

Habitat Regulations Assessment Extract of Policy C4 BAE Systems, Samlesbury

Introduction

This Habitat Regulations Assessment has been carried out in accordance with the Habitat Regulations Assessment of the Preferred Options Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD. For full details see the main report.

Assessment of Preferred Policy

Brief description of the policy:

Policy C4 BAE Systems, Samlesbury

This policy sets out criteria for the continued development of the BAE Systems site in Samlesbury and what type of development and protection will be appropriate and infrastructure measures that will need to be provided through the Local Development Order. The policy advocates Green Belt release as an exceptional circumstance due to the national designation of the Enterprise Zone on this site.

Methodology

A methodology has been developed to assess whether likely significant effects could arise for the Natura 2000 sites, as a result of the preferred development management policies and proposed sites in the Site Allocations document, by identifying a series of potential impacts and a number of Natura 2000 sites within South Ribble and up to 15km away. The same methodology identified within the main report has been used for this additional assessment. Namely, that Policy C4 BAE Systems, Samlesbury be assessed against potential impacts and pathways, identified within the main report and against the Natura 2000 sites identified within the main report.

The assessment below follows the methodology set out in the main report and details the potential impacts, if any pathways exists, Natura 2000 sites that could be affected and a screening conclusion.

Proposed Development Management Policy	Potential Impacts	Potential Pathways	Sites likely to be affected	Screening Conclusion
<p>Policy C4 BAE Systems, Samlesbury</p>	<p>Direct Development</p> <p>Air Quality through construction development on the site and also potentially for employment uses within the site over the plan period.</p> <p>Water Supply – no impact as water for South Ribble is not taken from the Central Lancashire area.</p> <p>Hydrology – potentially through development and the loss of permeable surfaces impacts on the water table could be realised.</p> <p>Water Quality – through development and ongoing uses there is the potential for the river network to be contaminated and this having an effect on the Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Habitat/ Species Disturbance is possible due to the Green Belt release proposed through the policy, however Green Belt is not always of the highest ecological quality and a pathway between this site and any Natura 2000 sites.</p>	<p>Due to the prevailing south westerly wind there is no pathway between this site and the Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Due to the location of this site and the location of the Natura 2000 site, the distance from the river network and the supply of permeable surfaces around this proposed site, there are no pathways to affect the Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Due to the location of the site this policy is proposing there is no pathway to the river network and therefore</p> <p>Whilst there may be some localised biodiversity loss through this development, there is no pathway between this site and the Natura 2000 sites and therefore no effects on European designated biodiversity sites.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Screen this policy out at this stage as although it is possible that impacts could occur as a result of the development this policy is proposing, there are no pathways to the Natura 2000 sites where these impacts could be realised.</p>

Proposed Development Management Policy	Potential Impacts	Potential Pathways	Sites likely to be affected	Screening Conclusion
	Recreational/ visitor pressure is unlikely as the proposed use is for an employment use and will not be attracting more people to the borough for recreational purposes. Also as the site is surrounded by Green Belt there are recreational opportunities within the vicinity of the site this policy is proposing.	N/A		

In conclusion, the Habitat Regulations Assessment for this policy has ruled that there are no significant effects for the Natura 2000 sites as a result of this proposed policy, as this has been screened out in 'green' above. The Habitat Regulations assessment process will need to be undertaken at the next stage of the development plan process and updated to ensure when any amendments are made to the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD that these are assessed through the HRA process.