



Bradford Metropolitan District Council Waste Management DPD

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Addendum Report

Prepared for:
Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Prepared by:
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Exeter, UK

Date:
February 2013

Project or Issue Number:
UK1817516

Contract No:	UK1817516
Issue:	1
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Date:	February 2013

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Version Control Record				
Issue	Description of Status	Date	Reviewer Initials	Author Initials
A	Draft	27/02/13		VP
1	Draft to client	27/03/13	LV	VP

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1 Background

1.1 This Report

This report presents an update to the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) of the Bradford Waste Management Development Plan Document (DPD). The Publication Draft of the Bradford Waste Management DPD has been prepared since the last HRA assessment was undertaken between June and October 2012. The Publication Draft of the Bradford Waste Management DPD has therefore been screened for Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) and the plan has been checked to identify whether recommended impact avoidance measures identified through the Appropriate Assessment (AA) (see report reference below) have been incorporated into the plan wording.

The report updates and should be read in conjunction with, the following documents:

- Bradford Metropolitan District Council Core Strategy and Waste Management DPD Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment (ENVIRON UK Ltd, June 2012); and
- Bradford Metropolitan District Council Waste Management DPD Habitats Regulations Assessment (ENVIRON UK Ltd, November 2012).

1.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment

HRA is required under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) for any proposed plan or project which may have a significant effect on one or more European sites. The purpose of HRA is to determine whether or not significant effects are likely and to suggest ways in which they could be avoided.

European designated sites are Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). National planning policy also recommends that Ramsar sites should be afforded the same level of consideration as SPAs and SACs. HRA relates specifically to the reasons why sites have been identified as European sites (qualifying interests).

European sites are often formed of several component Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The first stage of HRA is screening. Screening involves identifying whether a plan or project could have any LSEs on any European designated sites.

1.3 Findings of the Previous HRA Screening Exercise

The Bradford Waste Management DPD Preferred Approach (January 2011) and the Revised Chapter 5 (October 2011) were screened and assessed as part of an HRA during 2012. The HRA screening exercise was undertaken between March and May 2012, at the same time that the Bradford Metropolitan District Council Strategy was screened. The results of both exercises were reported within *Bradford Metropolitan District Council Core Strategy and Waste Management DPD Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment* (ENVIRON UK Ltd, June 2012). This addendum report relates only to the Bradford Waste Management DPD.

The HRA screening of the Bradford Waste Management DPD identified LSEs on the following European designated sites from an increase in emissions to air from the allocation of 'Site 78 – Aire Valley Road, Worth Village Keighley' for waste management use (which could include combustion processes):

- South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA;

- South Pennine Moors SAC;
- North Pennine Moors SPA; and
- North Pennine Moors SAC.

An in-combination effect was also identified in relation to increased air pollution from population and traffic increases in neighbouring authority areas combined with increased air pollution within the plan area (including from traffic and the proposed new waste management site near Keighley) potentially affecting the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, South Pennine Moors SAC, the North Pennine Moors SPA and the North Pennine Moors SAC.

The HRA of the plan therefore progressed to the next stage of HRA: Appropriate Assessment (AA).

1.4 Findings of the Appropriate Assessment

The AA involved undertaking an air quality modelling exercise between June and October 2012 in order to ascertain whether a hypothetical waste management use, involving the combustion of waste, including gasification or pyrolysis, at proposed Site 78 could have adverse effects on European designated sites.

The findings of the AA were reported within *Bradford Metropolitan District Council Waste Management DPD Habitats Regulations Assessment* (ENVIRON UK Ltd, November 2012).

The air quality modelling exercise identified a potential significant adverse effect on a component site of the South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC (locally called Rombald's Moor), from acidification.

The findings of the air quality modelling exercise suggested that although the addition of the emissions from a waste facility would be relatively small, acid deposition is already in excess of the critical load for this part of the South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC (Rombald's Moor) and therefore a waste management use involving combustion processes on proposed Site 78 of the Bradford Waste Management DPD would potentially exacerbate an existing situation.

1.5 Impact Avoidance Measures Put Forward within the Appropriate Assessment

With regards to impact avoidance measures, it was therefore suggested that proposed Site 78 of the Bradford Waste Management DPD may not be suitable for a waste management use which uses combustion processes and it was recommended that the Bradford Waste Management DPD is amended to reflect that this use should not be identified as being suitable for Site 78.

Alternative sites within the Plan Area should instead be identified for waste management use using combustion process, if it is necessary to provide such a facility within the District. It should be noted that the AA did not consider other proposed allocated sites which are located further away from the SAC/SPA than Site 78.

2 Screening of the Bradford Waste Management DPD Publication Draft

2.1 Findings and Conclusions of the Screening of the Bradford Waste Management DPD Publication Draft

The Bradford Waste Management DPD Publication draft has been screened for LSEs on European designated sites in February 2013.

Changes made to the Bradford Waste Management DPD since it was last screened in March-May 2012 have been reviewed. No changes made to the policies have been identified as potentially leading to LSEs.

However, 'Site 78 – Aire valley Road, Worth Village, Keighley' is still identified within Policy W6: proposed Waste Site Allocations as being suitable for waste management facilities and the supporting text identifies it as a potential location for a 'Pyrolysis and Gasification Facility'. The supporting text, which provides details about this site, does not refer to the HRA or AA and the potential for combustion processes on this site to lead to an adverse effect on nearby European designated sites. The risk of an adverse effect on the component site of the South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC (locally called Rombald's Moor) therefore still remains. **Until the impact avoidance measures identified in sub-section 1.5 above are included within the wording of the plan, it is not possible to conclude that the Bradford Waste Management DPD will not result in adverse effects on European sites.**