Marian Cameron Consultants Ltd
Environmental Consultancy

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West Sussex
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1st October 2026

Wrexham County Borough Council
Planning Service
16 Lord Street
Wrexham
LL11 1LG

Dear Sir/Madam,

28 Eagles Meadow Shopping Centre, Wrexham LL13 8DG – Nutrient Neutrality

This letter, written on behalf of the applicant of the Proposed Development (MB Games Ltd), provides evidence to show that the '*proposed change of use of 28 Eagles Meadow Shopping Centre, from a shop (within Use Class A1) to a retro gaming lounge (unique use)'* (the 'Proposed Development') will be a nutrient neutral development that will have no adverse effect on the site integrity of River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which is approximately 6km southeast of the Site at its nearest point.

Nutrient neutrality is a concept promoted by Natural England and Natural Resources Wales as '*a means of ensuring that development does not add to existing nutrient burdens*'. By adhering to the concept, developers can provide certainty that their scheme is thus 'deliverable' in line with the requirements of Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) which were highlighted by the recent Dutch Nitrogen Cases[1].

This letter has been written with due consideration to:

- The Court of Appeal Decision in relation to Wyatt, R. v Fareham Borough Council (2022), EWCA Civ 983;
- Natural England's letter dated 16 March setting out their 'Advice for development proposals with the potential to affect water quality resulting in adverse nutrient impacts on habitat sites'[2]; and
- The guidance and tools to calculate nutrient budget for developments within Special Areas for Conservation (SAC's) river catchments which was published in February 2026 by the Welsh Government[3].

It has also been written with due consideration to the planning application consultation response received from Natural Resources Wales dated 21 August 2026[4]. Natural Resources Wales requested that further consideration is provided regarding foul drainage as the Site is within the catchment of the River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC due to:

[1] Coöperatie Mobilisation for the Environment and Vereniging Leefmilieu (C-293/17 & C-294/17).
[2] Natural England (16 March 2022) Letter to LPA Chief Executives & Heads of Planning, County Council Chief Executives and Heads of Planning, EA Area and National Team Directors, Planning Inspectorate, Natural Resources Wales (Cross border sites only) & Secretary of State for Department for Levelling Up Housing & Communities titled Advice for development proposals with the potential to affect water quality resulting in adverse nutrient impacts on habitat sites.
[3] https://www.gov.wales/nutrient-budget-calculator
[4] Letter from Natural Resources Wales to Wrexham County Borough Council dated 21 August 2026 (reference: CAS-315687-G8Y1) Titled Bwriad/Proposal: Change of use of building from class a1 (retail) to class sui generis (retro gaming lounge)

'This application for the change of use of shop to retro gaming lounge proposes connection of foul water to the mains sewer. The proposed development could potentially lead to an increase of phosphorus load from the receiving waste water treatment works into the River Dee and Bala Lake SAC. The majority of the River Dee and Bala Lake catchment is currently failing to meet water quality targets for phosphorus. The nutrient impacts of new connections need to be considered on a case-by-case basis within the Habitats Regulations Assessment process'.

1. The Site

The 500 sqm Site comprises Unit B5, a ground floor retail unit within the eastern courtyard of Eagles Meadow Shopping Centre at the eastern edge of Wrexham Town Centre. Eagles Meadow Shopping Centre has been operational since 2008 and is within the jurisdiction of Wrexham County Borough Council. The National Ordnance Survey (OS) Grid Reference for the Site is 333841, 350123 and the postcode is LL13 8DG. It is 6km northwest of River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC at its nearest point. The location of the Site is illustrated in **Annex 1**.

Unit B5 is currently occupied by Barnado's, which serves the local population of Wrexham and its surrounds within the River Dee Catchment[5]. The staff are also from within the River Dee Catchment. Unit B5 is served by two pedestrian entrance points, via the shop frontage onto the courtyard and to the rear of the unit. Servicing and deliveries are achieved via an under-croft servicing area accessed from the A525. Unit B5 also has two toilets for staff and customer use. Currently it has a total capacity of 278 people (staff and customers). Due to the active and longstanding activities at Unit B5, the land use at the Site is considered 'commercial/industrial' for nutrient neutrality purposes.

The surface water runoff is conveyed via surface water sewers to Afon Clyedog/River Clywedog. Furthermore, foul water is conveyed by foul sewers to Five Fords Sewage Treatment Works (STW) for treatment prior to discharge to Afon Clywedog/River Clywedog. The Afon Clywedog/River Clywedog is a tributary of the River Dee.

2. The Proposed Development

A planning application (reference number P/2026/0386) for the following Proposed Development was submitted to Wrexham County Borough Council in June 2026:

'Full planning application for the proposed change of use of 28 Eagles Meadow Shopping Centre, from a shop (within Use Class A1) to a retro gaming lounge (unique use)'.

The Proposed Development wholly relates to the existing floorspace and use of Unit B5 and does not comprise any physical alterations to the exterior of Unit B5. There will however be an extra toilet provided but all upgrades to toilets, basins and sinks will be fitted with water conservation measures so that the average water usage will be 50 litres per person per day.

The proposed capacity of the proposed retro gaming lounge will be 99 people (3-4 staff and 95 to 96 customers). The staff and customers will be from within Wrexham and its surrounds within the River Dee Catchment.

The proposed hours of opening are as follows:

- Sunday to Thursday 10am to 10 pm;
- Friday 10am to 11pm; and

[5] https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/RiverBasinDistrict/11

- Saturday 9am to 11pm.

The Proposed Development will not result in a change of:

- Land use as the proposed retro gaming lounge will remain as 'commercial/industrial' land use;
- The exterior of Unit B5;
- The existing access and parking arrangements, which currently serve Eagles Meadow Shopping Centre;
- The existing servicing and delivery arrangements;
- Surface water run-off treatment and conveyance;
- The foul water treatment and conveyance to Five Fords STW for treatment; and
- Population within the River Dee Catchment (there will be no residential or overnight accommodation provided[6]).

If the Proposed Development does not proceed then the use of Unit B5 as a retail unit will continue.

3. Five Fords STW[7]

Five Fords STW is a sewerage treatment works outside of Wrexham in northeast Wales which blends passive and activated sludge treatment. The total population served by the works in the Wrexham area is around 100,000 with seven tankers per day bringing in sludge and domestic sewage from elsewhere in northeast Wales and Chester area. Once the water is treated it is discharged into Afon Clywedog/River Clywedog.

The permitted levels for Five Fords STW are:

- 1 mg TP/L for Total Phosphorus; and
- 27 mg TN/L (no permit level) for Total Nitrogen[8].

4. River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC is 1,271.32 ha and 175.7 km long (see **Annex 1**). The River Dee has its source in Snowdonia at the outflow of Llyn Tegid and it includes Ceiriog, Meloch, Tryweryn and Mynach tributaries. Its catchment contains a wide spectrum of landscape from high mountains around Bala, rugged peaks near Llangollen, steep sided wooded valleys, and the plains of Cheshire, Flintshire, north Shropshire and Wrexham. There is a tidal influence as far upstream as Farndon and high tides regularly exceed the Chester weir crest level[9]. Further information is presented in **Annex 2** and summarised below.

Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation form the Annex 1 habitat that is the primary reason for its designation

The following Annex II species are also a primary reason for its designation:

- Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*; and
- Floating water-plantain *Luronium natans*.

[6] https://www.wrexham.gov.uk/service/development-plans-and-other-planning-policy/new-river-phosphate-level-targets
[7] Five Fords WwTW (2016) |
[8] Ricardo Energy and Environment and Arup for Welsh Government (February 2026) Nutrient Budget Calculator for Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in Wales
[9] English Nature (May 2005) EC Directive 92/43 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC) River Dee and Bala Lake

The following Annex II species present as a qualifying feature but are not a primary reason for its designation:

- Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*;
- Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri;*
- River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*;
- Bullhead *Cottus gobio*; and
- Otter *Lutra lutra*[10].

Conservation Objectives

The Conservation Objectives for the River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC are:

'Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:

- *The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species*
- *The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats*
- *The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species*
- *The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely*
- *The populations of qualifying species, and*
- *The distribution of qualifying species within the site'.*[11]

Key Issues for Maintaining River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC

The key issues for maintaining the River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC relate to[12]:

- Physical modifications;
- Pollution from sewage and waste water;
- Pollution from rural areas;
- Pollution from mines; and
- Non-invasive species.[13]

This letter focuses on effects from the Proposed Development on *'pollution from sewage and waste water'* as Natural Resources Wales' position is that there is evidence of poor water quality (high levels of Total Phosphorus) resulting in both chemical and biological failure within the River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC, which is adversely affecting the qualifying features of the designations through eutrophication.

The Proposed Development will have no effects on the other key issues due to its distance from River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC and the nature of the Proposed Development.

5. River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC and Total Phosphorus

Total Phosphorus occurs mostly as phosphates. The forms are described as:

- Orthophosphates (reactive phosphates) which are generally used in agriculture i.e. as fertilisers;

[10] https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0030252
[11] Natural England (November 2018) European Site Conservation Objectives for River Dee and Bala Lake / Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid Special Area of Conservation Site code: UK0030252.
[12] http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5178575871279104
[13] Natural Resources Wales (June 2013) Dee River District: Challenges and Choices

- Polyphosphates (inorganic) which contain salts and/or metals and are generally associated with food additives etc.; and
- Organic phosphates which are those formed by biological processes and are mostly found in human effluent.

There is growing scientific literature which shows that the ability of biota to take up a given phosphate may be independent of the form. However, Orthophosphates (also called Soluble Reactive Phosphorus), which can also be formed in effluent treatment processes from organic phosphates, are considered the form most bioavailable and utilised by biota, and hence likely to be the most attributable to eutrophication. Therefore, rather than Total Phosphorus, a more appropriate measure maybe that of Orthophosphate, but even this will only be indicative and categorically not conclusive of having the potential to cause eutrophication within water bodies.

To better understand the issue with concentrations of Total Phosphorus in River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC, a source – pathway – receptor model is to be applied for the Proposed Development. In this case, surface water and foul water discharge from the Proposed Development are the potential impact sources being considered. As the land use within the Site does not change, surface water has been scoped out of the assessment as there will be no change to the Total Phosphorus leachate rates within the surface water. Therefore, the foul water sewers which ultimately discharge into River Dee form the impact pathway; and the qualifying features of River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC are the receptors being scoped for the risk of adverse effects upon them.

To demonstrate beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the Proposed Development will not adversely affect the site integrity of River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC, the following steps need to be taken:

- Demonstrate that the impact source does not exist (i.e. demonstrate Total Phosphorus neutrality); and
- Demonstrate that there is no functional pathway for Total Phosphorus transfer between the Proposed Development's foul water discharge and River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC via foul water sewers and unnamed watercourses; and
- Demonstrate that the qualifying features of the designated sites will not be adversely affected by any additional Total Phosphorus that reach River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC (i.e. that the elevated Total Phosphorus levels within River Dee do not and will not adversely affect the qualifying features).

If the risk of an adverse effect on site integrity at any of the above three points (source, pathway, receptor) cannot be discounted, the Proposed Development will need to deliver Total Phosphorus specific mitigation. If it is concluded that there is an existing adverse effect on site integrity as a consequence of nutrient levels within the aquatic environment, then any additional inputs of Total Phosphorus to the River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC from the Proposed Development's foul water discharging from the Site will need to be mitigated. The identified mitigation measures will need to be effective in mitigating any adverse effect on site integrity, and this effectiveness will need to be established beyond reasonable scientific doubt.

6. Total Phosphorus Neutrality and the Proposed Development

The Proposed Development will result in the change of use of Unit B5 from a retail unit to a retro gaming lounge. This will result in no change in land use (i.e. continuation of the same area of commercial/industrial urban land within the active and longstanding Eagles Meadow Shopping Centre) and therefore there will be no change in Total Phosphorus load from the land use within the Site.

The Proposed Development will result in an additional toilet for staff and customers (change from two to three toilets) with upgrades to facilities made using water conservation measures to limit the average use to 50 l/p/d.

However, the capacity of Unit B5 will reduce from 278 people to 99 people and both the existing and proposed staff and customers will be from Wrexham and its surrounds within the River Dee Catchment. There will also be no residential or overnight accommodation provided. Therefore, there will be a reduction in the volume of waste water discharged from the Proposed Development and no additional Total Phosphorus released into the River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC as the staff and customers will be from Wrexham and its surrounds within the existing River Dee catchment[14].

The Proposed Development's foul water will continue, as at present to be collected, conveyed and treated at Five Fords STW prior to being discharged into Afon Clywedog/River Clywedog which is a tributary of the River Dee, which is within the River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC.

7. Summary

In summary, the change of use of Unit B5 from retail to a retro gaming lounge will result in no change to nutrients within the surface water or foul water leaving the Site as the staff and customers in both the existing and proposed scenarios are resident within the River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC catchment and the capacity of Unit B5 will be reduced. Furthermore, no residential or overnight accommodation will be provided. Therefore, the Proposed Development will be nutrient neutral.

There will also be no adverse in-combination effects associated with other residential or overnight accommodation developments within the wider River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC as each of the cumulative developments that could affect the River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC are anticipated to be nutrient neutral in accordance with advice from Natural Resources Wales and therefore have no adverse effects on their own due to their locations and the mitigation and/or design measures being provided by each of the cumulative developments.

Overall, the Proposed Development on its own or cumulatively will result in:

- No reduction of areas of key habitats;
- No significant disturbance to key species using the habitats within the River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC;
- No habitat or species fragmentation;
- No reduction in species density;
- No adverse changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.);
- No climate change impacts; and
- No changes in water levels within the River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC.

Yours sincerely

Marian Cameron

Marian Cameron
Environmental Consultant

Annex 1 – Drawings
Annex 2 – River Dee and Bala Lake SAC

[14] Nutrient neutrality assessments only consider additional Total Phosphorus loads introduced into the Nutrient Neutrality Catchment. Therefore, only new residents or overnight guests or people living outside but working/visiting inside a Nutrient Neutrality Catchment, in this case the River Dee Catchment, will potentially increase Total Phosphorus loading in foul water. Anyone already living/staying in the River Dee Catchment have already been accounted for in the nutrient baseline assumptions for the catchment and are therefore not considered further.

ANNEX 1 – DRAWINGS



Legend

- Site ownership boundary
- Unit demise

A3

Rev	Description	By	Date
A	Blue ownership boundary removed	JHG	26-06-26

0 10 20 30 40 50 62.5m

Scale - 1:1250

Contract / Project name
EAGLES MEADOW SHOPPING CENTRE, WREXHAM

Client name
WREXHAM SHOPPING MALL LIMITED

Drawing title
UNIT B5
SITE LOCATION PLAN

Drawn by	Approved	Date
JHG	----	MAR '26

Project Number	Scale
----	1:1,250 @ A3

Drawing Number	Revision
BC-EM-B5-D09-001	A

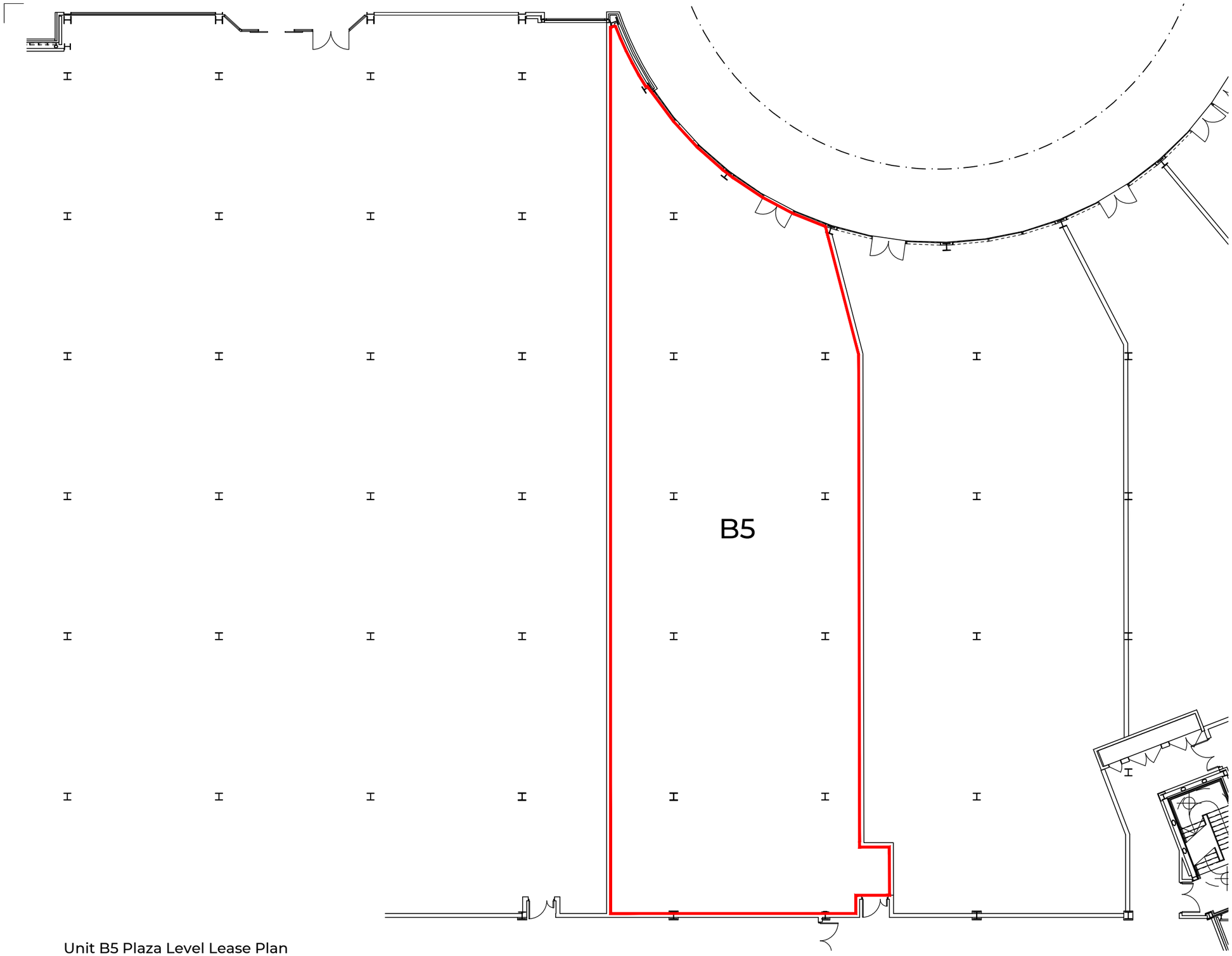
THE LIGHTWELL
61-63 BROWN ST
MANCHESTER
M2 2JG

0161 359 4313
enquiries@bcconsultancy.co.uk

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Unit B5 Plaza Level Lease Plan
1:200@A3

A3

Rev	Description	By	Date

0 2 4 6 8 10m
Scale - 1:200

Contract / Project name
EAGLES MEADOW SHOPPING CENTRE, WREXHAM

Client name
WREXHAM SHOPPING MALL LIMITED

Drawing title
UNIT B5 - PLAZA LEVEL LEASE PLAN

Drawn by	Approved	Date
JHG	----	MAR '26

Project Number	Scale
----	1:200 @ A3

Drawing Number	Revision
BC-EM-B5-A09-001	

THE LIGHTWELL
61-63 BROWN ST
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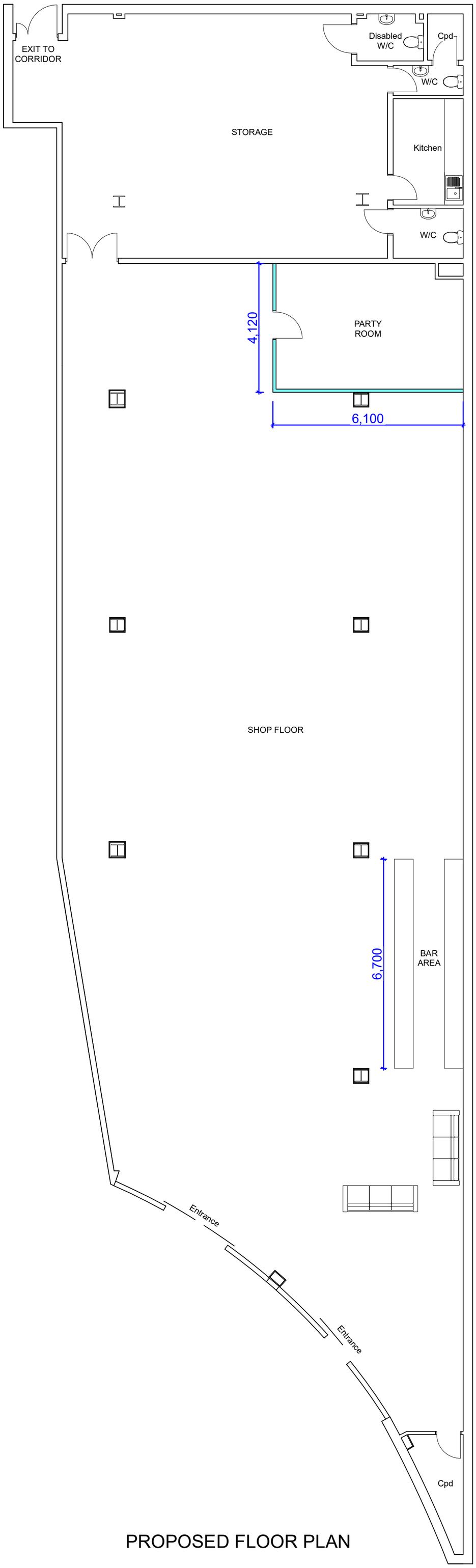
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NO.	NOTES
1	All dimensions in millimetres unless otherwise stated.
2	Do not scale off drawing. All dimensions to be checked on site by contractor.
3	Drawings to be used for purposes of Planning Application only.
4	These are not Construction Drawings.
5	The contractor is to set out, check and co-ordinate all dimensions on site during the course of works

Existing Walls

Proposed Walls



PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN

N

0 1m 2m 3m 4m 5m

SCALE 1:100

DRAFT

SHEET:	A-2
SCALE:	1:100
DATE:	July 2026

Atrium Planning Consultants

MOBILE: 07505 210 952

EMAIL: atriumplanning@icloud.com

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

PROJECT: Change Of Use

SITE: Unit B5, Eagles Meadow Shopping Centre, Wrexham

CLIENT: Leyton Mileson

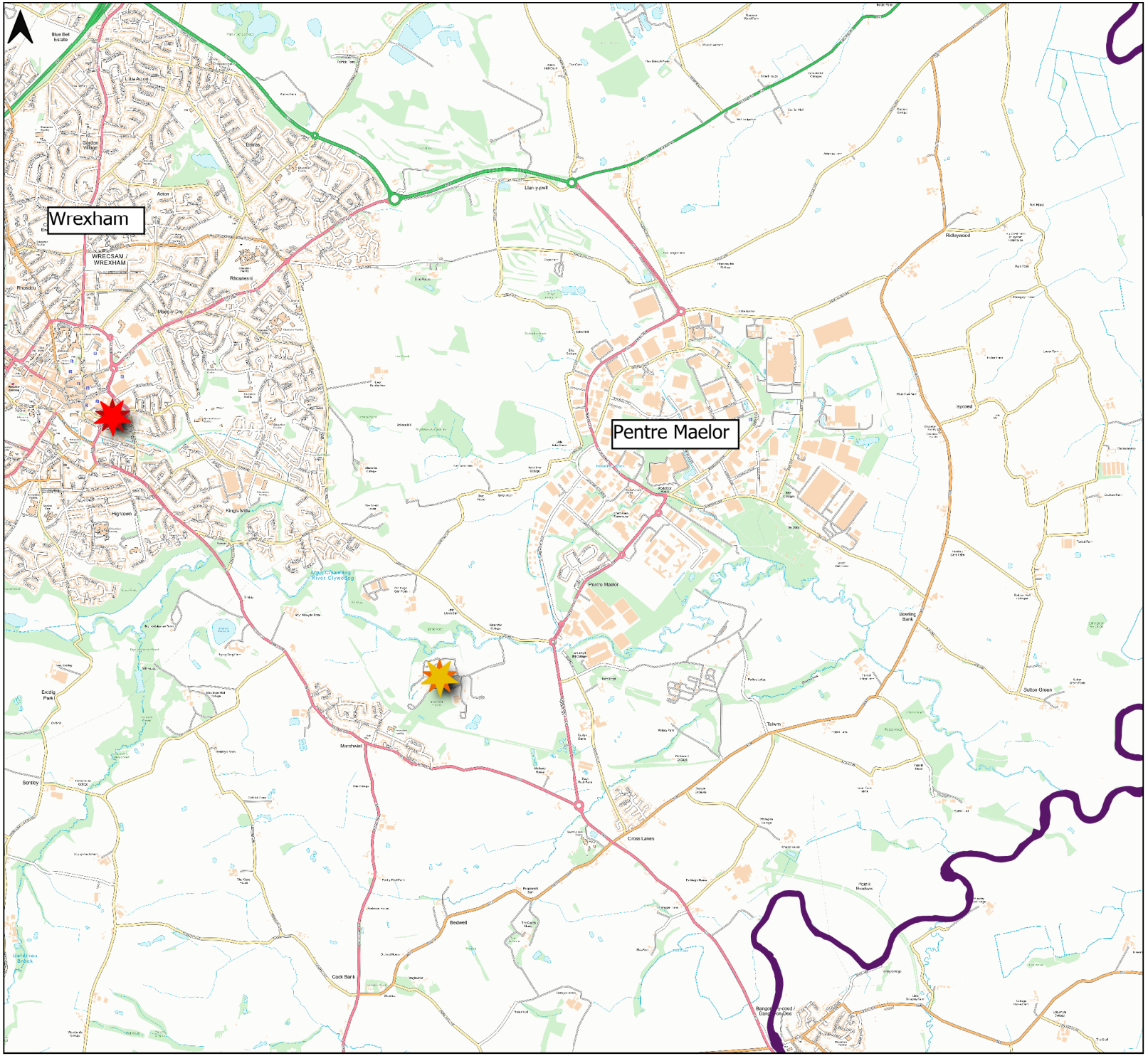
SHEET TITLE:

Proposed Floor Plan

REVISIONS:

Matt John
MSc Regeneration
BSc (Hons) City and Regional Planning
RTPI
Accredited Degrees

LABC Registered Partner Authority Scheme



Legend

The Site (Unit B5 of Eagles Meadow Shopping Centre)

Five Fords WWTW

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

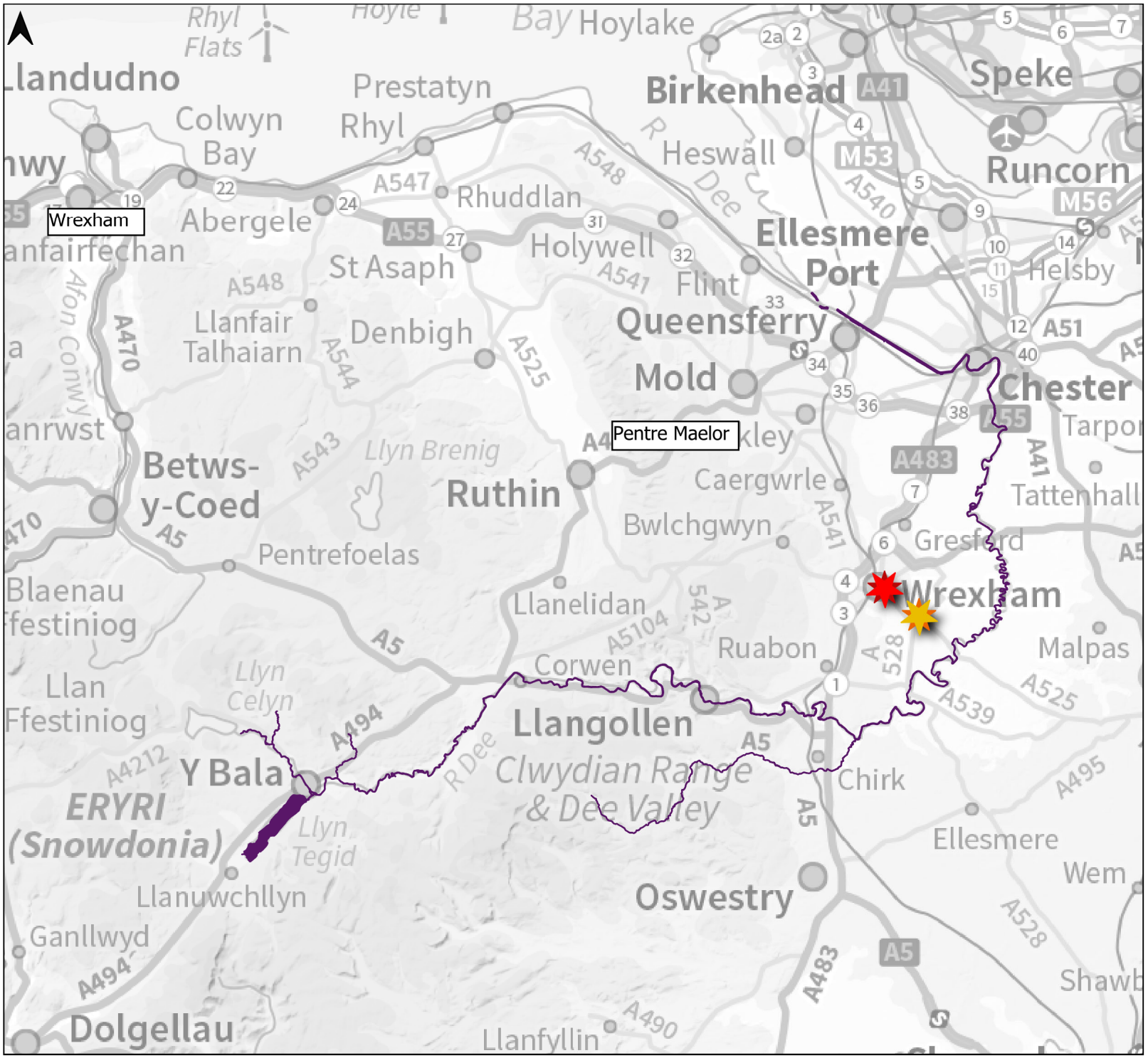
River Dee and Bala Lake/
Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid

0 500 1,000 m

The Site and River Dee and Bala Lake SAC

Marian Cameron Consultants Ltd
Environmental Consultancy

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Legend

The Site (Unit B5 of Eagles Meadow Shopping Centre)

Five Fords WWTW

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

River Dee and Bala Lake/ Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid

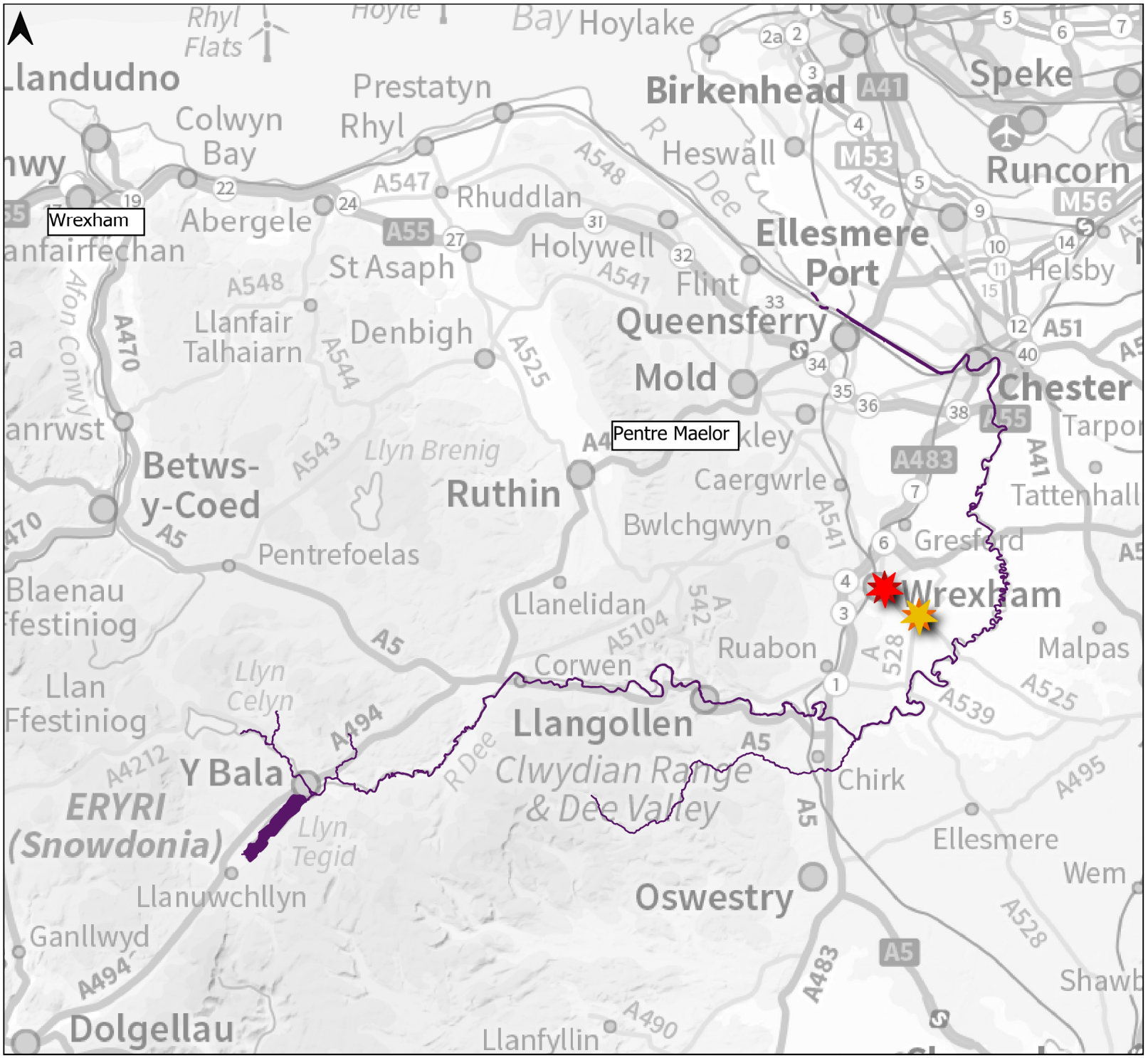
0 5 10 km

The Site and River Dee and Bala Lake SAC

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ANNEX 2: RIVER DEE AND BALA LAKE SAC



Legend

The Site (Unit B5 of Eagles Meadow Shopping Centre)

Five Fords WWTW

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

River Dee and Bala Lake/ Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid

0 5 10 km

The Site and River Dee and Bala Lake SAC

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STANDARD DATA FORM for sites within the ‘UK national site network of European sites’

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are classified and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated under:

- the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales (including the adjacent territorial sea) and to a limited extent in Scotland (reserved matters) and Northern Ireland (excepted matters);
- the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) in Scotland;
- the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) in Northern Ireland; and
- the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in the UK offshore area.

Each SAC or SPA (forming part of the UK national site network of European sites) has its own Standard Data Form containing site-specific information. The information provided here generally follows the same documenting format for SACs and SPAs, as set out in the Official Journal of the European Union recording the Commission Implementing Decision of 11 July 2011 (2011/484/EU).

Please note that these forms contain a number of codes, all of which are explained either within the data forms themselves or in the end notes.

More general information on SPAs and SACs in the UK is available from the SPA homepage and SAC homepage on the JNCC website. These webpages also provide links to Standard Data Forms for all SAC and SPA sites in the UK.

https://jncc.gov.uk/

NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE **UK0030252**

SITENAME **River Dee and Bala Lake/ Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid**

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- 5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS AND RELATION WITH CORINE BIOTOPES
- 6. SITE MANAGEMENT

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

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1.1 Type	1.2 Site code
B	UK0030252

1.3 Site name

River Dee and Bala Lake/ Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid

1.4 First Compilation date	1.5 Update date
2003-05	2015-12

1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation: Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Address: Joint Nature Conservation Committee Monkstone House City Road Peterborough PE1 1JY

Email:

Date site proposed as SCI:	2003-05
Date site confirmed as SCI:	2004-12
Date site designated as SAC:	2005-04
National legal reference of SAC designation:	Regulations 11 and 13-15 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made).

2. SITE LOCATION

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2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude	Latitude
-2.861111111	53.04722222

2.2 Area [ha]:

1271.32

2.3 Marine area [%]

0.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

175.7

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code	Region Name
UKL1	West Wales and The Valleys
UKD2	Cheshire
UKG2	Shropshire and Staffordshire
UKL2	East Wales

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (100.0 %)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

Annex I Habitat types						Site assessment			
Code	PF	NP	Cover [ha]	Cave [number]	Data quality	A|B|C|D	A|B|C		
						Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Global
3260			317.83	0	G	A	B	B	A
9180	X		1.27	0	G	D			
91A0			1.27	0	G	D			
91E0	X		1.27	0	G	D			

- **PF:** for the habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (6210, 7130, 9430) enter "X" in the column PF to indicate the priority form.
- **NP:** in case that a habitat type no longer exists in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Cover:** decimal values can be entered
- **Caves:** for habitat types 8310, 8330 (caves) enter the number of caves if estimated surface is not available.

- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation)

3.2 Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and site evaluation for them

Species					Population in the site						Site assessment			
G	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	T	Size		Unit	Cat.	D.qual.	A|B|C|D	A|B|C		
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
F	1103	Alosa fallax			p				P	DD	D			
F	1163	Cottus gobio			p				P	DD	C	C	C	C
F	1099	Lampetra fluviatilis			p				P	DD	C	C	C	C
F	1096	Lampetra planeri			p				P	DD	C	C	C	C
P	1831	Luronium natans			p	10000	10000	i		M	B	B	B	B
M	1355	Lutra lutra			p				P	DD	C	C	C	C
I	1029	Margaritifera margaritifera			p				P	DD	D			
F	1095	Petromyzon marinus			p				P	DD	C	C	C	C
F	1106	Salmo salar			p	1001	10000	i		M	A	B	C	B

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Type:** p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see reference portal)
- **Abundance categories (Cat.):** C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present - to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

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4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N03	2.0
N02	4.0
N14	2.0
N06	90.0

N16	2.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

1 Terrestrial: Soil & Geology: shingle,sandstone,alluvium 2 Terrestrial: Geomorphology and landscape: lowland,floodplain

4.2 Quality and importance

Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Luronium natans for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Petromyzon marinus for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Lampetra fluviatilis for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Lampetra planeri for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Salmo salar for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Cottus gobio for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Lutra lutra for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i|o|b]

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i|o|b]
M	J03		I

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low
Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,
T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions
i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.5 Documentation

Conservation Objectives - the Natural England links below provide access to the Conservation Objectives (and other site-related information) for its terrestrial and inshore Natura 2000 sites, including conservation advice packages and supporting documents for European Marine Sites within English waters and for cross-border sites. The Natural Resources Wales weblink below provides access to information on its designated sites. Detailed information about this Natura 2000 site can be accessed via the Management Plan link provided in Section 6.2. See also the 'UK Approach' document for more information (link via the JNCC website).

Link(s): http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216

http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/3212324
https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/protected-areas-of-lan

http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000_StandardDataForm_UKApproach_Dec2015.pdf

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

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5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
UK04	99.3	UK00	0.8		

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

Organisation:	Natural Resources Wales
Address:	
Email:	

Organisation:	Natural England
Address:	
Email:	

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

X	Yes	Name: RIVER DEE AND BALA LAKE / AFON DYFRDWY A LLYN TEGID Link: https://www.naturalresources.wales/media/673374/River_Dee___Bala_Lake_32_Plan.pdf
	No, but in preparation	
	No	

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

For available information, including on Conservation Objectives, see Section 4.5.

EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN THE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC) AND SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA) STANDARD DATA FORMS

The codes in the table below generally follow those explained in the official European Union guidelines for the Standard Data Form (also referencing the relevant page number).

1.1 Site type

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	SPA (classified Special Protection Area)	53
B	cSAC, SCI or SAC (candidate Special Area of Conservation, Site of Community Importance, designated Special Area of Conservation)	53
C	SPA area/boundary is the same as the cSAC/SCI/SAC i.e. a co-classified/designated site (Note: this situation only occurs in Gibraltar)	53

3.1 Habitat code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	57
1130	Estuaries	57
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	57
1150	Coastal lagoons	57
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	57
1170	Reefs	57
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	57
1210	Annual vegetation of drift lines	57
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	57
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts	57
1310	Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	57
1320	Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae)	57
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	57
1340	Inland salt meadows	57
1420	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)	57
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	57
2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes")	57
2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	57
2140	Decalcified fixed dunes with Empetrum nigrum	57
2150	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea)	57
2160	Dunes with Hippopha• rhamnoides	57
2170	Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae)	57
2190	Humid dune slacks	57
21A0	Machairs (* in Ireland)	57
2250	Coastal dunes with Juniperus spp.	57
2330	Inland dunes with open Corynephorus and Agrostis grasslands	57
3110	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)	57
3130	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea	57
3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.	57
3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation	57

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
3160	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	57
3170	Mediterranean temporary ponds	57
3180	Turloughs	57
3260	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation	57
4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	57
4020	Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix	57
4030	European dry heaths	57
4040	Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with Erica vagans	57
4060	Alpine and Boreal heaths	57
4080	Sub-Arctic Salix spp. scrub	57
5110	Stable xerothermophilous formations with Buxus sempervirens on rock slopes (Berberidion p.p.)	57
5130	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	57
6130	Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae	57
6150	Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands	57
6170	Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands	57
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)	57
6230	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe)	57
6410	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	57
6430	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	57
6510	Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)	57
6520	Mountain hay meadows	57
7110	Active raised bogs	57
7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	57
7130	Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	57
7140	Transition mires and quaking bogs	57
7150	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	57
7210	Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae	57
7220	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	57
7230	Alkaline fens	57
7240	Alpine pioneer formations of the Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae	57
8110	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)	57
8120	Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii)	57
8210	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8220	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8240	Limestone pavements	57
8310	Caves not open to the public	57
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	57
9120	Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion)	57
9130	Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests	57
9160	Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests of the Carpinion betuli	57
9180	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines	57
9190	Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains	57
91A0	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	57
91C0	Caledonian forest	57
91D0	Bog woodland	57
91E0	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	57
91J0	Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles	57

3.1 Habitat representativity (abbreviated to 'Representativity' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent representatively	57
B	Good representatively	57
C	Significant representatively	57
D	Non-significant presence representatively	57

3.1 Relative surface

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	> 15%-100%	58
B	> 2%-15%	58
C	≤ 2%	58

3.1 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Conservation' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	59
B	Good conservation	59
C	Average or reduced conservation	59

3.1 Global assessment (abbreviated to 'Global' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	59
B	Good value	59
C	Significant value	59

3.2 Population (abbreviated to 'Pop.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	> 15%-100%	62
B	> 2%-15%	62
C	≤ 2%	62
D	Non-significant population	62

3.2 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Con.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	63
B	Good conservation	63
C	Average or reduced conservation	63

3.2 Isolation (abbreviated to 'Iso.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Population (almost) Isolated	63
B	Population not-isolated, but on margins of area of distribution	63
C	Population not-isolated within extended distribution range	63

3.2 Global Grade (abbreviated to 'Glo.' or 'G.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	63
B	Good value	63
C	Significant value	63

3.3 Other species – essentially covers bird assemblage types

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
WATR	Non-breeding waterbird assemblage	UK specific code
SBA	Breeding seabird assemblage	UK specific code

BBA	Breeding bird assemblage (applies only to sites classified pre 2000)	UK specific code

4.1 Habitat class code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
N01	Marine areas, Sea inlets	65
N02	Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	65
N03	Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes	65
N04	Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair	65
N05	Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets	65
N06	Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	65
N07	Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	65
N08	Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	65
N09	Dry grassland, Steppes	65
N10	Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	65
N11	Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland	65
N14	Improved grassland	65
N15	Other arable land	65
N16	Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	65
N17	Coniferous woodland	65
N19	Mixed woodland	65
N21	Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including Orchards, groves, Vineyards, Dehesas)	65
N22	Inland rocks, Screes, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	65
N23	Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites)	65
N25	Grassland and scrub habitats (general)	65
N26	Woodland habitats (general)	65

4.3 Threats code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A01	Cultivation	65
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	65
A03	Mowing / cutting of grassland	65
A04	Grazing	65
A05	Livestock farming and animal breeding (without grazing)	65
A06	Annual and perennial non-timber crops	65
A07	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals	65
A08	Fertilisation	65
A10	Restructuring agricultural land holding	65
A11	Agriculture activities not referred to above	65
B01	Forest planting on open ground	65
B02	Forest and Plantation management & use	65
B03	Forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth	65
B04	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry)	65
B06	Grazing in forests/ woodland	65
B07	Forestry activities not referred to above	65
C01	Mining and quarrying	65
C02	Exploration and extraction of oil or gas	65
C03	Renewable abiotic energy use	65
D01	Roads, paths and railroads	65
D02	Utility and service lines	65
D03	Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions	65
D04	Airports, flightpaths	65
D05	Improved access to site	65
E01	Urbanised areas, human habitation	65
E02	Industrial or commercial areas	65

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
E03	Discharges	65
E04	Structures, buildings in the landscape	65
E06	Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities	65
F01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture	65
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources	65
F03	Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including damage caused by game (excessive density), and taking/removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc., trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control, accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear), etc.)	65
F04	Taking / Removal of terrestrial plants, general	65
F05	Illegal taking/ removal of marine fauna	65
F06	Hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above	65
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities	65
G02	Sport and leisure structures	65
G03	Interpretative centres	65
G04	Military use and civil unrest	65
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	65
H01	Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)	65
H02	Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)	65
H03	Marine water pollution	65
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	65
H05	Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges)	65
H06	Excess energy	65
H07	Other forms of pollution	65
I01	Invasive non-native species	65
I02	Problematic native species	65
I03	Introduced genetic material, GMO	65
J01	Fire and fire suppression	65
J02	Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions	65
J03	Other ecosystem modifications	65
K01	Abiotic (slow) natural processes	65
K02	Biocenotic evolution, succession	65
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	65
K04	Interspecific floral relations	65
K05	Reduced fecundity/ genetic depression	65
L05	Collapse of terrain, landslide	65
L07	Storm, cyclone	65
L08	Inundation (natural processes)	65
L10	Other natural catastrophes	65
M01	Changes in abiotic conditions	65
M02	Changes in biotic conditions	65
U	Unknown threat or pressure	65
XO	Threats and pressures from outside the Member State	65

5.1 Designation type codes

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
UK00	No Protection Status	67
UK01	National Nature Reserve	67
UK04	Site of Special Scientific Interest (GB)	67
UK05	Marine Conservation Zone	67
UK06	Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area	67
UK86	Special Area (Channel Islands)	67
UK98	Area of Special Scientific Interest (NI)	67
IN00	Ramsar Convention site	67
IN08	Special Protection Area	67
IN09	Special Area of Conservation	67

EC Directive 92/43 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name:	River Dee and Bala Lake
Unitary Authority/County:	Cheshire, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Shropshire, Wrexham
SAC status:	English part designated on 1 April 2005 Welsh part designated on 13 December 2004
Grid reference:	SJ422503
SAC EU code:	UK0030252
Area (ha):	1308.93
Component SSSI:	Afon Dyfrdwy (River Dee) SSSI, Llyn Tegid SSSI, River Dee (England) SSSI

Site description:

The River Dee has its source in Snowdonia at the outflow of Llyn Tegid and it includes the Ceiriog, Meloch, Tryweryn and Mynach tributaries. Its catchment contains a wide spectrum of landscape from high mountains around Bala, rugged peaks near Llangollen, steep sided wooded valleys, and the plains of Cheshire, Flintshire, north Shropshire and Wrexham. There is a tidal influence as far upstream as Farndon and high tides regularly exceed the Chester weir crest level.

The aquatic plant community includes Wirtgen's water-crowfoot *Ranunculus x bachii* and pond water-crowfoot *R. peltatus*, and also floating water-plantain *Luronium natans*. Water-crowfoot forms extensive beds along the whole length of the Dee where flow conditions are suitable. Other aquatic plants which occur within the site include intermediate water-starwort *Callitriche hamulata*, alternate-flowered water-milfoil *Myriophyllum alterniflorum* and bryophytes including *Rhynchostegium riparoides* and *Fontinalis antipyretica.* Marginal vegetation consists mainly of reed canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* with occasional branched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*.

There is good tree cover along the banks of the River Dee and the tributaries, with the Ceiriog being tree lined on both banks along much of its length. The dominant species are alder *Alnus glutinosa* and willow *Salix* spp., with occasional ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and oak *Quercus* spp. Where sections of the riverbank have been fenced off the vegetation tends to be dominated by bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg., nettles *Urtica dioica* and other tall ruderals.

The River Dee is recognised as one of North Wales' premier rivers for Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*. The Mynach, Meloch and Ceiriog tributaries are the most important salmon spawning tributaries in the Dee catchment. Other migratory fish utilising the river system include river lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilus* and sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*. The Dee also supports important populations of non-migratory fish including bullhead *Cottus gobio* and brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*. The otter *Lutra lutra* is well established throughout the river system, especially where appropriate bank side cover exists.

Qualifying habitats: The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:

- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation. (Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot)

Qualifying species: The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following species listed in Annex II:

- Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*
- Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*
- Bullhead *Cottus gobio*
- Floating water-plantain *Luronium natans*
- Otter *Lutra lutra*
- River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*
- Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.
Register reference number: UK0030252
Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: Trevor Salmon

On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The site is also entered in the Register of European sites for Wales, maintained by the National Assembly for Wales.

European Site Conservation Objectives for River Dee and Bala Lake / Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid Special Area of Conservation Site code: UK0030252

With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;

- **The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species**
- **The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats**
- **The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species**
- **The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely**
- **The populations of qualifying species, and,**
- **The distribution of qualifying species within the site.**

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Supplementary Advice document (where available), which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

Qualifying Features:

H3260. Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation; Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot

S1095. *Petromyzon marinus*; Sea lamprey

S1096. *Lampetra planeri*; Brook lamprey

S1099. *Lampetra fluviatilis*; River lamprey

S1106. *Salmo salar*; Atlantic salmon

S1163. *Cottus gobio*; Bullhead

S1355. *Lutra lutra*; Otter

S1831. *Luronium natans*; Floating water-plantain

This is a cross border site

This site crosses the border between England and Wales. Some features may only occur in one Country. The advice of Natural Resources Wales should therefore be sought separately.

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 as amended from time to time (the "Habitats Regulations"). They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment', including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where available) will also provide a framework to inform the measures needed to conserve or restore the European Site and the prevention of deterioration or significant disturbance of its qualifying features.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each habitat or species of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving Favourable Conservation Status for that species or habitat type at a UK level. The term 'favourable conservation status' is defined in regulation 3 of the Habitats Regulations.

Publication date: 27 November 2018 (version 4). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 5 February June 2016 to reflect the consolidation of the Habitats Regulations in 2017.

Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS)

Planning for the Future

Site Improvement Plan

River Dee and Bala Lake

Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) have been developed for each Natura 2000 site in England and for most sites which straddle the border between England and Wales. This plan has been drawn up as part of the Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 sites (IPENS) in conjunction with the LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales. Natura 2000 sites is the combined term for sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protected Areas (SPA). This work has been financially supported by LIFE, a financial instrument of the European Community.

The plan provides a high level overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the Natura 2000 features on the whole site (in both England and Wales), and outlines the priority measures required to improve the condition of the features. It does not cover issues where remedial actions are already in place or ongoing management activities which are required for maintenance.

The SIP consists of three parts: a Summary table, which sets out the priority Issues and Measures; a detailed Actions table, which sets out who needs to do what, when and how much it is estimated to cost; and a set of tables containing contextual information and links. Once this current programme ends, it is anticipated that Natural England and others, working with landowners and managers, will all play a role in delivering the priority measures to improve the condition of the features on these sites.

The SIP for this cross-border site between England and Wales is based on Natural England and Natural Resources Wales's current evidence and knowledge, and are live, and not legal documents; they will be updated to reflect changes in our evidence/knowledge and as Actions get underway. The information in the SIP will be used to update both England and Wales's contributions to the UK's Prioritised Action Framework (PAF).

The SIPs are not formal consultation documents, but if you have any comments (relating to areas within England and/or Wales) about the SIP or would like more information please email us at IPENSLIFEProject@naturalengland.org.uk, or contact Natural England's Responsible Officer for the site via our enquiry service 0300 060 3900, or enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

To contact Natural Resources Wales telephone 0300 065 3000, or email enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

This Site Improvement Plan covers the following Natura 2000 site(s)

UK0030252 River Dee and Bala Lake SAC

Site description

The River Dee and Bala Lake/ Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC extends from the upland source of the Dee at Bala Lake in Snowdonia, Wales through lowland Shropshire and Cheshire in England, to its outflow into the Dee Estuary, and includes some of the tributaries such as the Ceiriog. It is considered of European importance due to the habitat it provides for plant communities and a number of species, including several fish species such as Atlantic salmon, and also otter and floating water plantain.

A joint approach has been taken by Natural Resources Wales and Natural England to identifying issues and actions related to cross-border Natura 2000 sites. For the River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid (of which 87% lies in Wales) information on the issues and actions required to improve the condition of the SAC is contained in a Prioritised Improvement Plan produced by Natural Resources Wales as part of its LIFE Natura 2000 Programme in 2015.

For information on the Prioritised Improvement Plan for the River Dee and Bala Lake/Afron Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid contact Natural Resources Wales at http://naturalresources.wales/about-us/our-projects/life-n2k-wales/?lang=en or e-mail enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk.

Plan Summary

This table shows the prioritised issues for the site(s), the features they affect, the proposed measures to address the issues and the delivery bodies whose involvement is required to deliver the measures. The list of delivery bodies will include those who have agreed to the actions as well as those where discussions over their role in delivering the actions is on-going.

Issue

Issues identified affecting this site can be found in the Prioritised Improvement Plan (PIP) produced by NRW. Contact details can be found above.

Site details

The tables in this section contain site-relevant contextual information and links

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

River Dee and Bala Lake SAC	S1099 *Lampetra fluviatilis*: River lamprey
	S1106 *Salmo salar:* Atlantic salmon
	S1163 *Cottus gobio:* Bullhead
	S1095 *Petromyzon marinus*: Sea lamprey
	H3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation
	S1096 *Lampetra planeri*: Brook lamprey
	S1831 *Luronium natans*: Floating water-plantain

Site location and links

River Dee and Bala Lake SAC

Area (ha) **1308.93** *Grid reference* **SJ423503**	Map link
Local Authorities	Cheshire; Ddinbych/ Denbighshire; Gwynedd; Shropshire; Sir y Fflint/ Flintshire; Wrecsam/ Wrexham
Site Conservation Objectives	European Site Conservation Objectives for River Dee and Bala Lake SAC
European Marine Site conservation advice	n/a
Regulation 33/35 Package	n/a
Marine Management Organisation site plan	n/a

Water Framework Directive (WFD)

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) provides the main framework for managing the water environment throughout Europe. Under the WFD a management plan must be developed for each river basin district. The River Basin Management Plans (RMBP) include a summary of the measures needed for water dependent Natura 2000 sites to meet their conservation objectives. For the second round of RBMPs, SIPs are being used to capture the priorities and new measures required for water dependent habitats on Natura 2000 sites. SIP actions for non-water dependent sites/habitats do not form part of the RBMPs and associated consultation.

River Dee and Bala Lake SAC

River basin	Dee RBMP
WFD Management catchment	Middle Dee
WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)	GB111067051910, GB111067051930, GB111067052120, GB111067052130, GB111067052140, GB111067057080

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
River Dee and Bala Lake SAC	River Dee (England) SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
River Dee and Bala Lake SAC	n/a

Ramsar	
River Dee and Bala Lake SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA	
River Dee and Bala Lake SAC	n/a

Version	*Date*	*Comment*
1.0	08/06/2015	