

Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Newydd Cyngnor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful (2016-2031)
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Replacement Local Development Plan (2016 – 2031)

Cynllun Adnau | Deposit Plan
Adroddiad Craffu Asesu | Habitats Regulations
Rheoliadau | Assessment (HRA)
Cynefinoedd (ARhC) | Revised Screening Report
Ymgorffori | incorporating
Asesiad Priodol | Appropriate Assessment (AA)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 0.1 This Revised Screening Report incorporating Appropriate Assessment (AA) builds upon and revises the earlier Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening report undertaken for the Merthyr Tydfil Replacement Deposit Local Development Plan (LDP) (2016 – 2031). It is required by the Habitats Directive (92/43/ECC) as set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. It considers the potential for the Replacement Local Development Plan to adversely affect the integrity of Natura 2000 / European Sites.
- 0.2 Given that there are no Natura 2000 / European Sites within the County Borough area the pre-deposit HRA screening assessment¹ undertaken for the Preferred Strategy (PS) focused on the likelihood of significant impact on the ten European Sites situated within 15km of the County Borough area, namely, Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC, Blaen Cynon SAC, Brecon Beacons SAC, Cardiff Beech Woods SAC, Coedydd Nedd a Mellte SAC, Cwm Cadlan SAC, Cwm Clydach Woodlands SAC, Llangorse Lake SAC, River Usk SAC and Usk Bat Sites SAC. That assessment concluded that the PS was not likely to adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites, subject to further investigations being undertaken on the following pathways of impact:
1. All development allocations in the Deposit Plan must avoid the loss and or have the potential to affect the loss and or degradation of marsh fritillary habitat (of relevance to the Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC and Blaen Cynon SAC).
 2. Emissions from new industrial development on protected and allocated industrial sites in the Deposit Plan must not directly contribute to the degradation of the environmental conditions of the Brecon Beacons SAC, Coedydd Nedd a Mellte SAC, Cwm Cadlan SAC, and Llangorse Lake/Llyn Syfaddan SAC.
- 0.4 Further HRA² screening was therefore undertaken for the Deposit Plan, focussing on the above pathways only, which concluded that the LDP is not likely to significantly adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000/European Sites either alone or 'in-combination' with other plans and projects, taking account of available evidence at that time.
- 0.5 However, since that time the Council has been made aware of the decision of the European Court of Justice in *People Over Wind and Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta* (c322/17). In light of this decision the Council considered it necessary to review the HRA screening and prepare an AA of the potential for the LDP to adversely affect the above matters either alone or 'in-combination'. The process takes account of the most recent available information for other plans and projects as well as mitigation measures, proposed in the Deposit Plan, to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of the sites. The AA concludes that all significant effects have been discounted and that it is not necessary to examine alternative options for mitigation. No stage 3 detailed assessments have been identified.

¹ Pre-Deposit Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report, July 2017

² Deposit Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report, June 2018

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report forms an Addendum to the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening of the Deposit Plan previously prepared by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC) to inform the MTCBC Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) (2016 – 2031).
- 1.2 In line with the requirements of the Habitats Directive (92/43/ECC) (European Economic Community, 1992), as out set by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (UK Government, 2017), known as the Habitats Regulations, it constitutes a revised HRA Screening Report incorporating Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Deposit Plan.
- 5.3 In light of the decision of the European Court of Justice in *People Over Wind and Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta* (c322/17)³, the Council considered it necessary to review the HRA screening and prepare an AA. This includes an assessment of the potential for the LDP to adversely affect the integrity of a European Site either alone or 'in-combination', taking account of the most recent available information for other plans and projects, where they relate to:
1. Development allocations that may have the potential to affect the loss and or degradation of marsh fritillary habitat (of relevance to the Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC and Blaen Cynon SAC) and
 2. Emissions from new industrial development on protected and allocated industrial sites that have the potential to directly contribute to the degradation of the environmental conditions of the Brecon Beacons SAC, Coedydd Nedd a Mellte SAC, Cwm Cadlan SAC and Llangorse Lake/Llyn Syfaddan SAC.
- 1.4 For the purposes of this report 'European Sites' comprise:
- ✿ Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and candidate SACs (cSACs) [designated under the Habitats Directive 1992 (European Economic Community, 1992)];
 - ✿ Special Protection Areas (SPA) and potential SPAs (pSPAs), [classified under the EC Wild Birds Directive 1979 (European Economic Community, 1979) as amended by the Birds Directive (European Commission, 2009) and
 - ✿ Ramsar sites⁴ [Designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance 1971, as amended (Ramsar Convention Secretariat, 1971).

³ Judgement of the Court (High Court Ireland) *People Over Wind and Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta* (c322/17)

⁴ The Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran 1971), known as the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international co-operation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

2. LEGISLATION

- 2.1 The need for HRA, also commonly referred to as an AA, is set out in article 6(3) and 6 (4) of the EC Directive 1992/43/EEC (European Economic Community, 1992) on Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, known as the "Habitats Directive" which states:

Article 6(3) states:

"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public".

- 2.2 Together with Directive 2009/147/EC (European Commission, 2009) on the Conservation of Wild Birds or "Birds Directive," sometimes jointly called "Nature Directives," the two Directives form the cornerstones of the EU's biodiversity policy.
- 2.3 The Habitat Directive established a network of internationally important sites designated for their ecological status, known as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), whilst the Birds Directive established a network of the most suitable territories for the conservation of naturally occurring populations of wild bird species, known as Special Protection Areas (SPAs).
- 2.4 Sites designated under the Nature Directives are referred to as the Natura 2000 Network (N2K) (European Union, 2000). The N2K focuses on a sub-set of around 2000 animal and plant species (out of the hundreds of thousands present in Europe) which are in need of protection to either prevent their extinction or enable their long-term survival.
- 2.5 The Directive requires HRA to be undertaken on proposed plans and projects, which are not necessary for the management of the site, but which are likely to have a significant effect on one or more European sites either individually or 'in-combination' with other plans or projects.
- 2.6 This requirement was further set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, which required the application of HRA to all land-use plans. The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 consolidates the 2010 Regulations with subsequent amendments. The new Regulations transpose the Habitats Directive into UK law together with elements of the Birds Directive in England and Wales and came into force on 30th November 2017.

2.7 The 2017 Regulations state that:

“Where a land use plan—

- a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and*
- b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site,*

The plan-making authority for that plan must, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives.”

2.8 The purpose of the assessment is therefore to assess the implications of the plan in respect of the sites “conservation objectives” and its conclusions should enable the authority to ascertain whether the proposal would adversely affect the integrity of the European site. It may also consider the manner in which the plan is proposed to be carried out, whether it could be modified, or whether conditions or restrictions could be imposed, so as to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of the site.

2.9 The plan making or competent authority must also consult the statutory nature conservation body (SNCB), in this case Natural Resources Wales (NRW), have regard to their representations and if it considers appropriate consult the general public.

2.10 Although, the competent authority can only give effect to the plan after ascertaining that it will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site, if it is satisfied that there are no alternative solutions the plan may still be given consent. This would only apply for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) (which may be of a social or economic nature⁵). In such cases, compensation would be necessary to ensure the overall integrity of the site.

2.11 It is also a matter of Welsh Government (WG) policy that:

- Ramsar sites are to be treated as if they are ‘European sites’ for the purpose of considering development proposals that may affect them and included within HRA/AA and
- cSACs and pSPAs are to be treated as ‘designated sites’ in the context of the HRA.

⁵ Reasons relating to human health, public safety or beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment

3. THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 3.1 Annex 6 'The Appraisal of Development Plans in Wales under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations,' of Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning, Guidance (Welsh Government , 2009), sets out the appropriate assessment methodology that should be applied to development plans. The Planning Series 16 – Habitats Regulations Assessment (Dodds, 2017) gives additional general advice on AA including requirements for land use plans.
- 3.2 HRA of a land use plan in this case the LDP is an iterative process. The effects of the plan on European site interests must be assessed at each relevant plan preparation stage and be refined and developed as the plan progresses through its preparation. The HRA must precede approval of the LDP and take into account the potential effects both alone and cumulatively, which result from the combination of the plan (i.e. in-combination), with other plans or projects on European sites against the conservation objectives of the site.
- 3.3 Where the LDP is likely to have a significant effect on one or more European sites either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, and where it is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of such sites, it must be subject to an AA in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and regulation 85B of the Habitats Regulations.
- 3.4 As part of the process, the Council may need to amend the LDP, in this case the Deposit Plan, to eliminate or reduce potentially damaging effects on European sites and/or consider alternative solutions that would avoid any such effects or, failing that, have a lesser effect on the relevant site(s).
- 3.5 If there are no alternative solutions and if, in exceptional circumstances, it is proposed that the LDP be adopted despite the fact that it may adversely affect the integrity of a European site the assessment will need to address and explain the imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), which the Council considers to be sufficient to outweigh the potentially adverse effects on that site(s). This is however, unlikely to be the case here since, development plans would normally only proceed to adoption on the basis of IROPI in the most exceptional circumstances.
- 3.5 It is acknowledged that the AA of the Deposit Plan is likely by its nature to be less specific and detailed than the assessment of an individual project would be. This is because there is likely to be limited information about:
- The changes that may be predicted as a result of implementing a policy or proposal in the Deposit Plan;
 - What the effects of the changes may be on the site(s) affected;
 - How the effects may be mitigated; or
 - If necessary, how the effects may be compensated for.

3.6 Given this, all the relevant aspects of the Deposit Plan which can, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, affect the conservation objectives will be identified, in the light of available evidence.

3.5 In this case:

- a) Where the Deposit Plan is considered to have an effect with regard to:
 - i. the loss and or potential loss and or degradation of marsh fritillary habitat of the Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC and Blaen Cynon SAC or
 - ii. where it is considered that emissions from new industrial development on protected and allocated industrial sites in the Deposit Plan directly contribute to the degradation of the environmental conditions of the Brecon Beacons SAC, Coedydd Nedd a Mellte SAC, Cwm Cadlan SAC, and Llangorse Lake/Llyn Syfaddan SAC,

But is not likely to undermine their conservation objectives, the Plan cannot be considered likely to have a significant effect on the sites concerned and **can proceed to submission**;

- b) Where the conservation objectives of the sites as specified above are considered likely to be significantly effected alternative options for mitigation measures will be examined and assessed to avoid any potential damaging effects⁶ and **addressed in the Plan prior to submission**;
- c) If having undertaken the assessment, where adverse effects on the integrity of the sites as specified above cannot be not ruled out, the LDP **will not move forward** unless a determination of imperative reasons of over-riding public interest (IROPI) can be made.

⁶ Member States are required to undertake positive management measures to ensure their populations are maintained at, or restored to, a favourable conservation status throughout their natural range within the EU.

4. THE DEPOSIT PLAN

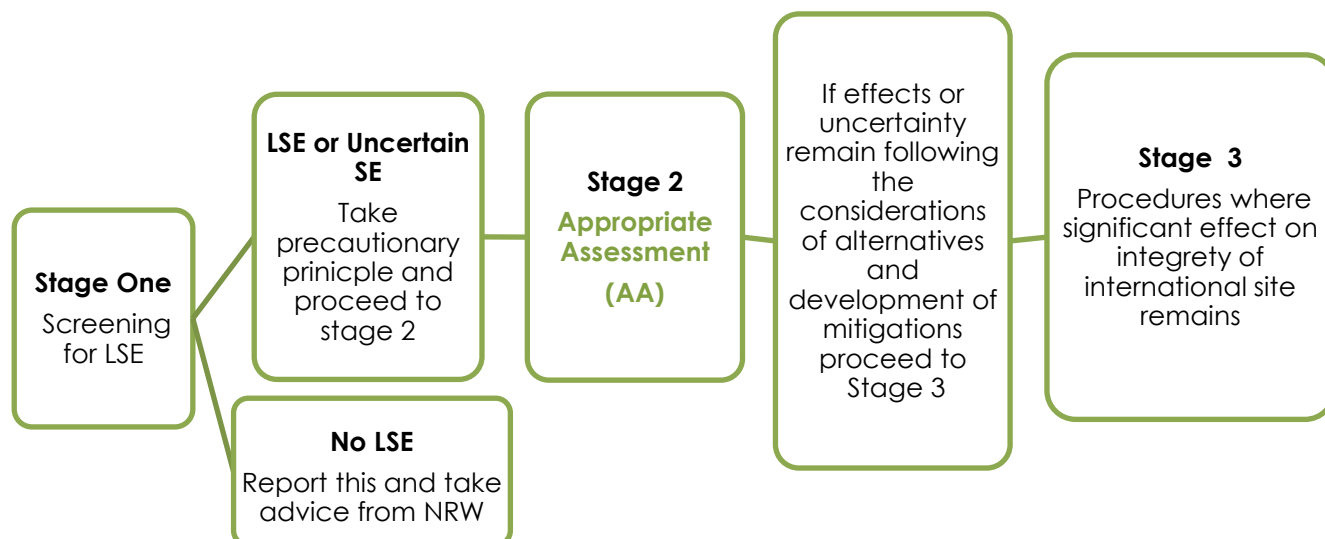
- 4.1 The MTCBC replacement LDP will provide the framework for the future development of the County Borough up to 2031 and will replace the extant Merthyr Tydfil LDP 2006 -2021. Before the Deposit Plan was finalised, the opportunity was taken to consult on the broad structure and the key policies contained within the Preferred Strategy (PS). The 'deposit' stage saw the supplementation and refinement of the earlier work of the PS which was primarily prepared as a means of seeking consensus on the amount and distribution of population and economic growth.
- 4.2 In accordance with 'the LDP regulations' contained within The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (Welsh Government , 2005) (as amended) and national policy contained in Planning Policy Wales (PPW) and supplementary Technical Advice Notes, the Council has prepared a Deposit Plan, which includes the following elements:
- ✿ Title & sub-title: including the expiry date of the plan period;
 - ✿ Introduction: setting the context for the plan period; issues to be addressed, objectives and means of promoting sustainability;
 - ✿ Strategy: including a Vision, strategic issues, key aims, objectives, policies, broad locations for development, the proposed level of change, key targets and spatial interpretation of the strategy Illustrated on a diagrammatic map;
 - ✿ Area-wide policies: generic and topic based setting_out criteria against which planning applications will be considered, but not repeating national policy;
 - ✿ Site allocations: for both development and restraint;
 - ✿ Area specific policies and proposals: for key areas of change or protection;
 - ✿ Reasoned justification: to explain and guide policies;
 - ✿ Proposals and Constraints maps: illustrating policies, proposals and constraints to development with a spatial component and
 - ✿ Monitoring framework: comprised of targets and indicators.
- 4.3 The Deposit Plan sets out the approach that the LDP intends to take in order to ensure that the County Borough is developed in a sustainable manner. It highlights the main issues to be addressed in Merthyr Tydfil and proposes a vision and 18 LDP objectives for tackling the issues. In line with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (Welsh Government, 2015) the LDP objectives are broadly grouped by their contribution to Social, Cultural, Environmental and Economic well-being.
- 4.4 The Deposit Plan also sets out the growth and spatial strategies to achieve the objectives. Most significantly, it seeks to address a projected population decline in the County

Borough by encouraging a sustainable level of population growth and to facilitate this it is estimated that 2,250 new homes need to be built by 2031.

- 4.5 Development will be primarily directed to the main settlement of Merthyr Tydfil, the 'Primary Growth Area' where there is greater capacity for regeneration and development than elsewhere in the County Borough. The 'Hoover Strategic Regeneration Area' is proposed at Abercanaid/Pentrebach to deliver a significant proportion of new homes (up to 440 homes). The former Ivor Steel works has also been identified for regeneration purposes. Other smaller sites are distributed throughout the 'Primary Growth Area' and 'Other Growth Area' situated within existing urban areas in the lower valley area of the County Borough.
- 4.6 The Deposit Plan also contains policies and proposals to address the 18 specific objectives. These set out the spatial strategy for the development and use of land in greater detail both County Borough wide and area specific and supports the protection and management of the historic and natural environments.
- 4.7 In particular, Policies SW3, SW6, SW8, SW12, and EcW4 allocate specific land for development proposals whilst policies EcW1 and EcW2 seek to protect and allocate industrial sites within the Plan area.
- 4.8 Policy CW2 identifies the 'Cyfarthfa Heritage Area' to support the development of a heritage based visitor attraction to complement the offer of Cyfarthfa Castle and Park.
- 4.9 Policy SW10 seeks to protect open spaces whilst Policies EnW2, 3 and 5 afford environmental protection to specific sites and species, including Sites of Importance for Nature (SINC) and Special Landscape Areas. Policies EnW1 and EnW4 seek to provide ecological and environmental protection from development in general and in particular EnW4, amongst other things, from air pollution.
- 4.10 Finally, in order to enable the effective delivery of the LDP the Council has also developed a set of targets and indicators contained within a Monitoring Framework, with trigger points against which the performance of the policies and development proposals can be measured,
- 4.11 The policies assessed in Table 4 of this document reflect the policies contained in the Deposit Replacement LDP as amended by any proposed focussed changes.

5. METHOD

- 5.1 The method and approach used for screening are based on formal Welsh Government Guidance and emergent practise, which recommends that the HRA is approached in three main stages:



- 5.2 This report constitutes a **Stage 2 - AA** as follows:

- Complete additional scoping work including the collation of further information on sites as necessary to evaluate impact in light of conservation objectives;
- Agree scope and method of AA with NRW;
- Consider how plan 'in-combination' with other plans and programmes will interact when implemented i.e. the AA;
- Consider how the effect on the integrity of the site could be avoided by changes to the Plan and or by the consideration of alternatives;
- Develop mitigation measures (including timescale and mechanisms) if necessary; and
- Report outcomes of AA including mitigation measures and consult with NRW and the wider [public] stakeholders as appropriate:

➤ If plan will not significantly affect European site **proceed without further reference to Habitats Regulation.**

➤ If effects or uncertainty remain following the consideration of alternatives and development of mitigations **proceed to stage 3.**

- 5.3 Given that there are no Natura 2000 sites in the County Borough an assessment was made of the likelihood of the potential for the Deposit Plan to impact on each of the relevant European sites, situated within 15km of the County Borough, in regard to the relevant pathways of impact as shown in Table 1 below:

TABLE 1: Natura 2000 sites potentially affected within 15km ⁷ of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	
LSE: Loss and degradation of marsh fritillary (qualifying migratory species) habitat (potentially supporting metapopulations ⁸).	
Relevant Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	
Aberbargoed Grasslands	
Blaen Cynon	
LSE: Emissions (air pollution) from new and protected industrial development.	
Relevant Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	
Brecon Beacons	
Coedydd Nedd a Mellt	
Cwm Cadlan	
Llangorse Lake / Llyn Syfaddan	

- 5.4 The process taken is considered 'appropriate' to address the above relevant pathways of impact and is summarised in Table 2 as follows:

TABLE 2: Appropriate Assessment Stage Key Tasks:			
Task		Information	Where covered
1	Complete additional scoping work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collate further information on relevant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> European sites Environmental conditions Further analyse plans and projects that have potential for 'in-combination effects' 	Table 3
2	Assessing the Impacts 'in-combination' Appropriate Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine Deposit Plan policies and proposals for relevant direct/indirect LSE on relevant sites Consider potential cumulative effects of relevant LSE with identified plans and projects 	Table 4 Table 3
3	Consider how the effect on the integrity of the sites could be avoided where necessary	If necessary consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternatives Changes to Plan Developing mitigation measures 	Table 4
4	Report outcomes of AA	Conclude the assessment; explain key findings and analysis informing conclusions.	Table 5
5	Consultation	Re consult with NRW and stakeholders & wider public as necessary	Undertaken at PS and Deposit Stage. Further consultation to be undertaken at Focused changes stage.

⁷ Natural resources Wales advises 15Km as an appropriate distance for scoping purposes.

⁸ **Metapopulation**-a group of populations that are separated by space but consist of the same species. These spatially separated populations interact as individual members move from one population to another

5.5 Table 3 was up-dated to include any other relevant plans and projects that may have direct or indirect effects in-combination with the Deposit Plan on the above pathways.

5.6 Table 4 was up-dated to identify, those policies and proposals which do not have the potential to affect Natura 2000 sites in relation to the above pathways on the basis of the following criteria:

- The policy itself will not lead to development.
- The policy will have no direct effect because development is dependent on implementation of lower tier policies.
- The policy concentrates development in existing urban areas, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas.
- The policy is intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity.
- Any development will be small scale and steered away from European sites and sensitive areas.
- The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, and such enhancements are unlikely to affect a European site.
- The policy is unlikely to result in loss, and/or have the potential to affect the loss and or degradation of marsh fritillary habitat (of relevance to the Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC and Blaen Cynon SAC).
- The proposals and or allocations included in this policy are unlikely to result in loss, and/or have the potential to affect the loss and or degradation of marsh fritillary habitat (of relevance to the Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC and Blaen Cynon SAC).
- The policy seeks directly address the issue of the impact of new development on air pollution.
- The proposals and or allocations included in this policy will not directly contribute to the degradation of the environmental conditions of the Brecon Beacons SAC, Coedydd Nedd a Mellt SAC, Cwm Cadlan SAC, and Llangorse Lake SAC.

5.5 Where effects could not be 'screened-out', an AA of policies and proposals affected was conducted and appropriate mitigation measures investigated and included where they could either:

- Avoid impacts at source;
- Reduce impacts at source;
- Abate impacts on site and
- Abate impacts at receptor.

5.6 It is anticipated that the mitigation measures will be secured through conditions attached to planning permissions thereby implemented by the developer. Monitoring will be undertaken through the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) and Plan Review process, where both successful and failing policies can be identified and in time amended where necessary as part of a second replacement plan review process. Monitoring Frameworks to monitor effectiveness of the first Replacement LDP policies and the 18 Sustainably Objectives are attached to the Deposit Plan (see - Written Statement section 9, June 2018) and the Deposit Plan Sustainability Appraisal Report (section 8, June 2018) respectively.

6. STAGE 1: SCREENING AND STAGE 2: APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

TABLE 3: 'APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT' SCREENING OTHER PLANS AND PROJECTS ON THE BASIS OF OBJECTIVE INFORMATION**KEY ISSUE: Marsh fritillary butterfly: Loss, degradation and management of habitat.**

Marsh fritillaries are essentially grassland butterflies with strongholds in Spain and the UK, and although populations may occur occasionally on wet heath, bog margins and woodland clearings, most colonies are found in damp acidic or dry calcareous grasslands (including 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinia caerulea*) and Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland (*Facies*) on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-brometalia*). The sedentary behaviour of the adults and increasing fragmentation of their preferred habitats has led to the establishment of local races with 34 subspecies described from Europe alone. The Marsh fritillary butterfly (*Euphydryas aurinia*) is found in a range of habitats in which its larval food plant, devil's-bit (*Scabious succisa pratensis*), occurs. However, *Euphydryas aurinia* has declined dramatically in Europe and is regarded as endangered or vulnerable and is one of the most rapidly declining butterflies in most of its European range and has become extinct over a large part of its former range, having declined by about 60% since records began due to a number of factors including habitat loss from: sheep grazing on devil's-bit and therefore low-intensity cattle or pony grazing is preferable; burning and mowing and pesticides and nitrogen pollution and attacks from parasitic wasps.

The best scientist knowledge in the field can be found at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/species.asp?FeatureIntCode=s1065>

Butterflies in general currently appear to be at low ebb, not helped by the variable and extreme weather. The Marsh Fritillary is a species that does experience boom and bust cycles as part of its population dynamics and should therefore be able to recover if good habitat is maintained. Each Marsh Fritillary metapopulation, however, needs a network of several sites close to one another to ensure its long-term survival. These sites need to support extensive suitable habitat of good quality and be well-connected to the rest of the network. Habitat condition mapping for the Marsh Fritillary in Wales strongly suggests that although the butterfly appears to be surviving in some landscapes and in some cases doing quite well, some of the networks may be insufficient for the long-term survival of the butterfly.

The Wales Marsh Fritillary Surveillance Programme was established in 2012 by Butterfly Conservation Wales (BCW) in partnership with Natural Resources Wales. Distribution surveys show that there are now 132 Marsh Fritillary populations in Wales. The 2017 sightings report a net gain of two populations comprising an addition of five populations and a 'loss' of three populations for the most recent five-year period (2013-2017). 22 colonies were reported in 2013 -2017. The full report can be found at https://butterfly-conservation.org/sites/default/files/2018-06/wales-mf-feedback-2017_fin.pdf

While the SAC series makes a contribution to securing favourable conservation status for this Annex II species, wider measures are also necessary to support its conservation in the UK and Wales, including implementation of a Species Action Plan (SAP) see:

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Article17/FCS2007-S1065-audit-Final.pdf> and

<https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/news-and-events/blog/back-from-the-brink-a-look-at-the-marsh-fritillary-butterfly/?lang=en>

Relevant SAC within 15km	Marsh fritillary butterfly: Loss, degradation and management of habitat. Consideration based on objective information.	Conclusion
<p>The Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC is situated approximately 4.5km to the south of the MTCBC administrative boundary. It covers an area of 42.5ha on a southwest facing hillside in the Rhymney Valley; 1km east of Bargoed; occupying an urban fringe position, between 200m and 290m above sea level.</p>	<p>A site account is available for Aberbargoed Grasslands, a large and relatively isolated population of marsh fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>) present on a series of damp pastures and heaths representing the species on the eastern edge of its range in Wales. This can be found at: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUcode=UK0030071</p> <p>NRW monitors the SAC, declared in 2004, which supports the Hirwaun meta-population of marsh fritillary, the largest on the southern edge of the BBNP and one of the most important habitat networks for the Marsh fritillary in Wales, together with Butterfly Conservation. A Core Management Plan including conservation objectives was prepared in March 2008. The main conservation objectives related to restoration management to improve the quality and quantity of habitat available to marsh fritillaries. This primarily included the establishment of a suitable grazing regime, scrub clearance and control of illegal burning, which has been successfully halted.</p> <p>Aberbargoed Grasslands is also a Site of Scientific interest (SSSI), designated in 2001, and was declared a National Nature Reserve (NNR) in 2012. A partnership comprising Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC), Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Welsh Water and local landowners has enabled the site to be managed as a single unit. Volunteer groups and local schools are also actively engaged in management tasks on site. Funding has been secured to facilitate the positive management of sites suitable for marsh fritillary within the wider landscape around the NNR including for a locally based training programme specifically tailored to safeguarding the marsh fritillary habitat. Further information can be found at: https://naturalresources.wales/media/630162/SAC_UK0030071_Register_Entry001.pdf https://www.naturalresources.wales/media/670637/Aberbargoed%20Grasslands%20Core%20SAC%20plan%20jan08.pdf http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/countryside/wildlife/aberbargoed-grasslands-0 https://naturalresources.wales/media/664398/SSSI_1443_Citation_EN001cac4.pdf https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/File/60/en-GB</p> <p>The area where the marsh fritillary butterfly has been recorded within MTCB is considered to form part of the Upper Cynon Functional Landscape Area for the species. Habitat suitable for the marsh fritillary in Merthyr therefore plays an important role in the conservation of marsh fritillary in the wider landscape.</p>	<p>Given that all development in the Deposit Plan avoids the loss or degradation of marsh fritillary habitat (in the Plan area) the Plan is unlikely to adversely affect the Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC and its population of marsh fritillary butterfly, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.</p>

	<p>Although, the Caerphilly County Borough Ecologist's considers that the occupied site situated in the MTCB area is probably functioning as part a network of sites which help support the Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC site, according to NRW, who monitor the species, "In terms of the location of Merthyr's marsh fritillary in the wider landscape, they are much more closely linked to the Blaen Cynon SAC than this SAC. This is driven mainly by availability and location of suitable habitat in the landscape and also to a degree by topography."⁹</p> <p>Given that the Deposit Plan directs no development within or in proximity to the habitat suitable for the marsh fritillary in Merthyr it is considered that there is unlikely to be any alone or 'in-combination' effects on the Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC.</p>	
Relevant SAC within 15km	Marsh fritillary butterfly: Loss and management of habitat.	
	Consideration based on objective information	Conclusion
<p>The Blaen Cynon SAC is situated approximately 5km to the north of the MTCBC administrative boundary and lies within the South Wales Coalfield on the fringes of an urban area.</p>	<p>A site account is available for Blaen Cynon, an extensive complex of damp pastures and heaths supporting the largest metapopulation of marsh fritillary <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> on the southern edge of the Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP) and can be found at: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCODE=UK0030092</p> <p>The Blaen Cynon SAC is regarded as one of the strongholds in Wales, and supports Hirwaun meta-population of marsh fritillary, the largest on the southern edge of the largest metapopulation of marsh fritillary on the southern edge of the Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP). The SAC contains an extensive complex of damp pastures and heaths, comprising Cors Bryn-y- Gaer SSSI and the nearby Woodland Park and Pontpren SSSI both used by and supporting the Hirwaun meta-population.</p> <p>Marsh fritillary is a mobile species and as such is not confined to the defined boundaries of the Blaen Cynon SAC. The natural boom and bust population dynamics of marsh fritillary populations are accepted variables of marsh fritillary ecology and the presence and maintenance of suitable and good condition habitat is therefore essential so that populations can recover after 'bust' periods. Due to the dynamic nature and distribution of the marsh fritillary metapopulation it is assumed that all suitable and good condition habitat for marsh fritillary within the 2km Upper Cynon Valley Functional Area could support the species. Therefore, any impact on suitable habitat for marsh fritillary within the wider 2km Area could have a likely significant effect on the</p>	<p>Given that all development in the Deposit Plan avoids the loss or degradation of marsh fritillary habitat (in the Plan area) the Plan is unlikely to adversely affect the Blaen Cynon SAC and its population of marsh fritillary butterflies, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects.</p>

⁹ Email received from NRW Conservation officer dated 09/09/2016

	<p>marsh fritillary metapopulation and subsequently, the Blaen Cynon SAC.</p> <p>The area where the marsh fritillary butterfly has been recorded within Merthyr Tydfil County Borough is considered to form part of the Upper Cynon Functional Landscape Area for the species. Habitat suitable for the marsh fritillary in Merthyr therefore plays an important role in the conservation of marsh fritillary in the wider landscape.</p> <p>According to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Ecologist's, <i>'the issue of Blaen Cynon SAC is relevant for Merthyr - especially since you have an occupied marsh fritillary site in your County Borough, which is probably functioning as part a network of sites which help support that SAC site.'</i>¹⁰ NRW monitors the SAC together with Butterfly Conservation. According to NRW <i>"in terms of the location of Merthyr's Marsh fritillary in the wider landscape, they are much more closely linked to the Blaen Cynon SAC than the Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC. This is driven mainly by availability and location of suitable habitat in the landscape and also to a degree by topography."</i></p> <p>A Core Management Plan was prepared in 2008 (now considered out of date) found at: https://www.naturalresources.wales/media/671013/Blaen%20Cynon%20core%20management%20plan.pdf set out the conservation objectives for the SAC which included contributing towards supporting sustainable metapopulation of the marsh fritillary in the Penderyn/Hirwaun area at a minimum of 50ha of suitable habitat up to within 2km of the SAC. The plan included performance indicators and consideration of other factors which include: larval web density; agricultural improvement of land; weather conditions and parasites (braconid wasp).</p> <p>A marsh fritillary HRA was prepared in 2010 to assess the likely significant effect of the restoration of the at the Former Tower Colliery site in Hirwaun on the Blaen Cynon SAC with respect to impacts on potential supporting habitat for marsh fritillary butterfly. The assessment concluded no adverse impacts on the integrity of the Blaen Cynon SAC.</p> <p>In 2014 the impact the cumulative impacts of air pollution from the Hirwaun Power Station and other plans and projects on the marsh fritillary butterfly was assessed and NRW was satisfied at that time that the Project would have no likely significant effect in air quality terms on the Blaen Cynon SAC either alone, or in-combination with other projects.</p>	
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¹⁰ Email from RCT Ecologist dated 21/07/2016

	<p>In 2017 a Shadow HRA stage 1 screening report was prepared for the Enviroparks Hirwaun development. This included consideration of the in-combination effects of a number of committed projects within the local area which had the potential to have air quality impacts, which are considered to be indirect effects (as they may impact plant species on which the marsh fritillary in its larval stage inhabit). Although there were not considered to be any direct effects on butterfly individuals, an effect would be considered to affect the favourable conservation status of marsh fritillary butterfly if increased nitrogen and acid deposition resulted in a reduction in the population of the larval food plant for the species (Devil's-bit scabious <i>Succisa pratensis</i>), or a significant change in the habitats so that they would no longer provide suitable habitat to support the butterfly species. It was therefore agreed to alter an original 2010 biodiversity scheme to provide suitable mitigation for the scheme both alone and in-combination with other projects.</p> <p>As part of the National Transport Plan improvement projects across the heads of the valleys it is proposed to dual, sections 5 and 6 of the Heads of the Valleys Road, between Dowlais Top and Hirwaun during 2019-22. Assessment work carried out by Jacobs (Engineering Consultants) identified that a total of 11.4ha of marsh fritillary breeding habitat would be lost through the scheme.</p> <p>The loss of such a significant area of habitat would likely impact on the SAC and the viability of the wider Hirwaun meta-population. Likely 'in combination' effects of this (and any unforeseen effects of the development) and other local developments, include increased fragmentation of breeding sites (resulting in poorer connectivity between them), increased chance of direct collisions between dispersing marsh fritillary and motor vehicles, changes to hydrology, and atmospheric pollution impacts on breeding habitat.</p> <p>A465 Heads of the Valleys Section 2 Assessment of Implications (of highways and/or roads projects) on European sites (including Appropriate Assessment) (AIES) can be found at: https://a465gilwern2brynmawr.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/a465-hov-s2_es_siaa.pdf</p> <p>The Welsh government Inquiry document can be viewed at: http://bailey.persona-pi.com/Public-Inquiries/A465-English/F%20WGIDDOCS/WGID%20057%20-%20Marsh%20fritillary%20mitigation%20Mr%20Halley%20Land.pdf</p> <p>The plans attached to that document show that Mynydd Bwllfa (area of approximately 100Ha of which approximately 14.4ha is to be planted with devil's-bit scabious in addition to 14.4Ha at</p>	
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	<p>Llwydcoed Slopes (turf translocation, plug planting with devil's-bit scabious and long term cattle grazing habitat management). 100% of these areas are situated within the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) area. NRW have confirmed that they are content with the proposed mitigation, including the CPO of land at Llwydcoed Slopes that allows a conclusion of 'no significant effects' to be reached in relation to the Blaen Cynon SAC.</p> <p>Given that the Deposit Plan directs no development within or in proximity to the habitat suitable for the marsh fritillary in Merthyr it is considered that there is unlikely to be any alone or 'in-combination' effects on the Blaen Cynon SAC.</p>	
KEY ISSUE: Emissions (Air Pollution) from industrial development		
<p>In February 2018 the National Assembly for Wales produced The Research Briefing on Air Quality which can be viewed at: http://www.assembly.wales/Research%20Documents/18-009/18-009-Web-English.pdf states that Wales has some of the worst air quality in the UK, which contributes to around 2000 deaths per year. Currently the air quality strategy in Wales has mostly been determined by EU regulations, and delivered by Local Authorities. However, the preparation of the 'Local Air Quality Management Guidance in Wales - Policy Guidance' June 2017, and the announcement of a 'Clean Air Plan for Wales in 2018' shows that Welsh Government will be taking more action on air quality in future see: https://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/170614-policy-guidance-en.pdf and https://gov.wales/newsroom/environmentandcountryside/2017/171205-environment-minister-announces-ambitious-plans-to-improve-air-quality/?lang=en</p> <p>The primary air pollutants that impact health are nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone (O₃) and other small, particulate matter. These pollutants come from a range of sources, but the vast majority arise from the burning of fuels. This makes road transport the primary mobile source of emissions, and industrial combustion or production processes the main static sources. NO₂ and particulate matter (PM) pollution levels are worse in areas close to these sources. PM typically reaches high levels near industrial sites, and NO₂ is measured at dangerous levels near busy and congested roads. Most NO₂ is emitted directly, making it a primary pollutant. PM can be emitted directly as a primary pollutant, but also forms from the reaction of other pollutants in the atmosphere (secondary pollutant)¹¹.</p> <p>In comparison, ozone can travel long distances and reach high concentrations in areas far from sources. As a result dealing with ozone levels requires a higher level approach, typically national or even international, compared to the Local Authority driven approach for reducing local spikes in NO₂ and PM. This is compounded by the fact that ozone is a secondary pollutant, making sources more difficult to identify. There are a number of other air pollutants that are legislated on in Wales, but all of these occur significantly below EU limits and have limited public health impact.</p>		

¹¹ Background to air pollution (atmospheric deposition) can be found in the Deposit Plan HRA.

Relevant SAC within 15km	Air Pollution				
<p>The Brecon Beacons SAC is situated approximately 3km north of the MTCBC administrative boundary.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="499 323 1753 331">Consideration based on objective information.</th><th data-bbox="1765 323 2094 331">Conclusion</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="499 339 1753 1362"> <p>Studies carried out by Josh Powell (a resident of Merthyr Tydfil) show that average wind direction for the period 1967-1980 came from the north west for 60 days, west for 65-70 days but south west for only 35 days over this period. The wind also came from a north easterly direction for just over 40 days of the year, more frequently than from a south westerly direction (35 days).</p> <p>Meteorological data was collected at the Cwmbargoed Weather Station between 1967 and 1986. Wind roses showing the direction of prevailing winds on an annual basis for periods between 1967 and 1986 have been presented in a number of publications (Our Changeable Weather, 1986; Merthyr Tydfil: A valley community, 1981; and, Living in the Clouds, 1986) and show that wind in this location can come from several different directions over a twelve month period, and especially over much longer periods of time.</p> <p>NRW states that the topography of an area dominates wind direction and that Merthyr Tydfil is at the head of a deep valley. The prevailing wind direction of 'east north east' in the study carried out adjacent to Dowlais Rugby Club in 2003 means that wind coming from the south west is being channelled by a valley (EAW representative, interview, 13/10/06).</p> <p>A further study of air quality was carried out by the former Environment Agency at a car-park adjacent to Dowlais Rugby Club. It provides valuable data on wind speed and direction relevant to this area. From data collected a wind rose was produced which displays aggregated data for a four month period, 17 December 2002 -14 April 2003. This shows that the strongest winds during these winter months were from the west south west and south west.</p> <p>Mean wind speeds and gusts are stated as strongest during the winter half of the year and as coming from the south west and south-south west. This Agency study also examined wind direction and shows a much greater frequency of wind coming from a northerly direction than previous studies, but at slightly less strength (5-7 m/s). Indeed, at this location during this period the prevailing wind was east north east.</p> <p>Information from lay local weather studies was presented and considered at the Public Inquiry and in the Air Quality Statement of Evidence (2004).</p> </td><td data-bbox="1765 339 2094 1362"> <p>The Deposit LDP is unlikely to adversely affect the Brecon Beacons SAC through air pollution (industrial emissions), either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>However, consideration should be given to how the effect of air pollution on the integrity of the site could be avoided, reduced or abated where necessary (i.e. by incorporating mitigation measures through Deposit Plan policies).</p> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Consideration based on objective information.	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<p>The Cwm Cadlan SAC is situated approximately 4km north west of the MTCBC administrative boundary, approximately 1km north-east of the village of Penderyn and about 4km north of Hirwaun, near Aberdare.</p>	<p>A Report of a Health Impact Assessment Study of an Opencast Scheme at Ffos-Y-Fran, Merthyr Tydfil (Group, Ffos-y-Fran Health Impact Assessment Steering, 2007) cites useful sources of information on local wind conditions.</p> <p>Given the location of the European sites proximate to the County Borough, the prevailing wind direction and the significant variables impacting Air Pollution, impacts from the LDP on the Llangorse Lake/ Llyn Syfaddan SAC are unlikely to be significant.</p> <p>Brecon Beacons National Park Local Planning Authority undertook an appropriate assessment of its LDP. The site management plan identifies the main source of pollution as the air. However, the potential for significant effects, alone and in combination with other plans and programmes was ruled out.</p> <p>Development in and around Merthyr Tydfil has the potential to increase air pollution (through a combination of development [emissions from building stock] and a growth in road traffic [emissions from vehicles] including on the A456.</p> <p>Historically Merthyr Tydfil has played a large part in the industrial activity of South Wales, with steel works, iron works and coal mining operations. This has declined dramatically over the last 50 years or so and today there are only a few industrial processes within the County Borough which require permits for their operation. With the exception of a major coal extraction operation (at Ffos-y-Fran which as a result of planning conditions the operators have been monitoring fine particulates and ultra-fine particulates) and the three Part A1 processes regulated by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) which are mainly small Part B processes such as vehicle refinishers, wood processors etc.</p>	<p>The Deposit LDP is unlikely to adversely affect the Cwm Cadlan SAC through air pollution (industrial emissions), either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>However, consideration should be given to how the effect of air pollution on the integrity of the site could be avoided, reduced or abated where necessary (i.e. by incorporating mitigation measures through Deposit Plan policies).</p>
<p>The Coedydd Nedd a Mellte SAC is situated approximately 7.5km from MTCBC with the most direct access to the site being via the A465.</p>	<p>Although there are no longer any significant industrial sources in the County Borough traffic has increased, particularly on the Twynyrodyn Road link. The A4060 is linked to the town centre by Twynyrodyn Road which has relatively high traffic flows as a result. Twynyrodyn Road is the Authority's only AQMA (Air Quality Management Area). This is a result of new residential developments on the outskirts of the town towards the A4060 combined with the opening and expansion of retail and leisure facilities in the town and the introduction of one way traffic in the town centre affecting the traffic flow on the road network as a whole.</p>	<p>The Deposit LDP is unlikely to adversely affect Coedydd Nedd a Mellte SAC through air pollution (industrial emissions), either alone or in combination with other plans and projects).</p>

	<p>Since LDP 2006 -2021 Plan adoption Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council has carried out the following Air Quality Assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A detailed Assessment in 2011 for Prince Charles Hospital combustion plant concluded that emissions will not result in any exceedences;• Updated and Screening Assessments 2012 - 14 concluded that the proposed development of a new bus station may adversely affect air quality and that the declaration of an AQMA to monitor NO2 levels at Twynyrodyn Hill was required;• Detailed Assessments in 2015 concluded that elevated NO2 on Twynyrodyn Road was associated with traffic and that wind speed and direction, and two storey terraced housing without front gardens resulted in nitrogen dioxide accumulating around 55 Twynyrodyn Road;• Updated and Screening Assessments 2015 - 17 concluded that:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Modelling indicates the proposed bus station it is likely to comply with AQOs (Air Quality Objectives) but will be monitored with diffusion tubes;○ Additional monitoring was proposed in anticipation of the development and opening of Trago (Mills) on Swansea Road and○ The Progress Report 2016 found the exceedences were contained within the AQMA prior to declaration.• The Air Quality Progress Report 2017 announced that the AQMA was declared by Council in January 2017 and that an associated action plan will be produced with the aim of achieving suitable improvement initially focussing on measures to ease traffic flow and to encourage drivers to seek alternative routes. <p>Given that airborne pollution is a key issue for air quality impacts arising from industrial development, specific allocations and proposals in the deposit Plan have been assessed in detail (see Table 4) which concludes that the Deposit Plan will not give rise to likely significant effects either alone or in-combination.</p>	<p>However, consideration should be given to how the effect of air pollution on the integrity of the site could be avoided, reduced or abated where necessary (i.e. by incorporating mitigation measures through Deposit Plan polices).</p>
<p>The Llangorse Lake / Llyn Syfaddan SAC is situated approximately 14.8km from the MTCBC administrative boundary and is a large shallow lake lying in a natural depression of the Old Sandstone drift.</p>		<p>The Deposit LDP is unlikely to adversely affect the Llangorse Lake SAC through air pollution (industrial emissions).</p> <p>However, consideration should be given to how the effect of air pollution on the integrity of the site could be avoided, reduced or abated where necessary (i.e. by incorporating mitigation measures through Deposit Plan polices).</p>

TABLE 4: 'APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT' OF THE DEPOSIT PLAN
Key issues to consider:

1. The loss and or degradation of marsh fritillary habitat.
2. Emissions from new industrial development on protected and allocated industrial.

Deposit Plan Policy Approach	Description of Likely Effect/s	Mitigation Measures	Potential Effect/s
Deposit Plan Vision			
<p>To strengthen Merthyr Tydfil's position as the regional centre for the Heads of the Valleys within the Cardiff Capital Region, to encourage a sustainable level of population growth and be a place to be proud of where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People learn and develop skills to fulfil their ambitions; • People live, work, have a safe, healthy and fulfilled life; and • People visit, enjoy and return. 	Sets overarching framework for development.	Issues addressed as part of the Deposit Plan policy screening below.	N/A
Deposit Plan Objectives			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 To encourage a sustainable level and distribution of population growth. 2 To promote use of the Welsh language and Culture. 3 To ensure the sufficient provision of land for the delivery of a range and choice of housing and affordable housing to address local housing needs. 4 To promote suitable previously developed land and the continued regeneration of local communities. 5 To ensure that community infrastructure and open space is supports the regeneration of local communities. 6 To promote high quality, sustainable and inclusive design and support measures which mitigate the predicted effects of climate change. 7 To support an integrated transport system, promote active travel and ensure new developments are accessible by walking, cycling and public transport links. 8 To support existing community facilities and suitable community led development. 9 To protect, enhance and promote all heritage, historic and cultural assets. 10 To improve ecosystem resilience and connectivity and which support habitats and species of principle importance. 11 To protect and enhance the character and appearance of the landscape and the countryside. 	Sets strategic framework for development.	Issues addressed as part of the Deposit Plan screening below.	N/A

<p>12 To provide and safeguard appropriate land for economic and skills development.</p> <p>13 To strengthen and diversify the rural economy.</p> <p>14 To develop the town and local centres as accessible, attractive, viable and vibrant places.</p> <p>15 To support suitable tourism, leisure and recreation developments and encourage an all year round tourism industry</p> <p>16 To promote renewable and low carbon energy.</p> <p>17 To ensure a sustainable supply of minerals.</p> <p>18 To promote the efficient use of materials and resources and ensure an integrated network of waste management facilities.</p>			
Summary of policies	Description of Likely Effect	Mitigation Measures	Potential Effect
<p>Policy SW 1: Provision of new homes.</p> <p>To sustainably grow our population, 2250 additional homes are required. To ensure these are delivered, provision is made for 2820 additional homes.</p> <p><i>Screening:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policy will have no direct effect because development is dependent on implementation of lower tier policies. 	<p>Indirect potential effects arising from a growth in housing development are increased air pollutants from development and a growth in traffic movements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies SW11 & SW12 and EnW4, seek to reduce the emissions through improved design and more sustainable transport which will act in mitigation. Policy EnW4 seeks to minimise the impact of air pollution, amongst other things, to an acceptable level. Policies En1 – 3 & 5 prevent development where ecological and landscape impacts are unacceptable. 	<p>None</p>

<p>Policy SW 2: Provision of affordable housing.</p> <p>During the plan period, development proposals will be expected to deliver up to 251 affordable dwellings across the County Borough in order to contribute to the identified level of housing need.</p> <p>Screening:</p> <p>✱ The policy itself will not lead to development.</p>	<p>The policy does not explicitly involve development.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>None</p>																																																																		
<p>Policy SW3: Sustainably distributing new homes.</p> <p>New homes will be concentrated within the main settlement of Merthyr Tydfil. The following sites are allocated for residential development within the ‘Primary Growth Area’:</p> <table><tr><th>Site No.</th><th>Site Name</th><th>Dwellings</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Hoover Factory Site</td><td>440</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Sweetwater Park, Trefechan</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Upper Georgetown Plateau</td><td>50</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>Brondeg, Heolgerrig</td><td>50</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>Erw Las, Gellideg</td><td>1020</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>Beacon Heights, Swansea Road</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>Winchfawr, Heolgerrig</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>South of Castle Park</td><td>160</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>Cyfarthfa Mews, Swansea Road</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>Trevor Close, Pant</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>East Street, Dowlais</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>St Johns Church, Dowlais</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>Victoria House, Dowlais</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>Pen Y Dre Fields, Gurnos</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>Goetre Primary School, Gurnos</td><td>120</td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>Former General Hospital</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>Haydn Terrace, Penydarren</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td>Former St Peter and Paul Church, Abercanaid</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>19</td><td>Twynyrodyn</td><td>150</td></tr><tr><td>20</td><td>Former Mardy Hospital, Twynyrodyn</td><td>114</td></tr><tr><td>21</td><td>Bradley Gardens 2, Penyard</td><td>100</td></tr></table>	Site No.	Site Name	Dwellings	1	Hoover Factory Site	440	2	Sweetwater Park, Trefechan	10	3	Upper Georgetown Plateau	50	4	Brondeg, Heolgerrig	50	5	Erw Las, Gellideg	1020	6	Beacon Heights, Swansea Road	20	7	Winchfawr, Heolgerrig	20	8	South of Castle Park	160	9	Cyfarthfa Mews, Swansea Road	19	10	Trevor Close, Pant	20	11	East Street, Dowlais	10	12	St Johns Church, Dowlais	20	13	Victoria House, Dowlais	19	14	Pen Y Dre Fields, Gurnos	40	15	Goetre Primary School, Gurnos	120	16	Former General Hospital	20	17	Haydn Terrace, Penydarren	40	18	Former St Peter and Paul Church, Abercanaid	13	19	Twynyrodyn	150	20	Former Mardy Hospital, Twynyrodyn	114	21	Bradley Gardens 2, Penyard	100	<p>✱ The policy places the most significant level of housing development in and around the existing Merthyr Tydfil urban area. There is therefore potential for the concentration of development to lead to an overall increase in harmful air pollutants, e.g. through increased traffic movements. The potential for significant impact is however, dependant on the respective site sensitivities and the cumulative</p>	<p>✱ Policies SW11 & SW12 seek to reduce the emissions through improved design and more sustainable transport modes which will act in mitigation.</p> <p>✱ Policy EnW4 seeks to minimise the impact of air pollution, amongst other things to an acceptable level.</p> <p>✱ Policies En1 – 3 & 5 prevent development where ecological and landscape impacts are unacceptable.</p>	<p>None</p>
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22	Former St Tydfils Hospital	50	impacts of other plans.		
23	Former Miners Hall	12			
24	Former Ysgol Santes Tudful,	10			
25	Sandbrook Place	12			
35	Clwydyfagwr, Swansea Road	40			
	Sub total	1,569			
New homes will also be directed to our other settlements of Troedyrhiw, Merthyr Vale and Aberfan, Bedlinog, and Edwardsville, Quakers Yard, Trelewis and Treharris. The following sites are allocated for residential development within the 'Other Growth Area':			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The policy will steer/ place small scale development in existing settlements away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.• There are no Natura 2000 sites within close proximity.		
Site No.	Site Name	Dwellings			
26	Project Riverside, Merthyr Vale	153			
27	Walters Terrace, Aberfan	23			
28	Opposite Kingsley Terrace, Aberfan	12			
29	Adjacent to Manor View, Trelewis	248			
30	Stormtown, Trelewis	80			
31	Cwmfelin, Bedlinog	30			
33	Cilhaul, Treharris	30			
34	Oaklands, Treharris	50			
	Sub Total	626			
Screening: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The policy concentrates development in existing urban areas, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas.• The policy is unlikely to result in loss, and/or have the potential to affect the loss and or degradation of marsh fritillary habitat (of relevance to the Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC and Blaen Cynon SAC.)• The allocations included in this policy will not directly result in loss, and/or have the potential to affect the loss and or degradation of marsh fritillary habitat (of relevance to the Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC and Blaen Cynon SAC.).					

<p>Policy SW 4: Settlement Boundaries.</p> <p>To encourage development within urban areas, support the re-use of previously developed land, and to protect and support the functioning of our rural economy and the countryside, settlement boundaries will be defined as follows:</p> <p>Primary Growth Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merthyr Tydfil. • Trefechan. <p>Other Growth Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Troedyrhiw. • Aberfan and Merthyr Vale. • Quakers Yard, Edwardsville, Treharris and Trelewis. • Bedlinog. <p>Outside defined settlement boundaries, proposals will be regarded as 'countryside development' and will not be permitted unless the development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is for the purposes of agriculture or forestry; • is associated with rural enterprises or the winning and working of minerals; • is for the re-use, adaptation, or replacement of rural buildings and dwellings; • supports the expansion of an existing business in the countryside where justified; • is for low-impact tourism, recreation or leisure facilities in accordance with Policy EcW7; • is for the provision of public utilities, infrastructure or waste management facilities that cannot reasonably be located elsewhere; • is required for the reclamation or treatment of unstable or contaminated land; • is for renewable energy in accordance with Policy EcW8; • is for affordable housing in accordance with Policy SW5; • or is low impact One Planet Development. <p>Where 'countryside development' is acceptable in principle, the proposal must also satisfy other relevant plan policies.</p> <p>Screening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy concentrates development in existing urban areas, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is potential for the concentration of development to lead to an overall increase in harmful air pollutants, e.g. through increased traffic movements. The potential for significant impact is however, dependant on the respective site sensitivities and the cumulative impacts of other plans. • This policy concentrates development in existing settlements/ urban areas with a focus around the main Merthyr Tydfil settlement. Focusing on existing urban areas by definition steers development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies SW11 & SW12 seek to reduce the emissions through improved design and more sustainable transport modes which will act in mitigation. • Policy EnW4 seeks to minimise the impact of air pollution, amongst other things to an acceptable level. Policies En1 – 3 & 5 prevent development where ecological and landscape impacts are unacceptable. 	<p>None</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy is unlikely to result in loss, and/or have the potential to affect the loss and or degradation of marsh fritillary habitat (of relevance to the Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC and Blaen Cynon SAC.) 	<p>away from European sites and sensitive areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nearest Natura 2000 sites to Merthyr Tydfil town are Blaen Cynon, Cwm Cadlan and the Brecon Beacons. The policy is for limited growth (that will not generate significant increases in traffic in settlements located at a distance from the nearest SAC, Aberbargoed Grasslands which is also separated from development at Trelewis by the conurbation of the settlement of Bargoed. 		
<p>Policy SW5: Affordable Housing Exception Sites</p> <p>Small scale affordable housing developments will be permitted adjoining settlement boundaries and where it is demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal meets an identified local need which cannot be satisfied within identified settlement boundaries; • The site does not exceed 10 dwellings; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is potential for development to lead increase in harmful air pollutants, e.g. through 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies SW11 & SW12 seek to reduce the emissions through improved design and more 	<p>None</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed dwelling(s) will be of a size, tenure and design which is commensurate with the identified affordable housing need; • In cases where the dwelling is to be provided by either a private landlord or the intended occupier, secure mechanisms are in place to ensure the property shall remain affordable in perpetuity; and • The development has reasonable access to the availability and proximity of local community services and facilities. <p>Screening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy concentrates development adjacent to existing urban areas, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas. • The policy is unlikely to result in loss, and/or have the potential to affect the loss and or degradation of marsh fritillary habitat (of relevance to the Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC and Blaen Cynon SAC.) 	<p>increased traffic movements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy is for limited small scale growth that will not generate significant increases in traffic outside settlements. • The policy will steer/ place small scale development adjacent to existing settlements away from European sites and associated sensitive areas. 	<p>sustainable transport modes which will act in mitigation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy EnW4 seeks to minimise the impact of air pollution, amongst other things to an acceptable level. • Policies En1 – 3 & 5 prevent development where ecological and landscape impacts are unacceptable. 	
<p>Policy SW6 – Hoover Strategic Regeneration Area</p> <p>The Hoover Strategic Regeneration Area (HSRA) is identified to facilitate a major mixed-use development comprising of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 440 new homes, • Local convenience retail provision of 409 sqm, • New employment development on 6.5 hectares of land, • Pentrebach Station Park and Ride, • Provision of a new footbridge/cycle bridge to Abercanaid; and • Safeguarded land for a new Metro station. <p>Development proposals will be required to incorporate the following sustainable placemaking design principles:</p> <p>Movement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is potential for development to lead increase in harmful air pollutants, e.g. through increased traffic movements. The potential for significant impact is however, dependant on the respective site sensitivities and the cumulative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies SW11 & SW12 seek to reduce the emissions through improved design and more sustainable transport modes which will act in mitigation. • Policy EnW4 seeks to minimise the impact of air pollution, amongst other 	<p>None</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate a park and ride at an upgraded Pentrebach Metro station that acts as an attractive gateway to the HSRA and Merthyr Tydfil. • Integrate the existing railway via a green landscape corridor, and safeguard land for a future Metro station in the north of the SRA. • Create a legible environment through a clear hierarchy of streets that is reinforced by landscaping and the built form. • Create a network of pedestrian and cycle routes within the development that improves connections and wayfinding to existing strategic recreational routes (Taff and Trevithick Trail), and provide links within the site and to surrounding areas, including connecting the site across the river through a new bridge for pedestrians and cyclists. <p>Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for a range of dwelling types to satisfy local needs, while also delivering the plan strategy to develop a new sustainable mixed use community. • Deliver a sufficiently high density development, as appropriate, adjacent to a Metro station. • Provide a reconfigured public realm to better integrate Pentrebach railway station to the HSRA. • Incorporate retail uses to provide for local need and increase natural surveillance over Metro facilities, with the potential for a focal civic square. • Deliver distinctive character areas which create a sense of place. • Provide employment zones that can accommodate a range of employment types and are adaptable to future need. • Reflect the cultural heritage of the site in the design of new development, including reflecting the Hoover Factory frontage in the built form, and drawing upon historic built forms such as terraced dwellings. • Create a distinctive and unique environment that can act as a flagship development incorporating high levels of sustainability including, where viable, building integrated renewables, district heating systems, the appropriate re-use of existing employment buildings/land and use of sustainable materials and construction. <p>Green Infrastructure and Open Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a green perimeter and create a strong central green core for the HSRA. • Provide a range of open spaces of sufficient quantity and quality, for play and recreation (including areas of natural play), and where viable, incorporate the retention and management of existing green infrastructure. • Reflect the site heritage in the open spaces. • Promote new planting throughout the development using distinctive formal and informal planting to support character areas. 	<p>impacts of other plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development proposed is within the existing urban area. • There are no Natura 2000 sites adjacent to this area. 	<p>things to an acceptable level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies En1 – 3 & 5 prevent development where ecological and landscape impacts are unacceptable. 	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a green buffer around the existing railway line that has ecological benefit and creates a positive interface between the railway corridor and residential uses. • Incorporate the River Taff as a distinctive feature and use the river corridor as green spine that filters into the development, opening up the riverside and creating an accessible and pedestrian-friendly movement corridor along it. • Bring the River setting 'into' the site through incorporating water features/SUDS/watercourses in the public realm. • Develop green infrastructure that has the potential to add value and sense of place to the future development. • Develop a landscape-led approach that contributes to the sense of place. <p>Screening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy concentrates development in existing urban areas, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas. • The proposals or allocations included in this policy will not directly result in loss, and/or have the potential to affect the loss and or degradation of marsh fritillary habitat (of relevance to the Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC and Blaen Cynon SAC.); • The proposals or allocations included in this policy will not directly contribute to the degradation of the environmental conditions of the Brecon Beacons SAC, Coedydd Nedd a Mellte SAC, Cwm Cadlan SAC, and Llangorse Lake SAC. 			
<p>Policy SW7: The former Ivor Steel Works Regeneration Site.</p> <p>Appropriate development on the former Ivor Steel Works site in Dowlais will be supported.</p> <p>Screening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy concentrates development in existing urban areas, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas. • The proposals or allocations included in this policy will not directly contribute to the degradation of the environmental conditions of the Brecon Beacons SAC, Coedydd Nedd a Mellte SAC, Cwm Cadlan SAC, and Llangorse Lake SAC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy supports development within existing urban areas on brownfield land with existing transport links which reduces the need to travel and the potential for increased emissions arising from a growth in road traffic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies SW11 & SW12 seek to reduce the emissions through improved design and more sustainable transport modes which will act in mitigation. • Policy EnW4 seeks to minimise the impact of air pollution, amongst other 	None

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no Natura 2000 sites within close proximity. 	<p>things to an acceptable level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies En1 – 3 & 5 prevent development where ecological and landscape impacts are unacceptable. 	
<p>Policy SW8 – Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople sites.</p> <p>The Glynmill site is shown on the proposals map as the preferred location for development for Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople needs.</p> <p>Proposals for new Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople accommodation will be permitted where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The design, size of the site and number of pitches are appropriate to its location and the accommodation needs of the applicant(s); and It has adequate access to services and facilities. <p>Screening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any development will be small scale and steered away from European sites and sensitive areas. The policy is unlikely to result in loss, and/or have the potential to affect the loss and or degradation of marsh fritillary habitat (of relevance to the Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC and Blaen Cynon SAC); 	<p>The policy does not explicitly involve development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies SW11 & SW12 seek to reduce the emissions through improved design and more sustainable transport modes which will act in mitigation. Policy EnW4 seeks to minimise the impact of air pollution, amongst other things to an acceptable level. Policies En1 – 3 & 5 prevent development where ecological and landscape impacts are 	<p>None</p>

<p>Policy SW9: Planning Obligations</p> <p>Where appropriate and having regard to development viability, planning obligations may be sought for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On site provision of affordable housing on sites of 10 homes or more at an indicative level of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% in the Primary Growth Area. • 5% in the Other Growth Area. 2. A financial contribution towards the provision of affordable housing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On sites of between 5 and 9 homes or; • On sites of 10 or more homes, where on-site provision is not appropriate. 3. The provision and / or improvement of open space on sites of 10 homes or more. 4. Other relevant obligations not included within the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulation 123 List of Infrastructure. <p>Screening:</p> <p>The policy itself will not lead to development.</p>	<p>The policy does not explicitly involve development.</p>	<p>unacceptable.</p> <p>The policy helps to secure appropriate improvements.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Policy SW10: Protecting and improving our open spaces</p> <p>Development proposals that improve the quality, quantity or access to open space will generally be supported.</p> <p>Development proposals that would have an unacceptable adverse impact on or result in a loss of open space will not be permitted unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would not cause or exacerbate a deficiency of open space in accordance with the Council's open space standards or; • The majority of the open space can best be retained and enhanced through the redevelopment of a small part of the site or; • Satisfactory equivalent community benefit or enhanced compensatory provision can be provided in accordance with the Council's open space standards and • In all cases, the open space has no significant nature or historic conservation importance. <p>To conserve and enhance biodiversity and improve access to nature, the following Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are proposed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bryngolau LNR, Merthyr Vale. 	<p>This policy approach implicitly protects the natural environment.</p>	<p>The policy helps to avoid the need for mitigation or secures appropriate improvements.</p>	<p>None</p>

<p>2. Cefn Glas LNR, Treharris. 3. Cwm Blacs LNR, Town. 4. Cwm Taf and Cefn Coed Tip LNR, Park. 5. Cwm Taf Fechan (existing) LNR, Vaynor. 6. Goitre Lane LNR, Penydarren. 7. Ifor Tip LNR, Dowlais. 8. Newlands Park LNR, Penydarren, Dowlais and Town. 9. Old Colliery Site Coed-y-Hendre & Nant Llwynog LNR, Bedlinog. 10. Pentrebach/Nant-yr-Odin Tip LNR, Plymouth. 11. Scwrfa (Gellideg Fields) & Cwm Ffrwdd Woodland LNR, Cyfarthfa. 12. Y Graig LNR, Gurnos.</p> <p>Screening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policy itself will not lead to development. The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, and such enhancements are unlikely to affect a European site. 			
<p>Policy SW11: Sustainable Design and Placemaking</p> <p>Development must contribute to the creation of attractive and sustainable places through high quality, sustainable and inclusive design.</p> <p>New development will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> be appropriate to its local context in terms of scale, height, massing, elevational treatment, materials and detailing, layout, form, mix and density; integrate effectively with adjacent spaces, the public realm and historic environment to enhance the general street scene and create good quality townscape; not result in an unacceptable impact on local amenity, loss of light or privacy, or visual impact, and incorporate a good standard of landscape design; contribute to the provision of green infrastructure, including open space in accordance with the Council's standards, sustainable drainage systems where appropriate, and ensure that the County Borough's network of green infrastructure is accessible and connected; allow access for the widest range of people possible, and demonstrate that any traffic movements will not have an unacceptable impact on local amenity or highway safety and satisfy the Council's parking standards; incorporate resource efficient/adaptable buildings and layouts using sustainable design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policy does not explicitly involve development. The policy provides sustainable design criteria for development that includes provision for a reduction in the potential indirect effects of construction and development. 	<p>The policy helps to avoid the need for mitigation or secures appropriate improvements.</p>	<p>None</p>

<p>and construction techniques;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. minimise the demand for energy and, where appropriate, utilise renewable energy resources; 8. provide and provide relevant utility services and infrastructure without causing any unacceptable environmental impacts; 9. incorporate measures to improve ground and surface water quality wherever possible; 10. provide adequate facilities and space for waste collections and recycling; and 11. Promote the creation of healthy and active environments and reduce the opportunity for crime and anti-social behaviour. <p>Screening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy itself will not lead to development. • The policy is intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity. • The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, and such enhancements are unlikely to affect a European site. 			
<p>Policy SW 12: Improving transport network.</p> <p>Development that encourages a modal shift towards sustainable transport will be supported, including the enhancement of pedestrian, cycle, rail and bus facilities, in addition to any necessary road improvements. Development proposals will be expected to demonstrate how they reduce the need to travel and encourage the use of sustainable transport.</p> <p>To support the County Borough's transport network the following schemes are proposed:</p> <p>Walking and cycling</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Existing and proposed Active Travel Routes; <p>Bus and rail</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. New Merthyr Tydfil Central Bus Station; 3. South East Wales Metro (Merthyr Tydfil Valley line) improvements; 4. Safeguarding of land for a new metro station at the Hoover Strategic Regeneration Area; 5. Pentrebach Rail Station Park and Ride; 6. Safeguarding of the Cwm Bargoed rail line and rail head; 7. Safeguarding of land for the future rail line extension (Cwm Bargoed to Dowlais Top); and, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This policy safeguards land for development of the A 465 (T) Heads of the Valleys in close proximity to Rhondda Cynon Taf and the BBNP. • Potential impacts arising from the road, regeneration area improvements and bus station are increases in air pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy EnW4 seeks to minimise the impact of air pollution, amongst other things to an acceptable level. • Policies SW11 & SW12 seek to reduce the emissions through improved design, more sustainable transport modes which act in mitigation. • Policies En1 – 3 & 5 prevent 	<p>None</p>

<p>Highways</p> <p>8. Safeguarding land for the duelling of the A465 (T) Heads of the Valleys Road.</p> <p>Screening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposals are unlikely to result in loss, and/or have the potential to affect the loss and or degradation of marsh fritillary habitat (of relevance to the Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC and Blaen Cynon SAC.) The proposals included in this policy will not directly contribute to the degradation of the environmental conditions of the Brecon Beacons SAC, Coedydd Nedd a Mellt SAC, Cwm Cadlan SAC, and Llangorse Lake SAC. 	<p>generated by a growth in traffic movements on the road and potential effects on migrating species such as the marsh fritillary butterflies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policy supports public transport which reduces the potential for increased emissions from road traffic. 	<p>development where ecological and landscape impacts are unacceptable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans are in place to compensate for the loss of marsh fritillary habitat outside the area in RCT. 	
<p>Policy SW13: Protecting and Improving Local Community Facilities</p> <p>The provision of new and enhanced community facilities will be supported subject to satisfying other relevant LDP policies.</p> <p>The Council will protect and support the enhancement of the County Borough's existing community facilities.</p> <p>Development proposals that would result in a loss of an existing community facility will only be permitted where:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> alternative provision of at least equivalent value to the local community can be provided nearby, or it can be demonstrated that existing provision is inappropriate or surplus to the needs of the community and is no longer required, or It can be demonstrated there is no longer a viable community use for the facility. <p>Screening:</p> <p>The policy itself will not lead to development.</p>	<p>Seeks to control, rather than direct development and is concerned with protecting and improving local community facilities</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>None</p>

<p>Policy CW1: Historic Environment</p> <p>The integrity of our historic environment assets will be conserved and enhanced. Development proposals will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated they would preserve or enhance the architectural quality, character or the historic or cultural importance of our historic environment assets.</p> <p>Development within Urban Character Areas and Archaeologically Sensitive Areas must have regard to their special character and archaeological importance.</p> <p>Screening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy itself will not lead to development. • The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, and such enhancements are unlikely to affect a European site. 	<p>Seeks to control, rather than direct development and is concerned with conservation and preservation of the historic and cultural environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy SW10 seeks to protect open space of historic importance. • Policy SW11 requires new development to effectively integrate with the historic environment. • Policy EcW11 seeks to prevent unacceptable impacts on the historic environment from mineral extraction. 	<p>None</p>
<p>Policy CW2: Cyfarthfa Heritage Area</p> <p>The Cyfarthfa Heritage Area is identified on the proposals map to support the development of a heritage based visitor attraction to complement the offer of Cyfarthfa Castle and Park.</p> <p>Screening:</p> <p>The policy will steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.</p>	<p>This policy approach implicitly protects the historic environment.</p>	<p>Any development will have to satisfy other plan policies including Policies En1 – 3 & 5 which seek to prevent development where ecological and landscape impacts are unacceptable.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Policy EnW1: Nature Conservation and Ecosystem Resilience</p> <p>Development proposals will be required to promote the resilience of ecosystems. In particular, proposals will be required to maintain and enhance biodiversity interests unless it can be demonstrated that:</p>	<p>Policy is focused on nature conservation and ecosystem</p>	<p>The policy helps to promote mitigation or secure appropriate</p>	<p>None</p>

<p>1. The need for the development clearly outweighs the biodiversity value of the site; and</p> <p>2. The impacts of the development can be satisfactorily mitigated and acceptably managed through future management regimes.</p> <p>Screening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policy itself will not lead to development. The policy will steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas. The policy is intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity. The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, and such enhancements are unlikely to affect a European site. 	resilience and prevents development where ecological impacts are unacceptable.	management.	
<p>Policy EnW2: Nationally Protected Sites and Species</p> <p>Development likely to have an adverse effect either directly or indirectly on the conservation value of a Site of Special Scientific Interest will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no suitable alternative to the proposed development; and It can be demonstrated that the benefits from the development clearly outweigh the special interest of the site; and Appropriate compensatory measures are secured; or The proposal contributes to the protection, enhancement and positive management of the site. <p>Development proposals likely to affect protected species will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The population size, range, distribution and long-term prospects of the species will not be significantly adversely impacted; There is no suitable alternative to the proposed development; The benefits of the development clearly outweigh the adverse impacts on the protected species; and Appropriate conservation, enhancement, avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures are provided. <p>Screening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policy itself will not lead to development. The policy will steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas. The policy is intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity. The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, and such enhancements are unlikely to affect a European site. 	The Policy seeks to control, rather than direct development and is concerned with conservation and preservation of the natural environment.	The policy helps to promote mitigation or secure appropriate management and compensation.	None

<p>Policy EnW3: Regionally Important Geological Sites, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and Priority Habitats and Species</p> <p>Development proposals likely to have an adverse impact on Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, Regionally Important Geological Sites or Priority Habitats and Species will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The need for the development clearly outweighs the conservation value of the site; 2. Adverse impacts on nature conservation and geological features can be avoided; 3. Appropriate and proportionate mitigation and compensation measures can be provided; and 4. The development maintains and where possible enhances biodiversity and geodiversity interests. <p>Screening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy itself will not lead to development. • The policy will steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas. • The policy is intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity. • The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, and such enhancements are unlikely to affect a European site. 	<p>Seeks to control, rather than direct development and is concerned with conservation and preservation of the natural environment.</p>	<p>The policy helps to promote mitigation or secure appropriate compensation.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Policy EnW4: Environmental Protection</p> <p>Development proposals will be required to demonstrate they will not result in an unacceptable impact on people, residential amenity, property and / or the natural environment from either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution of land, surface water, ground water and the air; • Land contamination; • Hazardous substances; • Land stability; • Noise, vibration, dust, odour nuisance and light pollution; or • Any other identified risk to public health and safety. <p>Where impacts are identified the Council will require applicants to demonstrate that appropriate measures can be taken to minimise the impact identified to an acceptable level.</p> <p>Planning conditions may be imposed or legal obligation entered into, to secure any necessary mitigation and monitoring processes.</p>	<p>Seeks to control, rather than direct development (except in the case of flood zones) and is concerned with the impact of development on people, residential amenity and the natural environment.</p>	<p>The policy helps to minimise or promote mitigation of impact from air pollution.</p>	<p>None</p>

<p>In respect of the water environment, development proposals will be required to incorporate measures to improve water quality where opportunities exist. With regard to flood risk, new developments will be expected to avoid unnecessary flood risk and meet the requirements of TAN15. No highly vulnerable development will be permitted within Development Advice Map (DAM) zone C2. Development will only be permitted in areas at risk of flooding where it can be demonstrated that the site can comply with the justification and assessment requirements set out in TAN15.</p> <p>Screening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy itself will not lead to development. • The policy will steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas. • The policy is intended to protect the natural environment. • The policy seeks directly address the issue of the impact of new development on air pollution. 			
<p>Policy EnW5: Landscape Protection</p> <p>The following areas are designated as Special Landscape Areas (SLAs):</p> <p>SLA1: Nant Morlais & Cwm Taf Fechan; SLA2: Winchfawr; SLA3: Merthyr West Flank; SLA4: Pontygwaith and SLA5: Gelligaer and Taf Bargoed.</p> <p>Development proposals will be permitted where it can be satisfactorily demonstrated that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> It would not cause unacceptable harm to the character and quality of the landscape setting of the County Borough; Development within Special Landscape Areas are sensitive to their special characteristics; Development respects the local distinctiveness and historic character of the landscape; Development will safeguard local landscape character and landscape features, including views, which make a significant contribution to the character, history and setting of the locality; Development secures the enhancement of the character, appearance and quality of the landscape, through restoration, management or enhancement where possible; There is no satisfactory alternative and the benefits associated with the development can be demonstrated to outweigh the harm; and Where damage to local landscape character cannot be avoided appropriate mitigation has been secured. <p>Screening:</p>	<p>Seeks to control, rather than direct development and is concerned with protecting and enhancing the quality of the Landscape of the County Borough.</p>	<p>The policy helps to secure appropriate mitigation and management.</p>	<p>None</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The policy itself will not lead to development.• The policy will steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.• The policy is intended to protect the natural environment.																					
<p>Policy EcW1: Provision of Employment Land</p> <p>To support economic development, 30.65 hectares of employment land (for B1, B2, B8 uses) is allocated at the following locations:</p> <table><tr><th>Site</th><th>Gross area (Ha)</th><th>Net area (Ha)</th></tr><tr><td>1. Former Hoover Factory Car Park</td><td>1.5</td><td>1.5</td></tr><tr><td>2. Goatmill Road</td><td>16.98</td><td>14.75</td></tr><tr><td>3. Ffos-y-fran</td><td>18.85</td><td>11.3</td></tr><tr><td>4. Land South of Merthyr Tydfil Industrial Estate</td><td>3.1</td><td>3.1</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td></td><td>30.65 Ha</td></tr></table> <p>Screening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The policy concentrates development in existing urban areas, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas.• The policy will steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.• The allocations included in this policy will not directly contribute to the degradation of the environmental conditions of the Brecon Beacons SAC, Coedydd Nedd a Mellte SAC, Cwm Cadlan SAC, and Llangorse Lake SAC.	Site	Gross area (Ha)	Net area (Ha)	1. Former Hoover Factory Car Park	1.5	1.5	2. Goatmill Road	16.98	14.75	3. Ffos-y-fran	18.85	11.3	4. Land South of Merthyr Tydfil Industrial Estate	3.1	3.1	Total		30.65 Ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The policy directs development within and around existing urban areas with existing transport links.• There is potential for development to lead increase in harmful air pollutants, e.g. through increased traffic movements. The potential for significant impact is however, dependant on the respective site sensitivities and the cumulative impacts of other plans.• There are no SACs within proximity to these areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policies SW11 & 12 seek to reduce the emissions through improved design and more sustainable transport modes which will act in mitigation.• Policy EnW4 seeks to minimise the impact of air pollution, amongst other things to an acceptable level.• Policies En1 – 3 & 5 prevent development where ecological and landscape impacts are unacceptable.	None
Site	Gross area (Ha)	Net area (Ha)																			
1. Former Hoover Factory Car Park	1.5	1.5																			
2. Goatmill Road	16.98	14.75																			
3. Ffos-y-fran	18.85	11.3																			
4. Land South of Merthyr Tydfil Industrial Estate	3.1	3.1																			
Total		30.65 Ha																			
<p>Policy EcW2: Protecting employment sites</p> <p>In order to protect the employment function of the County Borough's business and employment sites, development will be permitted at Rhydyar Business Park where:-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seeks to control, rather than direct development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policies SW11 & 12 seek to reduce the emissions	None																		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it falls within Use Class B1; or • it provides an ancillary facility or service that supports the primary employment use. <p>At Pengarnddu, Pant Industrial Estate, Goatmill Road, EFI Industrial Estate, Cyfarthfa Industrial Estate, Triangle Business Park, Merthyr Tydfil Industrial Park, The Willows/ Abercanaid Industrial Estate, and at allocated employment sites, development will be permitted if:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is within Use Classes B1, B2 or B8; or • It provides an ancillary facility or service that supports the primary employment use, or • It is an acceptable complementary commercial service outside class B uses, or • It is an appropriate waste management facility compatible with existing industrial and commercial activities. <p>Development proposals for uses other than those stipulated and that would result in the loss of employment land / premises at the above sites will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposal would not lead to an unacceptable change in the nature of the employment site and where the existing use is inappropriate or the land / premises are surplus to the requirements of the employment market. At existing employment sites and premises outside the sites identified development proposals for non B-class uses that would result in the loss of the employment land / premises will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the existing use is inappropriate or the land / premises are surplus to the requirements of the employment market.</p> <p>Screening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy concentrates development in existing urban areas, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas. • The sites protected in this policy will not directly contribute to the degradation of the environmental conditions of the Brecon Beacons SAC, Coedydd Nedd a Mellt SAC, Cwm Cadlan SAC, and Llangorse Lake SAC. 	<p>and is concerned with protecting the existing employment sites in the County Borough.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no SACs within proximity to these areas. 	<p>through improved design and more sustainable transport modes which will act in mitigation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy EnW4 seeks to minimise the impact of air pollution, amongst other things to an acceptable level. • Policies En1 – 3 & 5 prevent development where ecological and landscape impacts are unacceptable. 	
<p>Policy EcW3: Retail Hierarchy- Supporting Retail Provision</p> <p>Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre is the favoured location for retail development, being situated at the head of a retail hierarchy and being followed by the local centres of Dowlais, Gurnos, Cefn Coed and Brecon Road/Morgantown, Troedyrhiw, Aberfan, Treharris and a new local centre forming part of the 'Hoover Strategic Regeneration Area'. Proposals for new and enhanced retail provision in all these centres will be permitted where they improve the vitality and viability of the centre(s) concerned.</p> <p>Outside the above centres, proposals will be subject to an assessment of need and a strict application of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy directs development within and around existing urban areas with existing transport links. • There are no SACs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies SW11 & 12 seek to reduce the emissions through improved design and more sustainable transport modes 	<p>None</p>

<p>the sequential test. Proposals will then only be permitted where they avoid causing harm to town/local centre vitality and viability.</p> <p><i>Screening:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy itself will not lead to development. • The policy concentrates development in existing urban areas, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas. 	<p>within proximity to these areas.</p>	<p>which act in mitigation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy EnW4 seeks to minimise the impact of air pollution, amongst other things to an acceptable level. • Policies En1 – 3 & 5 prevent development where ecological and landscape impacts are unacceptable. 	
<p>Policy EcW4: Retail Allocation</p> <p>To support the Hoover Strategic Regeneration Area land is allocated to provide 409sqm for local convenience retail.</p> <p><i>Screening:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy directs development within an existing urban area. • The policy concentrates development in an existing urban area, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas. • The allocation included in this policy will not have the potential to affect the loss and/or degradation marsh fritillary habitat (of relevance to the Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC and Blaen Cynon SAC.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy directs development within an urban area with existing transport links. • There are no SACs within proximity to these areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies SW11 & 12 seek to reduce the emissions through improved design and more sustainable transport modes which will act in mitigation. • Policy EnW4 seeks to minimise the impact of air pollution, amongst other things to an acceptable level. • Policies En1 – 3 & 5 prevent development where ecological 	<p>None</p>

		and landscape impacts are unacceptable.	
<p>Policy EcW5: Town and Local Centre Development</p> <p>Development enhancing the vitality and viability of the Town and Local Centres will be supported.</p> <p>Within the Town Centre Primary Shopping Area (PSA) the change of use of the ground floor from A1 to another 'A class' use will be permitted where;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 75% of the commercial uses at street level within the PSA remain A1, and; There are no more than two adjoining 'non-A1' units in any row of five units, provided there are not more than three 'non-A1' units in any 5 units. <p>Within the PSA and local centres, the change of use of the ground floor to 'non-retail' use classes will only be permitted where:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative provision of at least equivalent value to the local community can be provided nearby, or It can be demonstrated that existing provision is inappropriate or surplus to the needs of the community and is no longer required, or It is demonstrated through active and appropriate marketing that the existing use is no longer economically viable; and The proposal would not result in an over concentration of non-A1 uses that would be detrimental to the vitality, attractiveness and viability of the local centre. The proposal would not result in the creation of a dead window frontage; and The proposal would not have an unacceptable effect on the amenity of neighbouring uses. <p><i>Screening:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policy itself will not lead to development. The policy directs development to existing urban areas, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas. 	<p>Seeks to control, rather than direct development and is concerned with protecting and enhancing the viability and viability of the County Borough's Town and Local Centres.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies SW11 & 12 seek to reduce the emissions through improved design and more sustainable transport modes which act in mitigation. Policy EnW4 seeks to minimise the impact of air pollution, amongst other things to an acceptable level. 	<p>None</p>
<p>Policy EcW6: Out of Town Retailing areas</p> <p>Proposals for retail development on new sites or existing retail areas in out-of-town locations, including changes of use, extensions, the merger or subdivision of existing units or amendments to existing planning conditions relating to the sale of goods will only be permitted where:</p>	<p>Seeks to control, rather than direct development and is</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies SW11 & 12 seek to reduce the emissions 	<p>None</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It can be demonstrated that there is an additional need for the proposal which cannot be provided within an existing town or local retail centre, and • The proposal would not either individually or cumulatively with other existing or consented developments have an unacceptable impact on the trade, turnover, vitality and viability of the town or local centres. <p>Screening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy itself will not lead to development. • The policy directs development to existing urban areas, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas. 	<p>concerned with protecting the viability and viability of the County Borough's Town and Local Centres</p>	<p>through improved design and more sustainable transport modes which act in mitigation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy EnW4 seeks to minimise the impact of air pollution, amongst other things to an acceptable level. 	
<p>LDP Policy EcW7: Tourism, Leisure and Recreation Development</p> <p>Tourism, leisure and recreation development within settlement boundaries is generally supported, particularly where they aid the revitalisation and regeneration of the Town and Local Centres.</p> <p>Low-impact tourism, leisure and recreation development outside settlement boundaries will be favoured provided the need for a 'countryside location' is fully justified, it minimises environmental impacts and is of an appropriate scale to its surroundings.</p> <p>Screening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy itself will not lead to development. • The policy generally directs development towards existing urban areas, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy generally directs development within an urban area with existing transport links. • The policy is for limited small scale growth that will not generate significant increases in traffic outside settlements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy SW4 seeks to restrict 'countryside development' • Policies SW11 & 12 seek to reduce the emissions through improved design and more sustainable transport modes which act in mitigation. • Policy EnW4 seeks to minimise the impact of air pollution, amongst other things to an acceptable level. • Policies En1 – 3 & 5 prevent development 	<p>None</p>

		where ecological and landscape impacts are unacceptable.	
<p>LDP Policy EcW8: Renewable Energy</p> <p>We will support the use of renewable energy as a tangible means of reducing our local carbon footprint, where appropriate to do so. Development proposals for renewable energy will be permitted where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They do not have an unacceptable landscape and visual impact, including on the setting of the Brecon Beacons National Park. • There would be no unacceptable cumulative impacts in combination with existing or consented development. • Satisfactory mitigation can be put in place to minimise the impacts of the renewable energy proposal and its associated infrastructure. • Proposals make provision for the appropriate restoration and after-care of the land for its beneficial future re-use. <p>Within the Local Search Areas (LSA), proposals for solar energy generation will be permitted subject to the above criteria. Proposals for other development within these areas will only be permitted where they can demonstrate that they would not unacceptably prejudice the renewable energy generation potential of the LSA.</p> <p><i>Screening:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposals included in this policy are unlikely to result in loss, and/or have the potential to affect the loss and or degradation of marsh fritillary habitat (of relevance to the Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC and Blaen Cynon SAC.) • The proposals included in this policy will not directly contribute to the degradation of the environmental conditions of the Brecon Beacons SAC, Coedydd Nedd a Mellte SAC, Cwm Cadlan SAC, and Llangorse Lake SAC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks to control, rather than direct renewable energy development and is concerned with protecting the environment. • The policy also directs solar energy development to appropriate areas. • There are no SACs within proximity to these areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy SW4 seeks to restrict 'countryside development'. • Policy EnW4 seeks to minimise the impact of air pollution, amongst other things to an acceptable level. • Policies En1 – 3 & 5 prevent development where ecological and landscape impacts are unacceptable. 	None
<p>LDP Policy EcW9: District Heating</p> <p>The use of combined heat and power (CHP), combined cooling, heat and power (CCHP) and district heating will be encouraged.</p> <p>Within the Heat Priority Areas listed below, major development will be expected to incorporate, where viable and technically feasible, infrastructure for district heating and to connect to existing systems where available. Developers should submit an energy strategy along with their application. The following are</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy directs development within and around existing urban areas with existing transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies SW11 & 12 seek to reduce the emissions through improved design and more sustainable 	None

<p>identified as Heat Priority Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Heartland • Goat Mill Road • Hoover Strategic Regeneration Area <p>Screening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy itself will not lead to development. • The policy generally directs development towards existing urban areas, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas. 	<p>links.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no SACs within proximity to these areas. 	<p>transport modes which act in mitigation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy EnW4 seeks to minimise the impact of air pollution, amongst other things to an acceptable level. • Policies En1 – 3 & 5 prevent development where ecological and landscape impacts are unacceptable. 	
<p>LDP Policy EcW10: Sustainably Supplying Minerals</p> <p>The Plan will contribute to meeting society's need for a continuous and secure supply of minerals by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding mineral resources from permanent development which would sterilise them or hinder their extraction; • Maintaining a minimum 10 year land bank of permitted aggregate reserves; • Favouring proposals which promote the sustainable use of minerals and encourage the use of secondary and recycled resources; and by, • Safeguarding the mineral freight railway facilities at Cwm Bargoed. <p>Screening:</p> <p>The policy itself will not lead to development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This policy approach implicitly safeguards mineral resources and rail facilities at Cwm Bargoed and does not involve development. 	<p>N/A</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>LDP Policy EcW11: Minerals Development</p>			

<p>Proposals for mineral extraction and associated development will be allowed where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a proven national, regional or local need for the mineral which cannot be met from existing sources or from secondary or recycled material; • The potential for minerals to be transported by means other than road has been adequately assessed; • They include acceptable proposals for progressive and final restoration, aftercare and beneficial after-use; • They satisfy other relevant policies of the Plan; and • They maximise opportunities to re-use and recycle mineral waste. <p>The production and use of alternative and recycled materials will be supported as substitutes for naturally occurring aggregates.</p> <p><i>Screening:</i></p> <p>The policy will steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks to control, rather than direct development and seeks to ensure that minerals development only takes place where appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy SW4 seeks to restrict 'countryside development' • Policy EnW4 seeks to minimise the impact of air pollution, amongst other things to an acceptable level. • Policies En1 – 3 & 5 prevent development where ecological and landscape impacts are unacceptable. 	None
<p>LDP Policy EcW12: Minerals Buffer Zones</p> <p>Buffer Zones have been established around permitted mineral operations in the County Borough. Within these zones, proposals for new development will only be allowed where they:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Would not unacceptably affect operations within the mineral site; and 2. Would not be unacceptably affected by operations within the mineral site. <p><i>Screening:</i></p> <p>The policy itself will not lead to development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks to direct development away from mineral sites and ensure that there is no conflict between active mineral operations and new development proposals. 	N/A	None
<p>LDP Policy EcW13: Minerals Safeguarding</p> <p>Known mineral resource of coal, sandstone, sand and gravel, and limestone are safeguarded as shown on the proposals map.</p> <p>New development will only be permitted in an area of known mineral resource where it has first been</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This policy approach implicitly safeguards 	N/A	None

<p>demonstrated that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any reserves of minerals can be economically extracted prior to the commencement of development; or 2. Prior extraction would have an unacceptable impact on environmental or amenity considerations; or 3. The resource in question is of poor quality / quantity; or 4. The development would have no significant impact on the possible future working of the resource by reason of its nature, location or size. <p>Screening:</p> <p>The policy itself will not lead to development.</p>	mineral resources.		
<p>LDP Policy EcW14: Waste Facilities</p> <p>Waste treatment facilities will only be permitted where there is an identified need, where they are situated in locations where they would not have a significant adverse effect on amenity or the environment, accord with the waste hierarchy, the proximity principle and provide comprehensive restoration and aftercare of the land for a beneficial re-use. Proposals for new facilities should provide a Waste Planning Assessment. The following locations are identified as preferred areas of search for waste management facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pengarnddu Industrial Estate • Pant Industrial Estate • Goatmill Road • Merthyr Tydfil Industrial Park • Land adjoining the A4060, Ffos-Y-Fran <p>Land at Trecatti is safeguarded for continued necessary landfill of unavoidable residual wastes.</p> <p>Screening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy concentrates development in existing urban areas, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas. • The policy will steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy directs development within and around existing urban areas with existing transport links. • There are no SACs within proximity to these areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies SW11 & 12 seek to reduce the emissions through improved design and more sustainable transport modes which act in mitigation. • Policy EnW4 seeks to minimise the impact of air pollution, amongst other things to an acceptable level. • Policies En1 – 3 & 5 prevent development where ecological and landscape impacts are unacceptable. 	None

7. CONCLUSION

7.1 As concluded in the HRA screening of the PS the revised screening of the Deposit Plan, now incorporating AA, has taken on board the following key issues:

- ✿ To avoid the loss / degradation of marsh fritillary habitat, of relevance to the Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC and Blaen Cynon SAC and
- ✿ Emissions (air quality) impacts arising from new industrial development on protected and allocated industrial sites which may contribute to the degradation of the environmental conditions of Brecon Beacons SAC, Coedydd Nedd a Mellte SAC, Cwm Cadlan SAC, and Llangorse Lake SAC.

7.2 For each of the six relevant Natura 2000 sites within a 15km radius of the County Borough, likely to be affected by the above, the screening process was re-run to ensure any adverse effects arising from specific LDP proposals and allocations either 'alone' or 'in combination' with other proposals, plans and projects (see tables 3 and 4) on the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites, are avoided.

7.3 The conclusion of the re-run of screening for the Deposit Plan incorporating AA is shown in Table 5 below.

TABLE 5: LDP HRA Screening Summary				
		Preferred Strategy Stage Conclusions	Deposit Plan Stage Initial Conclusions	Deposit Plan AA Conclusions
Relevant Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	Key Issue	AA required alone or in combination for Deposit LDP stage? x No ✓ Yes ? Uncertain	AA required alone or in combination for Deposit LDP? x No ✓ Yes ? Uncertain	Requirement to proceed to stage 3? x No ✓ Yes
Aberbargoed Grasslands	Loss and degradation of Marsh fritillary butterfly habitats	?	✓	x
Blaen Cynon	Loss and degradation of Marsh fritillary butterfly habitats	?	✓	x
Brecon Beacons	Impact of emissions (air pollution)	?	✓	x
Coedydd Nedd a Mellte	Impact of emissions (air pollution)	?	✓	x
Cwm Cadlan	Impact of emissions (air pollution)	?	✓	x
Llangorse Lake Llyn Syfaddan	Impact of emissions (air pollution)	?	✓	x

APPENDIX 1: CONSIDERATION OF RELEVANT NATURA 2000 SITES IN LDP SCREENING ASSESSMENTS

SAC NAME	RELEVANT LDP SCREENING ASSESSMENT
Aberbargoed Grasslands	Caerphilly - Detailed screening assessment. The most significant potential 'in-combination' impact identified is air pollution arising from the cumulative effects of development (housing, infrastructure, major transport routes) in the region (Page 18 of 257) (Efusio, 2008).
Blaen Cynon	RCT - It is assessed that the LDP will not have LSEs on Blaen Cynon SAC either alone or in-combination in regards to airborne pollution. There is potential for development proposed in the LDP (Policy NSA 8 & Policy NSA 14) (Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, 2011) and the Trunk Road Forward Programme to have significant effects on Blaen Cynon SAC through changes to the hydrological regime in management units 2, 3, 5 and 6. If the avoidance and mitigation measures proposed earlier in this section (paragraphs 4.17-4.18) (Efusio, HABITATS REGULATIONS (APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT) REPORT, 2010) are effectively implemented. The Deposit Draft Plan is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the Blaen Cynon SAC either alone or in-combination. BBNPA - For this strategic plan level HRA to conclude that the Deposit LDP would not have likely significant effects (LSEs) on the Blaen Cynon SAC as a result of atmospheric pollution either alone or in combination the recommended policy safeguard and monitoring requirements must be incorporated into the Deposit LDP. It is assessed that development would not have LSEs on the Blaen Cynon SAC as a result of habitat loss or fragmentation either alone or in combination if the recommended policy safeguard is incorporated into the Deposit LDP.
Brecon Beacons	BBNPA - Scoped out.
Cardiff Beech Woods	Cardiff - Scoped in. Recreational pressure, atmospheric pollution, mineral extraction and related activities, development, changes to local hydrology (Cardiff Council, 2012). RCT - The HRA Screening assessed that there is also potential for significant impact on the Cardiff Beech Woods SAC, in combination with development proposed in Cardiff. Given the location of the proposed development within RCT's Deposit. Draft Plan and the availability of alternative recreation space, the Deposit Draft Plan is not likely to have significant effects on Cardiff Beech Woods SAC through increased recreational activity either alone or in-combination. It is not likely that RCT's LDP will have significant effects either alone or in-combination with Cardiff's LDP on the Cardiff Beech Woods SAC in relation to airborne pollution (Efusio, HABITATS REGULATIONS (APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT) REPORT, 2010).
Coedydd Nedd a Mellt	RCT - Scoped out (Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, 2011). BBNPA - Scoped out.
Cwm Cadlan	RCT - Scoped out (Efusio, HABITATS REGULATIONS (APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT) REPORT, 2010).
Cwm Clydach Woodlands / Coedydd Cwm Clydach	Monmouthshire - (Efusio, Habitats Regulations Assessment (Appropriate Assessment) Addendum Report, 2014). It is assessed that the Deposit LDP in combination with development proposed in surrounding areas will not have adverse effects on the integrity of European sites through increased atmospheric pollution (Efusio, Habitats Regulations Assessment (Appropriate Assessment) Addendum Report, 2014).
Llangorse Lake / Llyn Syfaddan	BBNPA - It is assessed that the Deposit LDP alone will not have LSEs on Llangorse Lake SAC through increased disturbance; therefore the Stage 1 screening assessment is supported. The Deposit LDP will not have likely significant in combination effects on Llangorse Lake SAC through increased disturbance. It is assessed that the Deposit LDP will not have likely significant effects either alone or in combination on Llangorse Lake SAC through reduced water quality if the recommended policy safeguards are incorporated into the Plan.
River Usk / Afon Wysg	BBNPA - It is assessed that the Deposit LDP alone would not have LSEs on the River Usk SAC through increased disturbance if the recommended policy safeguard is incorporated into the Plan. It is assessed that the Deposit LDP would not have LSE on the River Usk SAC either alone or in combination through reduced water quality if the recommended policy safeguards and monitoring are incorporated into the Plan. It is assessed that the Deposit LDP would not have LSE on the River Usk SAC either alone or in combination through reduced water levels if the recommended policy safeguard is incorporated into the Plan.
Usk Bat Sites / Safleodd Ystlumod Wysg	BBNPA / Monmouthshire/ Powys - Scoped in. BBNPA - It is assessed that the Deposit LDP alone will not have LSEs on the Usk Bat Sites SAC as a result of increased disturbance and habitat loss and fragmentation if the recommended policy safeguards are incorporated into the Plan. Assessed that the Deposit LDP would not have likely significant in combination effects on the USK Bat Sites SAC through increased disturbance and habitat loss and fragmentation if the recommended policy safeguards are incorporated into the Plan.

APPENDIX 2: RELEVANT QUALIFYING SPECIES MIGRATION

Species	Suggested buffer	Source material supporting buffer distance	Particular vulnerabilities for species	Associated Natura 2000 sites
Marsh fritillary butterfly	2km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmarthenshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan. • Butterfly Conservation¹². • Cefn Cribwr Grasslands¹³. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased fragmentation and isolation of habitats. • Inappropriate management of sites including changes such as inappropriate mowing and scrub cutting. • In grazing stock and practice leading to loss of food plant (devil's bit scabious <i>Succisa pratensis</i>) overgrazing, burning and mowing. • Adults tend to be sedentary and remain in a series of linked metapopulations, forming numerous temporary sub-populations, which frequently die out and re-colonise. Where unable to do this, populations do not seem able to persist in habitat fragments. It is therefore essential to conserve a cluster of sites in close proximity. • Afforestation and development on habitats. • Quality and quantity of groundwater. • Reduced and impeded drainage. • Density and distribution of larval webs. • Extent and quality of marshy grassland. • Presence of shelter belts which the butterflies require. • Parasite, the butterflies can be paralysed by the braconid wasp. 	Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC & Blaen Cynon SAC
	<p>Annex I Habitats primary reason for selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) <p>http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/habitat.asp?FeatureIntCode=H6410</p> <p>Annex II Species qualifying feature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Euphydryas</i> (<i>Eurodryas</i>, <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i> <p>http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/species.asp?FeatureIntCode=S1065</p>			

¹² Marsh fritillary: https://butterfly-conservation.org/sites/default/files/marsh_fritillary-psf.pdf

¹³ Cefn Cribwr Grasslands: <https://www.naturalresources.wales/media/671199/Cefn%20Cribwr%20Core%20SAC%20plan%20290108%20English.pdf>

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