

### Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) Screening Matrix

Application name and reference number:

14/00328/EIA

Bank House Poultry  
Yockleton  
Shropshire

Erection of two poultry sheds; associated hard standing; feed bins; dirty water storage tank and landscaping works

Date of completion for the HRA screening matrix:

15<sup>th</sup> April 2014

HRA screening matrix completed by:

Nicola Stone  
Assistant Biodiversity Officer  
01743-252556

**Table 1: Details of project or plan**

Name of plan or project	<p>14/00328/EIA Bank House Poultry Yockleton Shropshire Erection of two poultry sheds; associated hard standing; feed bins; dirty water storage tank and landscaping works</p> <p><b>HRA is based on a maximum number of 180,000 animal places at Bank House Poultry. If the maximum count is over 180,000 further assessment is required.</b></p>
Name and description of Natura 2000 site	<p>The Stiperstones and the Hollies SAC (601.46ha) represents a Nationally important area of dry heath and also hosts a significant presence of sessile oak woodlands with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i>.</p> <p>Annex I Habitats that are a primary reason for selection of site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European dry heaths</li> </ul> <p>Annex I Habitats present as a qualifying feature but not a primary reason for selection of site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles</li> </ul>
Description of the plan or project	<p>Erection of two additional poultry sheds; associated hard standing; feed bins; dirty water storage tank and landscaping works.</p> <p><b>Total maximum number of animal places at Bank House Poultry –</b></p>

	<b>180,000.</b>
Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (provide details)?	No
Are there any other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the site (provide details)?	Not applicable – Natural England and Environment Agency have advised Shropshire Council that an in-combination effects test is not required where all process contributions screen out below the thresholds agreed between NE and EA nationally.

### Statement

Environment Agency have provided the AST screening sheet from the modelling work carried out based on 180,000 animal places. The following summarises the results;

#### **The Stiperstones and The Hollies SAC:**

Critical Load/level –  $1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Process contribution as a % of the critical load/level – 1%

Relevant EA/NE threshold – 4%

#### **River Severn at Montford SSSI:**

Critical Load/level –  $1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Process contribution as a % of the critical load/level – 2.6%

Relevant EA/NE threshold – 20%

#### **Earl's Hill and Habberley Valley SSSI:**

Critical Load/level –  $1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Process contribution as a % of the critical load/level – 1.9%

Relevant EA/NE threshold – 20%

#### **Cardeston Quarry Local Wildlife Site:**

Critical Load/level –  $1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Process contribution as a % of the critical load/level – 7.3%

Relevant EA/NE threshold – 50%

#### **Broxtton Wood Ancient Woodland:**

Critical Load/level –  $1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Process contribution as a % of the critical load/level – 7.4%

Relevant EA/NE threshold – 50%

#### **Unnamed Wood at SJ40011139:**

Critical Load/level –  $1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Process contribution as a % of the critical load/level – 21.1%

Relevant EA/NE threshold – 50%

All emissions of ammonia screen out below the relevant EA/NE thresholds.

#### **The Significance test**

There is no likely significant effect from the proposed development under planning application 14/00328/EIA at Yockleton, Shrewsbury, Shropshire for the Erection of two poultry sheds; associated hard standing; feed bins; dirty water storage tank and landscaping works on the European Designated Site at The Stiperstones and The Hollies SAC.

#### **The Integrity test**

There is no likely effect on the integrity of the European Designated Site at The Stiperstones and The Hollies SAC from the proposed development under planning application 14/00328/EIA at Yockleton, Shrewsbury, Shropshire for the Erection of two poultry sheds; associated hard standing; feed bins; dirty water storage tank and landscaping works.

#### **Conclusions**

There is no legal barrier under the Habitat Regulation Assessment process to planning permission being granted in this case.

### **Guidance on completing the HRA Screening Matrix**

#### **The Habitat Regulation Assessment process**

Essentially, there are two 'tests' incorporated into the procedures of Regulation 61 of the Habitats Regulations, one known as the 'significance test' and the other known as the 'integrity test' which must both be satisfied before a competent authority (such as a Local Planning Authority) may legally grant a permission.

The first test (the significance test) is addressed by Regulation 61, part 1:

61. (1) A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for a plan or project which –

- (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 that site,
- must make an appropriate assessment of the implications for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives.

The second test (the integrity test) is addressed by Regulation 61, part 5:

61. (5) In light of the conclusions of the assessment, and subject to regulation 62 (consideration of overriding public interest), the competent authority may agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site or the European offshore marine site (as the case may be).

In this context 'likely' means "probably", or "it well might happen", not merely that it is a fanciful possibility. 'Significant' means not trivial or inconsequential but an effect that is noteworthy – Natural England guidance on The Habitat Regulation Assessment of Local Development Documents (Revised Draft 2009).

**Habitat Regulation Assessment Outcomes**

**A Local Planning Authority can only legally grant planning permission if it is established that the proposed plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the European Site.**

**If it is not possible to establish this beyond reasonable scientific doubt then planning permission cannot legally be granted.**

**Duty of the Local Planning Authority**

It is the duty of the planning case officer, the committee considering the application and the Local Planning Authority as a whole to fully engage with the Habitats Regulation Assessment process, to have regard to the response of Natural England and to determine, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, the outcome of the 'significance' test and the 'integrity' test before making a planning decision.