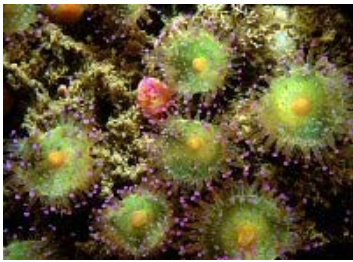




**Torquay Harbour Area Action Plan
Regulation 27 Pre-Submission
Publication**



**Habitats Regulations Assessment
Screening Report (Annex)**

December 2010



Purpose of this Document:

This document presents the findings of the Screening Stage of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Torquay Harbour Area Action Plan DPD. The Screening Report aims to protect habitats and species of European nature conservation importance.

If you wish to comment on this report please use the contact details below.

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1. Background

Torbay Council is currently preparing the Torquay Harbour Area Action Plan (THAAP) Regulation 27 Pre-submission Publication. The AAP provides a planning framework to assist the regeneration of Torquay Harbour and its immediate surroundings.

This document is an Annex to the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report of the Torquay Harbour Area Action Plan that was produced by Enfusion Ltd in July 2009 and revised in July 2010. The principle aim of this Annex is to screen the potential of the THAAP policies for its likely impact on the Marine candidate Special Area of Conservation Lyme Bay and Torbay.

In February 2010, Natural England, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the Countryside Council for Wales undertook a formal consultation on 10 possible marine Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and 2 potential Special Protection Areas (SPA) in English, Welsh and offshore waters around the UK.

Lyme Bay and Torbay Marine SAC was declared as a candidate SAC (cSAC) among other 14 Marine SACs in August 2010. Article 2 of the Habitats Directive requires the maintenance or restoration, at favourable conservation status, habitats and species of European Community interest.

2. Consultation

Following a correspondence with Natural England, the Strategic Planning Team was advised to screen the Marine SAC at this stage, on the basis that early screening would provide the opportunity to raise and deal with any potential problem that may arise from the implementation of the THAAP policies.

Natural England (Devon Office) was consulted on the Draft Marine SAC Screening Report in October 2010. A summary of their comments was set out in **Appendix 5**. These comments will inform the HRA process.

3. Method

The method adopted by this report is similar to THAAP HRA Screening Report process on www.torbay.gov.uk/ldf.

4. Screening

Screening is the first stage of HRA; it is intended to capture plans or options that are likely to give rise to significant effect on European sites; either alone or in

combination with other plans or programmes. This stage of HRA is subdivided into four tasks as following:

Task 1: identification of European site and characterisation;

Task 2: strategy review, policy screening and identification of likely impacts;

Task 3: consideration of other plans and programmes and

Task 4: screening assessment of the Torquay harbour area action plan

4.1 Identification of European Site and Characterisation

The Lyme Bay and Torbay cSAC site lies off the south coast of England off the counties of Dorset and Devon. The site comprises two sections, Lyme Bay Reefs and Mackerel Cove to Dartmouth Reefs and Sea Caves travelling from east to west respectively (see Figures 4.1 and 4.2). It covers 31,248 ha and includes 14,289 ha of reef and at least 85 caves.

The Lyme Bay and Torbay cSAC has been identified by Natural England as one of the best examples of the range and diversity of bedrock reef, stony reef, and sea caves in the UK for protection under the Habitats Directive. It is estimated to contribute 0.9 percent of the UK's total reef resource to the Natura 2000 network.

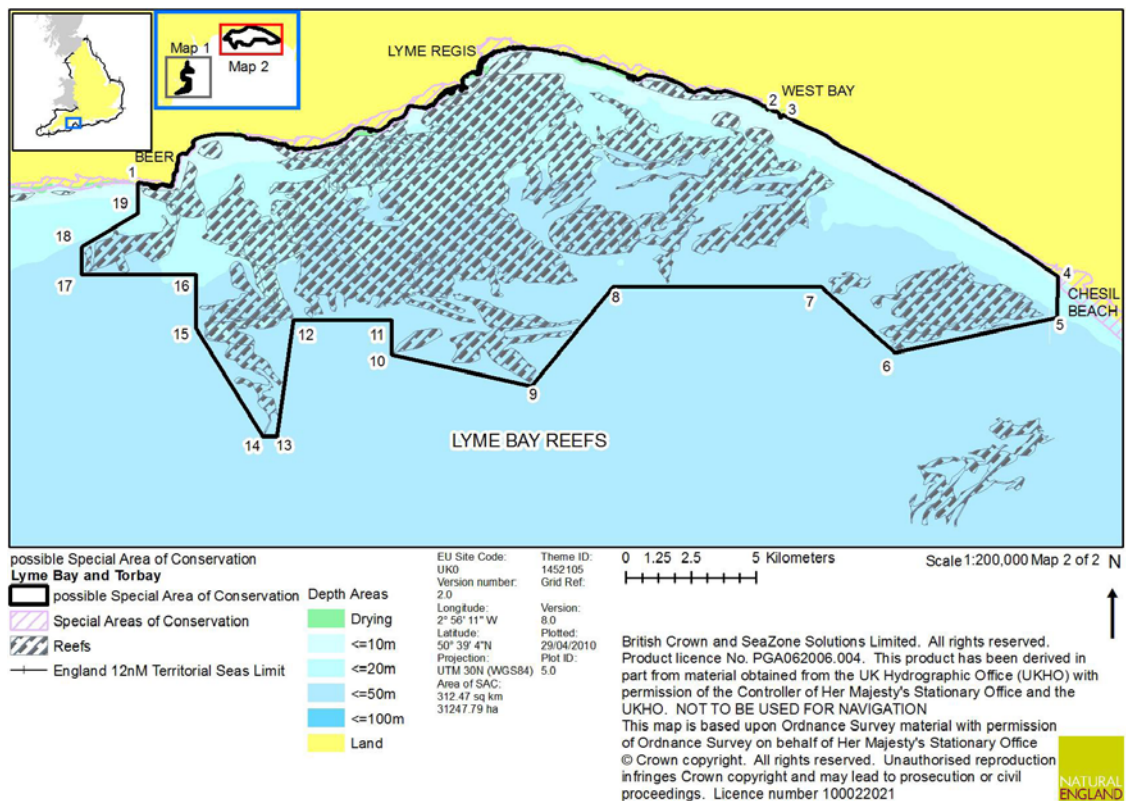
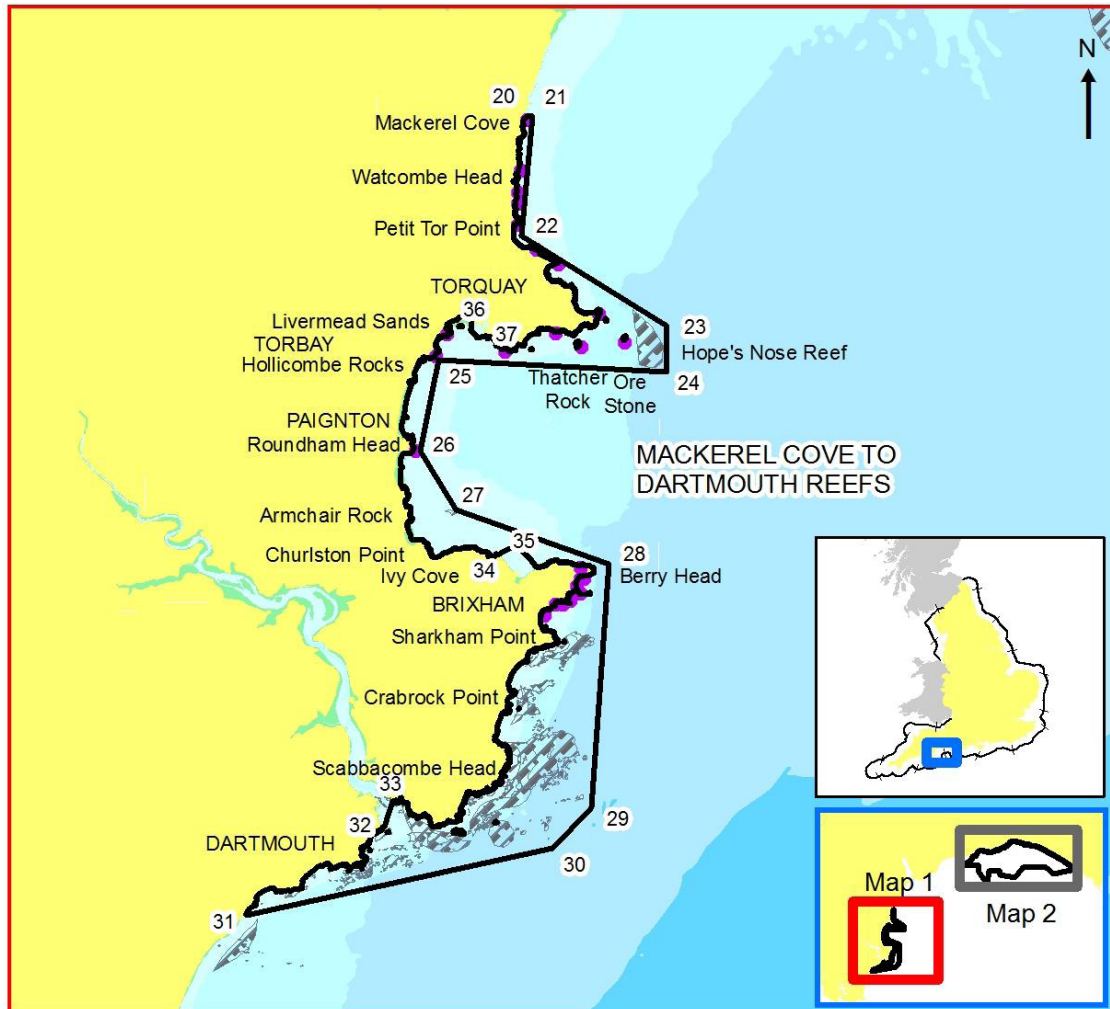


Figure 4.1 Lyme Bay



candidate Special Area of Conservation
Lyme Bay and Torbay
 □ candidate Special Area of Conservation
 ▨ Reefs
 ● Sea caves
 ▨ Special Areas of Conservation
 — England 12nM Territorial Seas Limit

Depth Areas
 ■ Drying
 ■ <=10m
 ■ <=20m
 ■ <=50m
 ■ <=100m
 ■ Land

EU Site Code: UK0030372
 Version number: 2.0
 Longitude: 2° 56' 11" W
 Latitude: 50° 39' 4" N
 Projection: UTM 30N (WGS84) 6.0
 Area of SAC: 312.47 sq km
 31247.79 ha

Theme ID: 1452105
 Grid Ref: SY314821
 Version: 9.0
 Plotted: 22/07/2010
 Plot ID:

Scale 1:200,000 Map 1 of 2
 0 1.25 2.5 5 Kilometers

Candidate Special Area of Conservation Directive 92/43/EEC
 Submitted to the EC by the Secretary of State for Environment,
 Food and Rural Affairs. Date: 20/08/2010
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Figure 4.2 Mackerel Cove to Dartmouth

4.1.1 Reefs

The areas are described as (from east to west):

- Lyme Bay Reefs; and
- Mackerel Cove to Dartmouth Reefs.

Lyme Bay Reefs

The seabed in the Lyme Bay Reefs area is found to comprise a wide variety of reef features including:

- outcropping bedrock (including igneous, chalk, mudstone and limestone examples); and
- pebbles, cobbles and boulders.

The reef features extend over a large area. Unlike other sites within the Lyme Bay and Torbay site, they do not extend directly out from the coast but occur as outcropping bedrock slightly offshore. The softer sediment habitats are commonly found between the bedrock or cobble / boulder areas.

Mackerel Cove to Dartmouth Reefs

The reefs in the Mackerel Cove to Dartmouth area exhibit great geological variety. Between Dartmouth and Scabbacombe Head slate reef is present with occasional granite outcrop. The slate reefs represent complex topographic features characterised by steeply inclined bedrock rising vertically with deep gullies. The reefs present between Crabrock Point and Sharkham Point are formed from mud ledges which form 2m high rock ridges. The reef features surrounding Berry Head principally comprise limestone ridges, boulders and pinnacles. The complex reef features, including ridges, vertical drop-offs, pinnacles and deep gullies, support rich species assemblages. Within Torbay, the reefs comprise discrete areas associated with the many headlands and coves (and include from south to north: Brixham to Ivy Cove reefs, Churston Point, Armchair Rock, Roundham Head and Hollicombe rocks to Livermead sands). The reefs in Torbay have a more diverse composition with limestone outcrops recorded in the southern half of the bay, and sandstone in the upper half of the bay. Hope's Nose reef (including Thatcher Rock and the Ore Stone) are large areas of limestone reef extending around the northern headland of Torbay. All of the reefs features present within this area are extensions of the coastal geology.

4.1.2 Sea Caves

A large number of infralittoral¹ sea caves have been identified within Torbay and the surrounding coastline from Mackerel Cove in the north, to Sharkham Point in the south. Examples of the classical wave-eroded sea caves are found at all the sites (Proctor, 2009). They occur in several different rock types, and at levels from

¹ The lowest zone in the part of the shore exposed only at the lowest tides it made up of the Infralittoral Fringe Sublittoral zones.

above the high water mark of spring tides down to permanently flooded caves lying in the infralittoral zone.

Many of the caves have a rich fauna, which varies considerably between caves. Despite the limited survey effort on these caves a number of nationally significant species have been found within these caves as detailed in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Nationally significant species in sea caves (Source: Seasearch, 2006)

Species	Common name	National importance
<i>Thymosia guernei</i>	Sponge	Rare
<i>Alcyonium hibernicum</i>	Pink sea fingers	Scarce
<i>Edwardsia</i> sp	Burrowing anemones	Occasional/rare
<i>Caryophyllia inornata</i>	Southern cup coral	Rare
<i>Hoplangia durotrix</i>	Weymouth carpet coral	Rare
<i>Galathea nexa</i>	Squat lobster	Rare (S Britain)

4.2 Strategy Review, policy screening and Identification of Likely Impacts

4.2.1 Torquay Harbour Area Action Plan: summary review

The Torquay Harbour Area Action Plan DPD provides a planning framework to assist in the regeneration of Torquay Harbour and its immediate surroundings. The purpose of the Area Action Plan is to provide a coordinated approach to regeneration of the Harbour area, complementing the regeneration initiatives promoted by the Torbay Development Agency (TDA).

4.2.2 Torquay Harbour Area Action Plan: Policies Screening

Screening of the policies involved identifying the policies that will not have an effect on European sites. The approach taken was in accordance with Natural England guidance for HRA on Regional Spatial Strategies and Sub-Regional Strategies². Policies considered to have 'no effect' were screened out on the basis of the following criteria:

1. The policy itself will not lead to development.
2. The location of the development is unknown, and will be selected following consideration of options in lower plans.
3. The policy will have no effect because development is dependent on implementation of lower tier policies.
4. The policy concentrates development in existing urban areas, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas.

² Draft The Assessment of Regional Spatial Strategies and Sub-regional strategies under the Provisions of the Habitats Regulations (David Tyldesley Associates, for English Nature, 2006).

5. The policy will steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.
6. The policy is intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity.
7. The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, and such enhancements are unlikely to affect a European site.

The screening of the THAAP Regulation 27 found that 8 policies had the potential for negative impact on Lyme Bay and Torbay cSAC, these are listed below:

- TH3 Transport and access
- TH4 North Quay, the Pavilion and Princess Gardens
- TH 5 Princess Theatre
- TH 7 Victoria Parade
- TH 10 Abbey Crescent
- TH 11 The Imperial Hotel
- TH12 Beacon Cove
- TH14 the Inner Harbour

Appendix 3 provides the rationale for screening decision.

4.2.3 Identification of Potential / Likely Impacts - Site Base Approach

The identification of potential and likely impacts was undertaken using a site focus, which considered the environmental conditions of the site and the factors required to maintain site integrity; it also considered the potential pathways of impacts arising from the policies.

Table 4.2 below, summaries the operations which may cause deterioration or disturbance of Lyme Bay and Torbay cSAC interest features at current levels of use. Operations marked with a √ indicate those features (or some component of them) that are considered to be vulnerable to the effects of the operations.

Table 4.2 potential negative Impacts

Operations which may cause deterioration or disturbance	Reefs	Sea caves
Physical loss Removal (e.g. capital dredging, offshore development) Smothering (e.g by aggregate dredging, disposal of dredge spoil)	√ √	
Physical damage Siltation (e.g. run-off, channel dredging, outfalls)	√	√

Operations which may cause deterioration or disturbance	Reefs	Sea caves
Abrasion (e.g. boating, anchoring, demersal fishing) Selective extraction (e.g. aggregate dredging)	√	√
Non-physical disturbance Noise (e.g. boat activity) Visual (e.g. recreational activity)		
Toxic contamination Introduction of synthetic components (e.g. pesticides, TBT, PCBs) Introduction of non-synthetic components (e.g. heavy metals, hydrocarbons) Introduction of radionuclides	√ √	
Non-toxic contamination Changes in nutrient loading (e.g. agricultural run-off, outfalls) Changes in organic loading (e.g. mariculture, outfalls) Changes in thermal regime (e.g. power stations) Changes in turbidity (e.g. run-off, dredging) Change of salinity (e.g. water abstraction, outfalls)	√ √ √	√ √
Biological disturbance Introduction of microbial pathogens Introduction of non-native species and translocation Selective extraction of species (e.g. bait digging, windfowling, commercial and recreational fishing)	√ √ √	

4.3 Consideration of other Plans and Programmes

The Plans and Programmes considered at this stage are listed below and reviewed in detail in **Appendix 1**. The RSS has been abolished in the summer of 2010. However, this report considers the HRA of the draft RSS as a reference paper.

- Habitats Regulation Assessment of the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West 2006-2026 (SWRA 2006) & Secretary of State Proposed Changes to the RSS(2008)
- Devon County Council Structure Plan 2001-2016
- Devon County Council Local Transport Plan 2006-2011
- Devon County Council Waste Local Plan (adopted) 2006
- Devon County Council Minerals Local Plan (adopted) 2004
- Torbay Council Local Plan 1995-2011
- Torbay Council Local Development Framework Core Strategy (emerging)
- Torbay Council Local Transport Plan 2006-2011
- Torbay New Growth Point: Programme of Development 2008
- South Hams LDF Core Strategy (adopted)

- Turning the Tide for Tourism in Torbay Strategy 2010-2015
- Torbay Community Plan 2007 +: Turning the Tide
- The New English Riviera: The Mayors Vision for a future Torbay
- The New English Riviera: Action Framework Plan
- Torbay Harbour and Maritime Strategy (2006 – 2016) 'catching the wave'
- Lyme Bay and South Devon Shoreline Management Plan(SMP)1998
- South Devon and Dorset SMP Review 2009 (SMP 2)
- South Hams District Council LDF Core Strategy 2006
- Teignbridge District Council LDF Core Strategy (withdrawn)
- Exeter City Council LDF Core Strategy (emerging)

The Plans and Programs review was used to consider in-combination effects, assisting in the completion of the HRA Screening matrices at **Appendix 1**, and in undertaking task 4, outlined below.

4.4 Screening Assessment of the Torquay Harbour Area Action Plan

In line with screening requirement of the Habitats Regulations an assessment has been undertaken to identify risk of significant effects from the THAPP policies on the integrity of the Lyme Bay and Torbay cSAC. A risk of three adverse effects has been identified namely:

- Physical damage in form of abrasion on sea caves.
- Toxic contamination in form of introduction of non-synthetic compounds on reefs.
- Change in nutrient loading on reefs and sea caves.

The full analysis is set out in **Appendix 4**.

4.4.1 Screening Summary

The screening process has identified a number of potentially significant impacts on the Lyme Bay and Torbay cSAC either from the THAAP alone or as a result of in-combination effects from other plans and programmes. The risk from human activities in the THAAP area is limited to Mackerel Cove to Dartmouth. Due to the distance involved, the level of water-based traffic entering Lyme Bay from Torquay harbour is likely to be minimal.

There will be additional pressure placed on the Torquay Harbour and its natural environment from development, including risk of water pollution and recreational activities.

Impact from discharge of sewage around Hope's Nose has already been reported. Assessments made under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) indicate that relevant coastal waters in and adjacent to the cSAC boundary of good quality³. The WFD will be addressing freshwater and coastal water quality

³ Environment Agency 2009

issues and discharges will be controlled under this to meet objectives as specified in the Directive.

Torquay Harbour is mainly used for leisure traffic. The current level of activities, plans and projects in the Harbour area have not been identified as causing significant damage to the interest features⁴. This could be either because no such damage is occurring or because there is insufficient information on the actual effects of activities on the condition of the submerged and partially submerged sea caves. However, the current and proposed plans that are expected to occur over the next 15 years may be impacted on the site. The THAAP policies are likely to increase recreational stress, however there is uncertainty of the likelihood of the future activities in the harbour would affect the integrity of the cSAC.

The emerging (Regulation 25) Core Strategy outlined the requirement for approximately 10,000 dwellings and 10,000 jobs in the period up to 2026. This significant level of growth is likely to have significant effects on the cSAC integrity. Effect arising from implementation of the Core Strategy should be assessed on their own right.

5. Conclusions

The screening process has identified eight of the THAAP policies having potential negative effects on the cSAC either alone or in-combination with other plans and programmes. Six of these policies could potentially have negative impact on water quality and the remaining two could have a potential physical damage in form of abrasion.

The screening assessment has not screened out the likelihood of these policies to have significant effects on the Lyme Bay and Torbay cSAC. Therefore an appropriate assessment is required to enable the judgment whether there will be an adverse effect on the SAC integrity.

⁴ Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC final Impact Assessment, (2010)

Appendix 1: relevant Plans Review

See THAAP HRA Screening Report on www.torbay.gov.uk/ldf.

Appendix 2: Natura 2000 Site Qualifying Features

Site	Lyme Bay and Torbay cSAC (31,248 ha) Dorset and Devon Coast
Qualifying Interest	<p>cSAC</p> <p>Annex I habitats primary reason for selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reefs ▪ Submerged or partially submerged sea cave
Conservation Objectives	<p>The draft conservation objective for Annex 1 Reefs: Subject to natural change, maintain or restore the Reefs in / to favourable condition in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bedrock reefs ▪ Stony reefs ▪ Biogenic reefs <p>The draft conservation objective for Annex 1 Submerged or partially submerged sea cave: Subject to natural change, maintain the Submerged or partially submerged sea cave in favourable condition</p>
Key Environmental Conditions (factors that maintain site integrity)	<p>Annex 1 Reefs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No reduction in extent of reef allowing for natural change. ▪ Maintain the full variety of biotopes identified for the site, allowing for natural succession or known cyclical change. ▪ Maintain the distribution of biotopes, allowing for natural succession/known cyclical change. ▪ No change in the extent of the biotope(s), allowing for natural succession/known cyclical change. ▪ No decline in biotope quality due to change in species composition or loss of notable species, allowing for natural succession/known cyclical change. Where declines in biotope quality have occurred due to damage from scallop dredging, these declines will need to be reversed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain age/size class structure of individual species populations. Where decline in age/size class structure of individual species populations have occurred due to damage from scallop dredging, these declines will need to be reserved. <p>Annex 1 Submerged or partially submerged sea cave</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No reduction in number of caves within a site allowing for natural change. No change in dimensions of a cave, allowing for natural change that is part of a wider coastal geomorphological management regime. Maintain the full variety of biotopes identified for the caves, allowing for natural succession or known cyclical change. 				
Assessment of interest feature (s) against selection criteria	features of interest	Representativity (a)	Relative surface (b)	Structure and function (c)	Global assessment (d)
	Reefs	Grad A (excellent)	Grade C	Grade II (well conserved)	Grade A (excellent conservation value)
	Sea caves	Grad A (good representativity)	N/A	Grade A (excellent conservation value)	Grade B (good conservation value)
Site Vulnerabilities	<p>Annex 1 Reefs</p> <p>Physical loss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal (e.g. capital dredging, offshore development) Smothering (e.g. by aggregate dredging, disposal of dredge spoil) <p>Physical damage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Siltation (e.g. run-off, channel dredging, outfalls) Abrasion (e.g. boating, anchoring, demersal fishing) <p>Non -physical disturbance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise (e.g. boat activity) Visual (e.g. recreational activity) <p>Toxic contamination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of synthetic compounds (e.g. pesticides, TBT, PCBs) Introduction of non-synthetic compounds (e.g. heavy metals, hydrocarbons) 				

	<p>Non - toxic contamination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Changes in nutrient loading (e.g. agricultural run-off, outfalls) ▪ Changes in organic loading (e.g. mariculture, outfalls) ▪ Changes in turbidity (e.g. run-off, dredging) <p>Biological disturbance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction of microbial pathogens ▪ Introduction of non-native species and translocation ▪ Selective extraction of species (e.g. bait digging, wildfowling, commercial & recreational fishing) <p>Annex 1 Submerged or partially submerged sea cave</p> <p>Physical damage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Siltation (e.g. run-off, channel dredging, outfalls) ▪ Abrasion (e.g. boating, anchoring, demersal fishing) <p>Non - toxic contamination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Changes in organic loading (e.g. mariculture, outfalls) ▪ Changes in salinity (e.g. water abstraction, outfalls)
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Appendix 3: Screening of the THAAP Policies

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)	Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
Policy TH5 A Sustainable Harbour Area	'No effect' – The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, and such enhancements are unlikely to affect a European site.	No
Policy TH1 Sustainable Construction and design	'No effect' – The policy itself will not lead to development.	No
Policy TH2 Flooding and coastal management	'No effect' – The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, and such enhancements are unlikely to affect a European site.	No
Policy TH3 Transport and access	The policy is likely to lead to increased levels of water-borne transport, through establishing a year-round fast ferry service between Torquay and Brixham Harbours.	Yes
Policy TH4 North Quay, the Pavilion and Princess Gardens	The policy leads to increased mixed use development on the harbour area; this could potentially have negative impacts on water quality from contaminated runoff water.	Yes
Policy TH5 Princess Theatre	The policy could potentially have negative impacts on water quality in the harbour area from contaminated runoff water.	Yes
Policy TH6 Cary Parade amusement arcades	'No effect' – The policy concentrates development in existing urban areas, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas.	No
Policy TH7 Victoria Parade	The policy could potentially have negative impacts on water quality in the harbour area from contaminated runoff water.	Yes
Policy TH8 The Terrace Car Park	'No effect' – The policy concentrates development in existing urban areas, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas.	No
Policy TH9 Former Royal Garage site, Torwood Street	'No effect' – The policy concentrates development in existing urban areas, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas.	No
Policy TH10 Abbey Crescent (various buildings)	The policy potentially could have negative impacts on water quality in the harbour area from contaminated runoff water.	Yes
Policy TH11 The Imperial Hotel	The policy potentially could have negative impacts on water quality in the harbour area from contaminated runoff water.	Yes
Policy TH12 Beacon Cove	The policy potentially could have negative impacts on water quality in the harbour area from contaminated runoff water.	Yes
Policy TH13 Cary Green and Strand public realm improvements	'No effect' – The policy concentrates development in existing urban areas, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas.	No

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)	Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
Policy TH 14 The Inner Harbour	The introduction of additional mooring facilities could potentially increase water-borne recreation	Yes
Policy TH 15 Strand (various Buildings)	'No effect' – The policy concentrates development in existing urban areas, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas.	No

Appendix 4: Screening Matrix

Lyme Bay and Torbay cSAC			
Potential Impacts	Risk of Significant Effect from Torquay Harbour AAP	Risk of Significant Effect from other Plans and Programmes	Risk from 'In Combination' Effects?
Physical Loss			
Removal (e.g. capital dredging, offshore development)	No effects identified	No effects identified	No effects identified
Smothering (e.g. by aggregate dredging, disposal of dredge spoil)	No effects identified	No effects identified	No effects identified
Physical Damage			
Siltation (e.g. run-off, channel dredging, outfalls)	No effects identified	Yes - recreational pressure on the site	No. effect arising from other plans should be assessed on their own right.
Abrasion (e.g. boating, anchoring, demersal fishing)	Yes – mainly on Sea caves. Torquay marina is directly adjacent to the cSAC, will possibly increase recreational pressure on the site	Yes – Brixham marina and a number of sailing clubs are located directly adjacent to/within the cSAC will increase recreational pressure on the site	Yes
Selective extraction (e.g aggregate dredging)	No effects identified	No effects identified	No effects identified
Non-physical Disturbance			
Noise (e.g. boat activity)	No effects identified	No effects identified	No effects identified
Visual (e.g. recreational activity)	No effects identified	No effects identified	No effects identified
Toxic Contamination			
Introduction of synthetic compounds (e.g. pesticides, TBT, PCBs)	No effects identified	No effects identified	No effects identified
Introduction of non-synthetic compounds (e.g. heavy metals, hydrocarbons)	Yes – mainly on reefs Water contamination from chemicals /fuel/oil spills	Uncertain	Uncertain

	during the construction phase.		
Introduction of radionuclides	No effects identified	No effects identified	No effects identified
Non-toxic Contamination			
Changes in nutrient loading (e.g. agricultural run-off, outfalls)	No effects identified	Yes - The Core strategy outlined the requirement for 10,000 dwelling and 10,000 jobs in the period up to 2026. This significant level of growth will potentially have profound impacts on the cSAC	No. effect arising from other plans should be assessed on their own right.
Changes in organic loading (e.g. mariculture, outfalls)	Yes Contamination through toilets flushing untreated sewage into the harbour	Yes - The Core strategy outlined the requirement for 10,000 dwelling and 10,000 jobs in the period up to 2026. This significant level of growth will potentially have profound impacts on the cSAC	Yes
Changes in thermal regime (e.g. power stations)	No effects identified	No effects identified	No effects identified
Changes in turbidity (e.g. run-off, dredging)	No effects identified	Yes- The Core strategy outlined the requirement for 10,000 dwelling and 10,000 jobs in the period up to 2026. This significant level of growth could potentially have profound impacts on the cSAC.	No. effect arising from other plans should be assessed on their own right.
Changes of salinity (e.g. water abstraction, outfalls)	No effects identified	No effects identified	No effects identified
Biological Disturbance			
Introduction of microbial pathogens	No effects identified	No effects identified	No effects identified
Introduction of non-native species and translocation	No effects identified	No effects identified	No effects identified

Selective extraction of species (e.g. bait digging, wildfowling, commercial & recreational fishing)	No effects identified	No effects identified	No effects identified
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Appendix 5: Natural England Response⁵

1. Any likely runoff (toxic or siltation) from the Harbour area into the water – roads, traffic – during development – could this be significant. NE realise the Core Strategy will deal with the whole of Torbay on this account but if there is a significant input likely from the Harbour area then this would need to be considered 'in combination'.
2. Increase of boats – could give contamination through toilets flushing untreated sewage into the harbour – There is one small reef in the bay. Also, although the Draft Conservation Objectives don't have 'Changes in nutrient loading (e.g. agricultural run-off, outfalls)' for the Sea Caves, this is likely to change as the Conservation Objectives are to be reviewed soon – (Appendix 2 and Table 4.2). Some boats will have holding tanks and most small ones will not. Even for those with holding tanks they frequently discharge them at sea – guidance says that this is ok further than 3 miles from the shore but this is frequently not followed.
4. Also there is a danger that people might anchor on the reefs, which has been identified.
5. An answer to these could perhaps be Educational material for all boaters using the harbour on the importance of the SAC and ways of protecting it.
6. Policy TH6 to TH9 in Appendix 3 could have implications for runoff. Perhaps these will be an improvement and hence would not have any effect, or perhaps any affects will not be significant, but NE recommends this should be clarified.

⁵ E-mail, S Dunsford, Natural England, 29/11/2010