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# Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Opinion

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Coniston Neighbourhood  
Plan

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November 2014

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# 1 Introduction

1.1 This report details the Screening of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the draft Coniston Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan). This report is intended to identify, describe and assess the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan on European designated sites.

1.2 The Plan has been produced by Coniston Parish Council and clearly states what development the residents want to see in the parish, now and in the future. If adopted, the Plan will become part of the Development Plan for the Lake District National Park and will be referred to, where relevant, in the assessment of planning applications relating to Coniston Parish.

## **The Coniston Neighbourhood Plan**

1.3 In line with the provisions in the Localism Act 2011, Coniston Parish Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. This gives the community direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area.

1.4 The purpose of this Plan is to assist in overcoming some of the major issues that the community is facing including:

- The loss of village homes
- The lack of affordable homes
- The lack of local homes
- The effect on the village
- The potential for overburdening
- And the potential loss of village facilities

## **Habitats Regulations Assessment**

1.5 European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (Habitats Directive) provides legal protection to habitats and species of European importance. The principal aim of this directive is to maintain at, and where necessary restore to, the favourable conservation status of flora, fauna and habitats found at these designated sites (i.e. SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites) the Directive is transposed into English legislation through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).

1.6 A neighbourhood plan must be compatible with European Union obligations, as incorporated into UK law, in order to be legally compliant. This follows the requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of development plans as set out in Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations").

1.7 Planning documents are required to undergo HRA if there is the potential for significant impacts and they are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site. As the Plan is not connected with or necessary to the management of European sites, it is necessary to undertake a HRA of the Plan.

## 2 HRA Methodology

2.1 The HRA is usually undertaken in stages (as described in **Table 1**) and should conclude whether or not a proposal or policy in a development plan would adversely affect the integrity of the site in question. This is judged in terms of the implications of the plan for a site's 'qualifying features' (i.e. those Annex I habitats, Annex II species, and Annex I bird populations for which it has been designated).

**Table 1: Stages in Habitats Regulations Assessment**

Stage	Task	Outcome
<b>Stage 1:</b> Screening	Description of the plan  Identification of potential effects on European sites  Assessing the effects on European sites	Where effects are unlikely, prepare a 'finding of no significant effect report'.  Where effects judged likely, or lack of information to prove otherwise, proceed to Stage 2
<b>Stage 2:</b> Appropriate Assessment	Gather information (plan and European sites)  Impact prediction Evaluation of impacts in view of conservation objectives  Where impacts considered to affect qualifying features, identify alternative options  Assess alternative options If no alternatives exist, define and evaluate mitigation measures where necessary	Appropriate assessment report describing the plan, European site baseline conditions, the adverse effects of the plan on the European site, how these effects will be avoided through, firstly, avoidance, and secondly, mitigation including the mechanisms and timescale for these mitigation measures.  If effects remain after all alternatives and mitigation measures have been considered proceed to Stage 3.
<b>Stage 3:</b> Assessment where no alternatives exist and adverse impacts remain taking into account mitigation	Identify 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI)  Identify potential compensatory measures	This stage should be avoided if at all possible. The test of IROPI and the requirements for compensation are extremely onerous

### Screening Assessment

2.2 Section 6 details the methodology of the screening assessment undertaken to identify the likely impacts upon European sites of the Plan, to determine whether these impacts are likely to be significant and whether an Appropriate Assessment and Mitigation and Alternatives (HRA Task 2 and 3) are required.

2.3 In order to complete the screening assessment it is necessary to:

- Identify the European sites within and outside the plan area to be affected, reasons for their designation and their conservation objectives;

- Describe the plan/strategy and its aims and objectives and also those of other projects or plans that in combination have the potential to impact upon the European sites;
- Identify the potential effects on the European sites;
- Assess the significance of these potential effects on the European sites.

### **The Precautionary Principle**

- 2.4 If there is uncertainty and it is not possible based on the information available to confidently determine that there will be no significant effects on a site, then the precautionary principle will be applied and the plan will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment (HRA Task 2)
- 2.5 It is a requirement of the Habitats Regulations to consult the appropriate nature conservation statutory body (i.e. Natural England). Consultation on the approach to this HRA screening and the information on European sites considered was undertaken with these bodies in November 2014.

### 3 European sites

3.1 European sites are often collectively known as Natura 2000 sites. Natura 2000 is an EU-wide network of nature protection areas established under the Habitats Directive. The aim of the network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened habitats and species.

Natura 2000 consists of:

- Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are classified under the European Council Directive 'on the conservation of wild birds' (79/409/EEC 'Birds Directive'). They are strictly protected sites classified for rare and vulnerable birds (as listed on Annex I of the Directive), and for regularly occurring migratory species;
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated under the European Council Directive (92/43/EEC 'Habitats Directive') for the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora that are considered to be most in need of conservation at a European level (excluding birds)
- Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance, listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention, 1971)

Although not included in the European legislation, it is Government policy to give Ramsar sites the same protection as European Sites.

#### **European sites in and around the Lake District**

2.5 Best practice guidance suggest that sites occurring within a wider area of approximately 10km to 15km from the boundary of the area directly affected by a plan should be identified and assessed as part of the HRA screening process, in addition to those sites located within the plan area. For the assessment of the Plan a buffer of 10km has been applied given the policies in the plan and their range of influence.

3.3 There are no SACs, SPAs and Ramsars sites wholly or partially within the Coniston Parish boundary. However, within 10km of the Parish Boundary, there are five SACs, 0 SPAs and one Ramsar site (Table 2). The distribution of these sites across Coniston Parish and the wider area is shown in Figure 1.

**Table 2: European sites within and adjacent to Coniston Parish**

Designation	Within Coniston Parish	Adjacent to Coniston Parish (10km)
SAC	-	Lake District High Fells Subberthwaite, Blawith & Torver Low Commons River Kent Duddon Mosses Yewbarrow Woods
SPA	-	-
Ramsar	-	Esthwaite Water

Detailed information on these sites, including their qualifying features and conservation objectives are provided in Table 3.

**Table 3: Details of European sites within and adjacent to the Lake District**

Site	Interest Features	Component SSSIs	Principal vulnerabilities/ sensitivities
Duddon Mosses SAC	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active raised bogs</li> <li>Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</li> </ul>	Duddon Mosses	Bog complex in the tributary plains of the Duddon Estuary, with a series of active raised bogs in the northern area (including saltmarsh / bog transition and regenerating peat cuttings) and large areas of degraded raised bog dominated by purple moor grass <i>Molinia caerulea</i> . The sites will be sensitive to reductions in their extent (e.g. through direct encroachment or inhibition of natural processes (such as bog regeneration or active peat formation), and to changes in their composition and characteristics (e.g. species, topography, hydrology).  Principal vulnerabilities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inappropriate management;</li> <li>Localised (surface layer) hydrological changes (esp. through management / use of adjacent land);</li> <li>Impacts on groundwater (e.g. through aquifer abstraction).</li> </ul>
Subberthwaite, Blawith & Torver Low Commons SAC	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transition mires and quaking bogs</li> </ul> <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i></li> </ul>	Subberthwaite, Blawith and Torver Low Commons	The site in south-west Cumbria supports some of the best examples of transition mires and quaking bogs in the UK, with over 200 mires on a broad hilly plateau. The mires are dominated by tall sedges and rushes with mixed herbs, over a ground layer of bog-mosses <i>Sphagnum</i> spp. And feather-mosses including <i>Calliergon cuspidatum</i> .  Principal vulnerabilities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transition mires and quaking bogs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes in local hydrology; inappropriate land management / grazing; significant erosion associated with human impact</li> </ul> </li> <li>Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water level / flow decrease (e.g. due to abstraction); inappropriate management (e.g. overgrazing / disturbance by cattle)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Lake District High Fells SAC	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters</li> <li>with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i></li> <li>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></li> <li>European dry heaths</li> <li>Alpine and Boreal heaths</li> <li><i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or</li> </ul>	Pillar and Ennerdale Fells Ennerdale Skiddaw Group Shap Fells Birk Fell Helvellyn and Fairfield Armbboth Fells Scafell Pikes Wasdale Screes	The Lake District High Fells support a range of upland habitats, with different vulnerabilities and sensitivities. However, all of the habitats are sensitive to reductions in their extent (e.g. through direct encroachment or inhibition of natural processes (such as regeneration), and to changes in their ecological composition and characteristics (e.g. species, age profile or physical structure).  Principal vulnerabilities for the Annex I habitats include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters and vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i>:</li> </ul>

	<p>calcareous grasslands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands</li> <li>• Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels</li> <li>• Blanket bogs</li> <li>• Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>)</li> <li>• Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles</li> </ul> <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in continental Europe)</li> <li>• Alkaline fens</li> <li>• Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation</li> </ul> <p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection Slender green feather-moss <i>Drepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) verinicosus</i></p>	<p>Honister Crag Buttermere Fells Force Crag Mine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Changes in local hydrology; inappropriate land management and eutrophication; changes in sediment inputs</li> <li>• Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>:       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Changes in local hydrology; inappropriate land management / grazing</li> </ul> </li> <li>• European dry heaths:       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inappropriate land management / grazing</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Alpine and Boreal heaths:       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inappropriate land management / grazing</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inappropriate land management / grazing</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inappropriate land management / grazing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels:       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- changes in local hydrology; inappropriate land management / grazing; significant erosion associated with human impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Blanket bogs:       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- changes in local hydrology; inappropriate land management / grazing; significant erosion associated with human impact</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>):       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- inappropriate land management / grazing; human disturbance</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation:       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- inappropriate land management / grazing; human disturbance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inappropriate woodland management; impacts on woodland fringes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
River Kent SAC	<p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation</li> </ul> <p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></li> </ul> <p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i></li> <li>• Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i></li> </ul>	River Kent & Tributaries	<p>The River Kent candidate SAC covers 87km comprising the main channel and three tributary systems. The Kent is a river of upland character in southern Cumbria. Densities of white-clawed crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> are very high throughout much of the Kent system (particularly in the tributaries), perhaps higher than anywhere else in England). The freshwater pearl mussel occurs in a tributary of the River Kent, where they co-exist with white-clawed crayfish which is extremely unusual due to the pearl mussel normally being found in soft oligotrophic waters.</p> <p>Principal vulnerabilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water courses of plain to montane levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nutrient enrichment and water quality (e.g. due to adjacent land management and sediment input); water level / flow decrease (e.g. due to abstraction).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• White-clawed crayfish: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrient enrichment and water quality (e.g. due to adjacent land management and sediment input); water level / flow decrease (e.g. due to abstraction); inappropriate management (e.g. fish stocking).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Yewbarrow Woods SAC	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles</li> <li>* Priority feature</li> </ul> <p>Extensive yew <i>Taxus baccata</i> groves occur on the slopes and crags of Yewbarrow in association with old sessile oak woods and invasive beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> stands on acidic substrates. Over much of the site, where light conditions allow, grasses such as wavy hair-grass <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i></p>	Yewbarrow Woods	<p>Although lack of regeneration at Yewbarrow is a problem resulting from browsing by deer, woodland grants have been given in recent years to encourage regeneration of native trees, together with funding for stockproof fencing. Estimates of areas covered by yew, juniper and heath will be checked the next time the site is surveyed.</p>

	<p>and creeping soft-grass <i>Holcus mollis</i> predominate with bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>. There are also some base-rich flushes along the stream-sides.</p> <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles</li> </ul>		
Esthwaite Water Ramsar	<p>This site qualifies under Ramsar selection criteria 1 &amp; 2 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A particularly good example of a mesotrophic lake, with a well-developed hydrosere;</li> <li>• A rich assemblage of pondweed species and is the only known locality in England and Wales for slender naiad <i>Najas flexilis</i></li> <li>• Diverse aquatic invertebrate fauna</li> </ul>	Esthwaite Water	<p>Esthwaite Water is a natural lake set in a glacial valley and a good example of a mesotrophic system. The northern end has a well-developed hydrosere. Principal vulnerabilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impacts on groundwater (e.g. through aquifer abstraction);</li> <li>• Eutrophication / pollution (esp. through management / use of adjacent land);</li> <li>• Inappropriate management.</li> </ul>

## 4 Potential hazards to European sites

- 4.1 Developments, services and recreational/tourism opportunities that are encompassed within development plans and strategies, such as the Plan, can potentially have adverse impacts on the habitats and species for which European sites are designated. These impacts can be direct such as habitats loss, fragmentation or degradation, or indirect such as disturbance or pollution from construction, transportation and amenities.
- 4.2 This section identifies (Table 4) the potential hazards to European sites within and adjacent to Coniston Parish which may arise as a result of the implementation of the Plan.

**Table 4: Potential Hazards to the European sites within and adjacent to the Lake District**

Potential Hazard		Description
1	Disturbance	Human activity (construction or other) can adversely impact on the qualifying features of the site directly (physical disturbance) or indirectly (visual or noise)
2	Habitat fragmentation	New development or construction could result in the separation of available habitats or split extensive areas of suitable habitat. Most likely to affect species.
3	Habitat loss	This includes a loss of habitat within the designated boundaries of a European site.
4	Biodiversity loss	Changes to environmental conditions that result in a reduction and fragmentation of habitats that will reduce biodiversity
5	Turbidity and siltation	Increases in turbidity within water environments can impact upon aquatic plants, fish and wildfowl due to sedimentation and reduction in penetrable light. This may rise from construction activities or changed flooding/hydrological regimes.
6	Change in water levels	Altered water levels may have adverse impacts on water dependent habitats and species. Additionally, changes to groundwater may adversely impact on these habitats.
7	Changes in hydrological regime	Changes to existing hydrological processes (e.g. changes to flow rates) that may alter the present characteristics of the European site.
8	Changes in water quality	Activities which may impact upon water quality, such as accidental pollution as a result of increased recreational activity or construction activities, may adversely affect wetland habitats and species.

## 5 Description of the Neighbourhood Plan Policies

- 5.1 This section gives a summary of the Plan policies (see Table 5). The policies are described in more detail in the Screening Assessment in Section 6. The Habitat Regulations also require the cumulative effects with other plans and projects to be considered at the screening stage. This section, therefore also identifies the other plans and projects that it is considered could potentially act ‘in combination’ with the Plan to have ‘significant effects’ on European sites.

**Table 5: Summary of Neighbourhood Plan policies**

CNP1 – Our Community
CNP2 - Businesses
CNP3 – Housing
CNP4 – Buildings Structure and Sites of Historic Importance
CNP5 – Village Services
CNP6 – Tourism
CNP7 – Transport/Traffic Management/Parking
CNP 8 – Environmental Sustainability

### **Other relevant plans and projects that could act In-combination**

- 5.2 A series of individually modest effects may in combination produce effects that are likely to adversely affect the integrity of one or more European sites. Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive tries to address this by taking into account the combination of effects from other plans or projects. Table 6 lists the relevant plans and projects that have been identified as having the potential to result in adverse effects on European sites in-combination with the Plan.

**Table 6: Other plans and projects**

<b>Plan/Project</b>	<b>Potential In-combination Effects</b>
Lake District National Park Local Plan	The Local Plan comprises 3 main parts: the Core Strategy, Allocations of Land and Minerals Safeguarding Areas. The main document, the Core Strategy, aims to show how the Vision for the National Park will be delivered strategically and spatially by 2025. The Core Strategy contains core policies, which are criteria or area based, and which will guide development in the National Park. No adverse in-combination effects with the Management Plan are expected as proposed development, schemes and plans which will be progressed under the Local Plan will require assessment under the Habitat Regulations if they pose any risk to European sites within or adjacent to the boundary. Therefore, any development facilitated by or that becomes feasible as a result of measures within the Management Plan will also be subject to the HRA process to ensure no adverse impacts arise. In addition the Mineral Safeguarding Area documents were assessed under the HRA process and no adverse impacts were identified on European sites. Therefore, no in-combination impacts are likely.

<p>Lake District National Park Partnership's Plan</p>	<p>The Lake District National Park Management Plan is the overarching strategic document for the National Park, central to the future of the National Park. The Plan co-ordinates and integrates other plans, strategies and actions in the National Park, where they affect the park purposes and duties. It also sets the vision and outcomes for the National Park, which will guide the future of the Park. Indicates how the National Park purposes and associated duties will be delivered through sustainable development and sets the framework for all policy and activity of the Lake District. This Plan was assessed under the Habitats Regulations and no adverse impacts on European sites were identified from the HRA Screening Assessment. Therefore, no in-combination impacts are expected.</p>
<p>Torver Neighbourhood Plan</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Plans aim to allow local communities to influence the planning of the area in which they live and work. Similarly to the Local Plan for the Lake District, all developments, schemes and plans that fall under the individual neighbourhood plans will require assessment under the Habitat Regulations if they pose any risk to European sites within or adjacent to the boundary. Therefore, it is assessed that there will be no adverse in-combination effects with the Torver Neighbourhood Plan and the Coniston Neighbourhood Plan.</p>

## **6 Screening Assessment**

- 6.1 This section considers the policies identified in the Plan that are considered to have an impact on European sites (as shown in Table 5) and identifies whether or not they are likely to have significant effects on site integrity, either alone or in-combination with other plans and/or projects, as detailed in Table 6.
- 6.2 Taking account the location of the European sites in relation to the Parish boundary and the identified potential hazards associated with the objectives of the Plan, an assessment was made as to whether the Plan, alone or in-combination with other plans and/or projects, would have likely significant effects on any European sites. This assessment is detailed in Table 7.

**Table 7: Assessment of relevant Plan policies on European sites**

<b>Policies</b>	<b>Key points of policy</b>	<b>Assessment of likelihood of significant impacts</b>	<b>Significant Impacts</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<b>CNP1 – Our community</b>	The aim of this policy is to support development of an appropriate scale that meets the needs of the community; particularly development which enhances the role of Coniston as a rural service centre and that retains its unique character and that of the spectacular surrounding landscape.	This policy has social, economic and landscape benefits for Coniston Parish. Implementation of this policy itself will not lead to development or other sources of pressure on European sites.	None	None
<b>CNP2 - Businesses</b>	The aim of this policy is to support development proposals that will enable the expansion and retention of existing local businesses, and the establishment of new businesses that diversify and strengthen the local economy.	This policy has economic benefits to Coniston Parish. Implementation of this policy itself will not lead to development or other sources of pressure on European sites.	None	None
<b>CNP3 - Housing</b>	The aim of this policy is to support housing schemes that meet local need and local affordable housing needs. It also supports small scale self-build schemes.	This policy has social benefits by increasing the population through the provision of appropriate housing. However, there is the potential for impacts on the environment through the building of houses and associated infrastructure which can have adverse impacts, such as disturbance and loss of habitat. However, there are no identified European sites within Coniston Parish and it is considered unlikely that the implementation of this policy itself will result in likely significant impacts on European sites.	None	None
<b>CNP4 – Buildings Structure and Sites of Historic Importance</b>	The aim of this policy is to ensure, where relevant, planning proposals take account of the need to conserve and enhance the character, integrity and setting of locally important historic sites. Support given for the redevelopment of redundant places of worship and St Andrew's Youth centre.	Through the implementation of this policy there is the opportunity for positive impacts for the historic and cultural assets within Coniston Parish. No adverse impacts on European sites are expected from implementation of this policy.	None	None

<b>CNP5 – Village services</b>	The aim of this policy is to support appropriate development proposals that will enable the retention of key local services. Development proposals that would result in the loss of a key local service will be opposed unless it can be demonstrated that there is no longer a community need for the facility or that community use of the property is no longer suitable or viable.	No adverse impacts on European sites are expected from the implementation of this policy.	None	None
<b>CNP6 - Tourism</b>	<p>The aim of this policy is to support the development of new tourist attractions that have no significant adverse impact on the local community and are of an appropriate scale and in accordance with the policies of this plan.</p> <p>Development proposals that constitute an appropriate extension and / or improvement of existing tourist attractions and services, in particular:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steam Yacht Gondola</li> <li>• Coniston Launch</li> <li>• Ruskin Museum</li> <li>• Brantwood</li> <li>• Coniston Boating Centre</li> </ul> <p>will be supported in accordance with the policies of this plan.</p>	This policy has economic benefits for Coniston Parish. Implementation of this policy itself will not lead to development or other sources of pressure on European sites.	None	None
<b>CNP7- Transport / Traffic Management / Parking</b>	<p>The aim of this policy is to support improvements to the infrastructure that enable road users to remain safer, for example, off-road cycleways to remove bicycles from main roads used by vehicles, and footpaths to remove pedestrians from main roads.</p> <p>Development that improves the management of traffic in the parish will be supported as will development of additional parking facilities of</p>	This policy will see benefits for material assets for both residents and visitors. The implementation of this strategy itself will not lead to development or other sources of pressure on European sites. However, any development under this policy, for example cyclepath infrastructure will require assessment under HRA if a likely significant impact on a European site is expected.	None	None

	limited size where there is a proven need for such facilities.			
<b>CNP8 - Environmental Sustainability</b>	<p>The aim of this policy is to ensure, where relevant, planning proposals which affect the following environmental attributes of the Coniston Parish, give due account to their protection and enhancement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Coniston &amp; Crake Catchment area to ensure the long-term protection of water quality within the area.</li> <li>• Yewdale Wood to protect it as a green corridor</li> <li>• renewable energy schemes including hydro schemes</li> <li>• the quieter areas at the head of Coniston Lake in the Monk Coniston area</li> <li>• the Tilberthwaite Valley</li> <li>• the Common Lands to the south of the Village</li> </ul>	<p>This policy will see environmental benefits. Implementation of this policy itself will not lead to development or other sources of pressure on European sites.</p>	None	None

Figure 1: European Sites



