bletsoe Neighbourhood Plan: Screening Report, June 2019	No LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC were identified.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Wootton Neighbourhood Development Plan, July 2019	No LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC were identified.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Felmersham and Radwell Neighbourhood Development Plan, August 2019	No LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC were identified.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Turvey Neighbourhood Development Plan, October 2019	No LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC were identified.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Harrold Neighbourhood Plan, April 2020	No LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC were identified.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Sharnbrook Neighbourhood Development Plan, April 2020	No LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC were identified.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Milton Ernest Local Plan, August 2020	No LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC were identified.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Great Barford Neighbourhood Plan, November 2020	No LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC were identified.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Willington Neighbourhood Development Plan, January 2021	No LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC were identified.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Wilstead Neighbourhood Plan, March 2021	No LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC were identified.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	Habitats Regulations Screening for the Ravensden Neighbourhood Plan, January 2022	No LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC were identified.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	Habitats Regulations Screening for the Ravensden Neighbourhood Plan, January 2022	No LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC were identified.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.

Authority	Document Title	Summary of risks to the European Sites from the proposed project/plan that may have an LSE	In-combination effect?
	Habitats Regulations Screening for the Odell Neighbourhood Plan, January 2022	No LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC were identified.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	Bedford Borough Local Plan 2040, Habitats Regulations Assessment, Bedford Borough Council, September 2022	The assessment identified functionally linked land as an LSE and was taken forward for Stage 2 appropriate assessment. At Stage 2 an amendment to the plan was recommended in addition to the existing requirement for survey and assessment of any developments that may occur as a result of the plan.	The Bedford Borough Local Plan will lead to development, but it does contain protection for the SAC and any project coming forward would need to be subject to HRA. As the assessment of the Cambridge South East Transport Phase 2 busway found no potential LSE and any projects coming forward from the plan would need to consider this HRA. Therefore, there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	Great Denham, Neighbourhood Development Plan, Habitats Regulations Assessment, December 2022	No LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC were identified.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
Huntingdonshire District Council	Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036 - Habitats Regulations Assessment 2017, Final Report 22nd May 2017	The assessment concluded that there may be some extra visitors to Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC, but they will have no effect on the qualifying features.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	Huntingdonshire's Local Plan (HLP) to 2036 - Habitats Regulations Assessment 2017, Addendum to Final Report 16th November 2017.	The assessment concluded that the new allocations added to HLP 2036 between November 2016 and November 2017 do not affect the conclusions of the HRA Final Report.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036: Proposed Main Modifications 2018 Habitats Regulations Assessment	None of the main modifications were assessed as having any change of the HRA.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
Planning Inspectorate	A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements, TR010044, Volume 6.7 Environmental Statement, Habitats Regulations Assessment: No Significant Effects Report February 2021	The assessment concluded that there would be no LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC as a result of the scheme.	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.
	A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements, TR010044, Volume 9, Habitats Regulations Assessment: Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment February 2022	Following consultation with Natural England the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC was taken forward to appropriate assessment. Following further survey and assessment it was concluded that the proposed scheme would have no LSE on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC	As no potential effects were identified there is no potential for an in-combination effect.

Screening matrix

10.12.28 The information collected during the screening exercise for Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC is presented in the form of a Screening Matrix, using the template in DMRB LA 115. The Screening Matrix for the European Site is provided in Table A10.11.2.

Table A10.11.2 Screening matrix for Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC

European Site under consideration	Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC	
Date:	Author (Name/Organisation):	Verified (Name/Organisation):
April 2023	AW (Atkins)	LMG (Atkins)
Description of Project		
Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the European Site by virtue of:		
Size and scale (road type and probable traffic volume)	<p>The Proposed Development is a new segregated, guided bus route, travel hub, and active travel path located to the south east of the city. Starting at the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, where it ties into the existing Francis Crick Avenue, the route then crosses open countryside towards the proposed new travel hub at the A11/A1307 road junction at Babraham.</p> <p>The bus route will generally follow existing ground levels, with a typical vertical alignment variation of 0.5 m above or below existing ground levels. Along Francis Crick Avenue, the busway will primarily utilise the existing road infrastructure, meaning that there will be shared usage with existing road users. There are seven proposed new structures as part of the Proposed Development to carry the busway over existing watercourses. The A11 Travel Hub provides 1,250 parking bays. It has been designed to minimise interaction between bus vehicles and other users, so the buses leave and enter the Travel Hub via the busway route, whereas all other traffic uses the aisle and access roads to move around the car park.</p> <p>The construction start date is in 2025-27 and will continue for approximately 26 months.</p> <p>There will be seven site compounds located along the length of the Site, connected by a haul road that will allow for the transport of vehicles, plant, materials, and personnel along the route. There will also be numerous materials storage areas where bulk materials arriving to Site and waste material waiting to leave the Site will be stored.</p>	
Land-take	No land-take from the SAC will occur as a result of the Proposed Development.	
Distance from the European Site or key features of the site (from edge of the project assessment corridor)	The SAC is located approximately 11 km to the west of the Proposed Development.	
Resource requirements (from the European Site or from areas in proximity to the site, where of relevance to consideration of impacts)	No resources from the SAC are required in relation to the Proposed Development.	
Emissions (e.g. polluted surface water runoff – both soluble and insoluble pollutants, atmospheric pollution)	<p>The SAC is located approximately 11 km to the west of the and is not hydrologically connected to the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The ARN is not located within 200 m of the SAC and, therefore, is not expected to lead to an exceedance of the scoping criteria thresholds set out in DMRB LA 105, which would trigger the requirement to undertake an air quality assessment.</p>	

European Site under consideration	Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC	
Date:	Author (Name/Organisation):	Verified (Name/Organisation):
April 2023	AW (Atkins)	LMG (Atkins)
Description of Project		
Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the European Site by virtue of:		
Excavation requirements (e.g. impacts of local hydrogeology)	<p>Once the enabling works have been completed the ground engineering works will commence to establish the busway levels along the route. Broadly, the works activities will comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top soil strip • Sub-soil strip • Removal of weathered chalk layer and replacement with imported fill material • Construction of embankments and excavation of cuttings to establish correct levels • Ground stabilisation where required using bonding agents • Excavation of attenuation and biodiversity ponds • Construction of landscape bunds and mounds 	
Transportation requirements	<p>The construction phase will see the following daily average vehicle numbers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car – 90; • LDV – 45; • HGV – 135. <p>Traffic will be able to access the site from the following roads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addenbrookes Road (all traffic); • Granham's Road (north of scheme all traffic, south of scheme no access); • Hinton Way (north of scheme all traffic, south of scheme no access); • Haverhill Road (north of scheme all traffic, south of scheme no access); • Sawston Road (all traffic); • High Street (north of scheme site traffic excluding HGV, south of scheme no access). 	
Duration of construction, operation, etc.	Construction will begin 2025-27 and continue for approximately 26 months.	
Other	No other potential impacts are predicted.	

Description of avoidance and/or mitigation measures	
Describe any assumed (plainly established and uncontroversial) mitigation measures, including information on:	
Nature of proposals	N/A
Location	N/A
Evidence for effectiveness	N/A

Mechanism for delivery (legal conditions, restrictions or other legally enforceable obligations)	N/A
Characteristics of European Site(s)	
A brief description of the European Site:	
Name of European Site and its EU code	Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC (site code: UK0030331)
Location and distance of the European Site from the proposed works	Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC is located to the north of Orwell (OSNGR TL340526) to the west of the Proposed Development.
European Site size ²⁴	66.22 ha
Key features of the European Site including the primary reasons for selection and any other qualifying interests ²⁵	Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: Barbastelle (<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>).
Vulnerability of the European Site – any information available from the standard data forms on potential effect pathways	The Natura 2000 data sheet ²⁶ for the SAC lists the following threats: Unknown threat or pressure; Changes in biotic conditions; Air pollution, air-borne pollutants; Forest and Plantation management & use.
European Site conservation objectives – where these are readily available	Natural England's conservation objectives ²⁷ for the SAC are as follows: Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring: The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species; The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species; The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely; The populations of qualifying species; and, The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
Assessment Criteria	
Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the European Site.	

²⁴ JNCC (2019). Natura 2000 Standard Data Form Nene Washes SPA. Available at <https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/SPA-N2K/UK9008031.pdf> (Accessed January 2023)

²⁵ Natural England (2014) Nene Washes SPA Citation. Available at <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6652903360036864> (Accessed January 2023)

²⁶ <https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/SAC-N2K/UK0030331.pdf>

²⁷ [European Site Conservation Objectives for Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC - UK0030331 \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6652903360036864)

Impacts of the Scheme alone

There are no elements of the Proposed Development alone that may give rise to LSEs on Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC. The assessment is set out below.

Surveys undertaken to date between 2019 and 2023 have confirmed the presence of barbastelle bats within the study area for the Proposed Development. A summary of the barbastelle bats recorded during the surveys is summarised in Table 1 below:

Table 1 – Barbastelle bat survey date summary

Year	Transect	Activity Survey (Barbastelle recorded)	Static Detector (Barbastelle recorded)
2019 (August – October)	1	No	Yes (September)
	2	No	Yes (September)
	3	No	Yes (September)
	4	No	Yes (September)
	7	Yes (October)	Yes (September)
2020 (May – October)	1	No	Yes (June, July, August, September and October)
	2	No	Yes (May, June, July, August, September and October)
	3	No	Yes (August, September and October)
	4	No	Yes (May, June, July, August,
	5	No	Yes (May, June, July, August, September
	6	No	Yes (June, July, August, September and October)
	7	Yes (May)	Yes (May, June, July, August, September and October)
2021 (April – October)	1	N/A not undertaken	Yes (April, May, June, July, August, September and October)
	2	N/A not undertaken	Yes (May, June, July, August, September and October)
	3	N/A not undertaken	Yes (May, June, July, August, September and October)
	4	N/A not undertaken	Yes (May, June, July, August and September)
	5	N/A not undertaken	Yes (April, June, July, August, September and October)
	6	N/A not undertaken	Yes (May, June, July, August, September and October)
	7	N/A not undertaken	Yes (April, June, July, August, September and October)
2021/2022 (November – March)	1	N/A not undertaken	Yes (November, January, February and March)
	2	N/A not undertaken	Yes (November, January, February

	3	N/A not undertaken	Yes (November),
	4	N/A not undertaken	No
	6	N/A not undertaken	Yes (November)
	7	N/A not undertaken	Yes (November, December, January, February and March)
2022 (August – October)	1	No	Yes (September and October)
	2	No	Yes (August, September and October)
	3	Yes (September and October)	Yes (August, September and October)
	4	Yes (September and October)	Yes (August, September and October)
	5	Yes (October)	Yes (August, September and October)
	6	Yes (August, September and October)	Yes (August and September)
	7	Yes (September)	Yes (August, September and October)

It is not possible to determine if recordings were of single or multiple barbastelle bats. However, it should be noted that the transect surveys did not pick up any significant commuting activity or data that would imply high numbers of individual bats.

Barbastelle passes were recorded in every month surveyed (May to October). The results indicate that barbastelle are widespread in the local area and are present throughout the active season and generally activity levels are low (refer to ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.2).

The winter surveys undertaken in 2021/22 recorded varying levels of barbastelle activity on Transects 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7. The highest level of activity (126 passes) was recorded in November 2021 indicating that hibernation had not commenced. Activity in December 2021 – March 2022 was generally low (less than nine passes per month) with the exception of Transect 7 where 22 passes were recorded in March 2022.

No barbastelle roosts were identified during tree climb and emergence surveys. Two bats were observed emerging from tree 23 (TL 51861 49806) on 17/08/2020. No echolocation calls were recorded for these bats, however, based on emergence times and the characteristics of the bats in flight, the surveyors identified these bats as a likely common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and noctule *Nyctalus noctula*. It is considered unlikely that the bats recorded emerging were barbastelle bats.

Impacts on Annex II bat species have been determined using guidance produced by the BCT. BCT provide details of CSZ²⁸, which include the area required from a roost to sustain the population. Any impacts within these zones could have a significant impact on bats. The CSZ for barbastelle bats is considered to be 6 km²⁹. In addition, the South Cambridgeshire District Council's Biodiversity SPD³⁰ maps a Barbastelle Area of Importance for Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC. This area is located approximately 2.1 km west of the Proposed Development at its closest point. Furthermore, barbastelle bats utilise woodland and the Proposed Development will result in only minor impacts on this habitat type.

Although it is not possible to conclude that no bats from the SAC use the habitats within the Proposed Development, due to the Proposed Development being 11 km from the SAC (5 km outside the CSZ) it is considered unlikely that significant numbers of bats from the SAC would be foraging within the the Proposed Development boundary.

Disturbance of roosts

No barbastelle bat summer roost or hibernation sties have been recorded during the surveys. A day roost in Tree 23 (considered likely to be pipistrelle or noctule) is located within the Proposed Development boundary and, although it will not be lost, may be subject to disturbance. Assuming a worst-case scenario and this is a barbastelle roost, any disturbance would not have an LSE on the SAC.

Disturbance of flight lines

Direct mortality

The construction of a new road within the landscape has an increased risk of collision with vehicles. However, the Proposed Development is a bus route only with a maximum of 24 buses per hour which is an average of one vehicle every 2.5 minutes. Furthermore, the route will only be in operation between 06:00 and 00:00 hours; therefore, for the majority of the night, there will be no vehicles

running. As detailed above, if any barbastelle bats from the SAC are foraging within the Proposed Development, the numbers would be minor and, therefore, any collision casualties would be minimal and would not have an LSE on the SAC population.

Artificial Lighting

The lighting design has sought to minimise impacts on bats, including use of warm low ultra violet emitting light, appropriate mounting to avoid light spill, the use of light shields and baffles to minimise back spill of light, and the use of reduced height lighting columns (6 m) to reduce light spill. Lighting will also be dimmed for much of the night and when vehicles are not using the new route (no vehicles between 00:00 and 06:00). As detailed above, if any barbastelle bats from the SAC are foraging within the Proposed Development, the numbers would be minor and, therefore, following construction, there would be no LSE on the SAC population.

Habitat fragmentation

The Proposed Development will result in some habitat severance; however, the landscape design will increase the suitable foraging and commuting habitats. As detailed above, if any barbastelle bats from the SAC are foraging within the Proposed Development, the numbers would be minor and, therefore, following construction, there would be no LSE on the SAC population.

Pollution of waterways

There are no hydrological links between the Proposed Development and the SAC. Therefore, there would be no LSE, even without the implementation of standard pollution control measures.

Summary

Taking into account the distance of the Proposed Development to the SAC, the distance from the barbastelle CSZ, the Proposed Development being outside the South Cambridgeshire District Council's Biodiversity SPD map for Barbastelle Area of Importance for Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC, as well as the landscape design for the Proposed Development, the Proposed Development is not anticipated to have any LSEs on the SAC.

In-combination impacts

The in-combination assessment did not identify any potential in-combination effects with other projects and plans.

Initial Assessment

The key characteristics of the site and the details of the European Site should be considered in identifying potential impacts.

Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:

Reduction of habitat area	There will be no reduction in habitat area of the SAC as a result of the Proposed Development.
Disturbance to key species	There will be no disturbance of key species as a result of the Proposed Development.
Habitat or species fragmentation	The Proposed Development will not result in habitat fragmentation.
Reduction in species density	There will be no reduction in species density as a result of the Proposed Development.
Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality, etc)	As discussed above, the Proposed Development is considered to have potential to lead to changes in the water quality as a result of the construction works.
Climate change	The impact of climate change is not considered relevant when assessing the likely effects of the Proposed Development as no operational changes are anticipated.

Describe any likely impacts on the European Site as a whole in terms of:

²⁸ Bat Conservation Trust (2016). Core Sustenance Zones: Determining zone size. Available online: https://cdn.bats.org.uk/pdf/Resources/Core_Sustenance_Zones_Explained_04.02.16.pdf?mtime=20190219173135&focal=none

²⁹ <https://cdn.bats.org.uk/uploads/pdf/Bat-Species-Core-Sustenance-Zones-and-Habitats-for-Biodiversity-Net-Gain.pdf?v=1596874016#:~:text=What%20is%20a%20core%20sustenance%20zone%20core%20sustenance,conservation%20status%20of%20the%20colony%20using%20the%20roost>

³⁰ <https://www.scams.gov.uk/media/6675/adopted-biodiversity-spd.pdf>

Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site	No interference is anticipated as a result of the Proposed Development.
Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site	No interference is anticipated as a result of the Proposed Development.
Indicate the significance as a result of the identification of impacts set out above in terms of:	
Reduction of habitat area	Not significant
Disturbance to key species	Not significant
Habitat or species fragmentation	Not significant
Loss	Not significant
Fragmentation	Not significant
Disruption	Not significant
Disturbance	Not significant
Change to key elements of the site (e.g. water quality, hydrological regime etc)	Not significant
Describe from the above those elements of the project, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is not known.	
No further information is necessary to inform assessment of impacts upon this SAC.	
Outcome of screening stage.	No LSE.
Are the appropriate statutory environmental bodies in agreement with this conclusion (delete as appropriate and attach relevant correspondence).	To be updated following review by Natural England.

Stage 1 Screening Conclusion

Screening Conclusion

- 10.12.29 The Proposed Development is not directly connected with, or necessary to, the nature conservation management of any European Sites, and thus, an HRA is required.
- 10.12.30 The DMRB screening matrices completed above in Section 4 conclude that it is possible to rule out the risk of the Proposed Development having a significant effect, either alone or in-combination with any other plan or proposal, on any European sites.
- 10.12.31 Given the above conclusions at Stage 1 - Screening, it is not necessary to progress to Stage 2 - Appropriate Assessment.

No Significant Effect Matrix

10.12.32 In accordance with DMRB LA 115, a 'Finding of no significant effects report matrix' is included for the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC (refer to Table A10.11.3).

Table A10.11.3 Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC no significant effects matrix

Project		Cambridge South East Transport Phase 2
European Site under consideration		Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC
Date:	Author (Name/Organisation):	Verified (Name/Organisation):
February 2023	AW (Atkins)	LMG (Atkins)
<p>Name and location of European Site: Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC (site code: UK0030331)</p> <p>Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC is located to the north of Orwell (OSNGR TL340526) to the west of the Proposed Development and is approximately 66.22 ha in size.</p> <p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbastelle (<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>). 		
<p>Description of Project:</p> <p>The Proposed Development is a new segregated, guided bus route, travel hub, and active travel path located to the south east of the city. Starting at the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, where it ties into the existing Francis Crick Avenue, the route then crosses open countryside towards the proposed new travel hub at the A11/A1307 road junction at Babraham.</p> <p>The bus route will generally follow existing ground levels, with a typical vertical alignment variation of 0.5 m above or below existing ground levels. Along Francis Crick Avenue, the busway will primarily utilise the existing road infrastructure, meaning that there will be shared usage with existing road users. There are seven proposed new structures as part of the Proposed Development to carry the busway over existing watercourses. The A11 Travel Hub provides 1,250 parking bays. It has been designed to minimise interaction between bus vehicles and other users, so the buses leave and enter the Travel Hub via the busway route, whereas all other traffic uses the aisle and access roads to move around the car park.</p> <p>The construction start date is in 2024 and will continue for approximately 26 months.</p> <p>There will be seven site compounds located along the length of the Site, connected by a haul road that will allow for the transport of vehicles, plant, materials, and personnel</p>		

along the route. There will also be numerous materials storage areas where bulk materials arriving to Site and waste material waiting to leave the Site will be stored.
Is the project directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (provide details)? No
Are there other projects or plans that together with the project being assessed could affect the site (provide details)? No
The Assessment of Significance of Effects
Describe how the project (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the European Site. Impacts of the Scheme alone None In Combination Impacts None
Explain why these effects are not considered significant. N/A
List of agencies consulted: provide contact name and telephone or email address. None
Response of consultation. N/A
Data Collected to carry out the assessment
Who carried out the assessment Alex Watson (Associate Director) Atkins
Sources of data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAGIC website³¹ for information on the location of the European Sites and SSSI IRZs; • Natura 2000 Standard Data Form³²; • Natural England Designated Site Conservation Objectives³³; • Local Development Framework - Biodiversity³⁴ • Bat Conservation Trust (2016). Core Sustenance Zones: Determining zone size³⁵
Level of assessment completed Screening in accordance with DMRB (LA 115)

³¹ <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

³² <https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/SAC-N2K/UK0030331.pdf>

³³ [European Site Conservation Objectives for Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC - UK0030331 \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://naturalengland.org.uk/)

³⁴ [Microsoft Word - Revised Biodiversity SPD.doc \(scams.gov.uk\)](https://scams.gov.uk/)

³⁵ [Bat-Species-Core-Sustenance-Zones-and-Habitats-for-Biodiversity-Net-Gain.pdf \(bats.org.uk\)](https://bats.org.uk/)