

Appendix 3: Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening

Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Table: Core Strategies				
Site	THAMES ESTUARY & MARSHES SPA/RAMSAR Unitary Authorities: Kent, Essex Area Ramsar (ha): 5588.59 Area SPA (ha): 4838.94			
Potential Impacts from Core Strategies	Risk of Significant Effect?	Potential Impacts – other Plans and Programmes	Risk from ‘In Combination’ Effects?	AA Required
<p>Development of new homes in Gravesham and Dartford may also result in increased recreational pressure. The development may also result in direct loss of valuable off-site foraging habitat for designated species.</p> <p>The aforementioned development, coupled with flood defence works may also contribute to coastal squeeze and thus the loss of habitat.</p> <p>Potential increase in abstraction, however EA indicated that alternative abstraction points are available ensuring that damaging levels of abstraction within the Thames Estuary and Marshes catchment is unlikely to be permitted. (Reservoir infrastructure planned to meet development needs in Dartford).</p> <p>On Environment Agency advice it is not considered that the development of new homes and increased</p>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thames Estuary 2100 Project ▪ The Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East 2006-2026 ▪ Housing development under the South East Plan and associated increased car use may lead to increased atmospheric pollution and nitrogen enrichment, resulting in changes to the habitats on which the species of European Importance depend. ▪ Waterfronts and Waterway in Kent Thameside - A Strategic Agenda 2005 ▪ Any port development 	Yes	Yes

<p>volumes of effluent disposal will exacerbate high nutrient levels leading to adverse effects on sites. ¹</p> <p>Potential surface and groundwater contamination during the construction process and as a result of new, high levels of development.</p> <p>Unknown impact on grazing levels due to new development.</p> <p>Potential impacts on air quality (from building and transport activity increases associated with development) however, unlikely that assessment would be able to link changes to air quality at sites with this development work – would require a regional approach.</p>		<p>and subsequent dredging within the Plan area may in turn affect sediment supply to the site resulting in erosion. Higher risk of incidental pollution from potentially higher volumes of ships.</p>		
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¹ Scott Wilson & Levett-Therivel 2006, *Appropriate Assessment of the Draft South East Plan*

Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Table: Core Strategies				
Site	NORTH DOWNS WOODLAND SAC Unitary Authorities: Kent, Medway Area (ha): 287.58			
Potential Impacts from Core Strategies	Risk of Significant Effect?	Potential Impacts – other Plans and Programmes	Risk from ‘In Combination’ Effects?	AA Required
<p>Development of new homes and business floorspace in Dartford and Gravesham and consequent increase in car use may cause air pollution. This site has some vulnerability to reduced air quality. However, there are no direct road links (other than existing) planned between the development sites and this site. Changes to air quality would need to be considered at a regional level and the impacts of the core strategy alone are not considered significant.</p> <p>The woodlands themselves are not considered likely to be affected by recreational activity due to their steep and inaccessible nature. However, development of new homes close to the site could lead to increased recreational pressure on the grassland component of this site. This site is also already subject to considerable pressure due to use of off-road vehicles and fly tipping.²</p> <p>Given the focus of development away from this site (north of the A2 road) and the Core Strategies intent to develop the Green Grid network (providing green space within and near new developments) the potential impact of Core</p>	<p>No Risk of direct impacts from the Core Strategies are unlikely due to the distance from the designated site and policies proposed which will act as mitigation.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>

² Scott Wilson & Levett-Therivel 2006, *Appropriate Assessment of the Draft South East Plan*

<p>Strategy development on this site is not considered significant.</p> <p>Unknown impact on grazing levels due to new development.</p>				
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Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Table: Core Strategies				
Site	MEDWAY ESTUARY & MARSHES Unitary Authorities: Kent Area Ramsar (ha): 4969.74 Area SPA (ha): 4684.36			
Potential Impacts from Core Strategies	Risk of Significant Effect?	Potential Impacts – other Plans and Programmes	Risk from ‘In Combination’ Effects?	AA Required
<p>Development of new homes in Gravesham and Dartford may result in, increased pollution (atmospheric and water based) as well as greater recreational pressures. Additional recreational pressure is potentially significant given that this site is already under extensive recreational pressures (from waterborne users in addition to walkers, microlight aircraft etc) that are currently difficult to manage.</p> <p>On Environment Agency advice (consulted during the AA of the South East Plan) it is not considered that the development of new homes and increased volumes of effluent disposal will exacerbate high nutrient levels leading to adverse effects on sites. ³</p> <p>Potential surface and groundwater contamination during the construction process and as a result of new, high levels of development.</p>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Thames Estuary 2100 Project ■ The Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East 2006-2026 ■ Housing development under the South East Plan and associated increased car use may lead to increased atmospheric pollution and nitrogen enrichment, resulting in changes to the habitats on which the species of European Importance depend. ■ Any port development and subsequent dredging within the Plan area may in turn affect sediment supply to the site resulting in erosion. Higher risk of incidental pollution from potentially higher volumes of ships 	Yes	Yes

³ Scott Wilson & Levett-Therivel 2006, *Appropriate Assessment of the Draft South East Plan*

Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Table: Core Strategies				
Site	BENFLEET & SOUTHEND MARSHES SPA/RAMSAR Unitary Authorities: Essex Area Ramsar (ha): 2251.31 Area SPA (ha): 2251.31			
Potential Impacts from Core Strategies	Risk of Significant Effect?	Potential Impacts – other Plans and Programmes	Risk from 'In Combination' Effects?	AA Required
<p>Development of new homes in Gravesham and Dartford may also result in increased recreational pressure. However, given the relative distance of this site from the new developments in Dartford and Gravesham any contribution is likely to be minor.</p> <p>Development of new homes and business floorspace in Dartford and Gravesham may result in increased volumes of effluent disposal into the estuary. Some of has the potential, if poorly managed, to reach the Benfleet and Southend Marshes.</p> <p>This could lead to a decline in water quality, principally due to increased nutrient inputs. However, given the distance of the site from the points of discharge within the South East, any contribution is likely to be minor. ⁴</p> <p>Potential impacts on air quality (from building and</p>	<p>Risk of direct impacts from the Core Strategies unlikely due to the distance from and limited access to the designated site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thames Estuary 2100 Project ▪ The Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East 2006-2026 ▪ Housing development under the South East Plan and associated increased car use may lead to increased atmospheric pollution and nitrogen enrichment, resulting in changes to the habitats on which the species of European Importance depend. ▪ Any port development and subsequent dredging within the Plan area may in turn affect sediment supply to the site resulting in 	<p>Other plans and programmes outwith the Core Strategies areas are more likely to have an impact on site integrity.</p>	<p>No</p>

⁴ Scott Wilson & Levett-Therivel 2006, *Appropriate Assessment of the Draft South East Plan*

<p>transport activity increases associated with development) however, unlikely that assessment would be able to link changes to air quality at sites with this development work – would require a regional approach.</p>		<p>erosion. Higher risk of incidental pollution from potentially higher volumes of ships.</p>		
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