

## Appendix 11b HRA Policy Screening Scoring and Criteria

Effect	Number	Criteria
<b>Reasons why a policy will not have a significant environmental effect on European site</b>		
<b>No Significant Effect</b>	<b>1</b>	The policy is a general policy statement which expresses general intentions and aspirations or the policy relates to activities that are not likely to have an effect on the European site by virtue of their specificity, scale or distance from the site.
	<b>2</b>	The policy itself will not lead to development e.g. because it relates to design or qualitative criteria for development, or they are not land use planning policy, or they relate to a type of development that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site.
	<b>3</b>	The specific location of development activities is unknown, and will be selected following consideration of options (it may be defined in another plan e.g. Waste plan, Transport Plan, Minerals Statement or the location will be determined when proposals are submitted). Sites will therefore be subject to a project level assessment.
	<b>4</b>	The policy will steer development activities away from the European site and associated sensitive areas.
	<b>5</b>	The policy is intended to protect the features of a European site, including biodiversity.

	6	The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural, geological, built or historic environment, and such enhancements are unlikely to affect a European site, however conserving the historic environment and built environment may still affect species and habitats so a precautionary approach should be applied.
<b>Reasons why a policy could have an effect on a European site</b>		
<b>Potential for negative effect</b>	7	The policy addresses development activities that have the <i>potential</i> to affect the European site, but the policy itself is worded so as not to encourage activities or allow projects that would likely to cause negative effects on the European site.
<b>Reasons why a policy is likely to have a significant effect</b>		
<b>Potential for a negative effect / effects uncertain</b>	8	The policy encourages development activities in an area which could have the <i>potential</i> to affect the European site, but the <i>likelihood</i> and <i>risk</i> of significance of effects depends on the location, scale and design etc. of individual schemes or projects. It is therefore more appropriate to screen individual schemes or projects as they come forward.

	9	<p>The policy encourages development activities in an area that has the potential to affect the European site, either directly or indirectly. Activities under this policy must be subject to assessment to establish, in regard to the site's conservation objectives, whether it can be objectively concluded that there would not be <i>significant effects</i> on the European site.</p>
<b>Likely significant effect</b>	10.	<p>The policy makes provision for a type of development that in the location(s) proposed would have <i>likely significant effects</i> on the European site. Activities under this must be subject to Appropriate Assessment to establish, in regard to the site's conservation objectives, whether it can be objectively concluded that the site's integrity would not be compromised.</p>