

Stages of Habitats Regulations Assessment

Task 1: Likely significant effects

- Is the plan likely to have a significant effect on a European site? Go to Task 2
- Use of Precautionary Principle – if there is doubt over the effects go to Task 2

Produce report to illustrate findings of Task 1

- If evidence shows the plan will have no significant effects on a European site then there is no need to progress to the next task.

Task 2: Appropriate Assessment and ascertaining the effect on site integrity

- How will the plan impact on the European site's conservation objectives and site integrity? Go to Task 3 to highlight possible mitigation measures or alternative plan options

Produce report to illustrate findings of Task 2

- If evidence shows there will be no effects on the European site's conservation objectives or integrity there is no need to progress to the next task and the plan may proceed to the next DPD stage.

Task 3: Mitigation Measures and Alternative Solutions

- Illustrate possible mitigation measures or alternative plan options to overcome effects drawn out of Task 2. These measures or alternative options will need to be assessed again. Go back to Task 1.

Produce report to illustrate findings of Task 3

OR

- If there are no alternative plan options and the plan must be pursued for 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest', compensatory measures must be in place to offset negative impacts.

* This will only be allowed in very exceptional circumstances, as the aim of appropriate assessment is to ensure that protection of European sites is part of the planning process.

Produce report to illustrate 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' and proposed compensatory measures

