

Habitats and Wild Birds Implementation Review:

Summary of measures

Facilitating nationally significant infrastructure projects

Objective: To improve interaction between 'top 40', and other nationally significant infrastructure projects and the Directives to reduce unnecessary delay and cost while ensuring that environmental and economic objectives are fulfilled.

Measure	By when	Who
1. Establish a cross-Government Major Infrastructure and Environment Unit (MIEU) to work at the pre-application stage with 'top 40', and other nationally significant infrastructure projects	April 2012	Defra
2. Publish advice on the circumstances that a competent authority may, or should, adopt the reasoning or conclusions of another competent authority	July 2012	Defra
3. Produce guidance on the key factors that need to be considered for a project to be deemed IROPI, including "alternatives" to a plan or project.	Consult July 2012; publish November 2012	Defra
4. Identify which of the 'top 40' infrastructure projects, IROPI considerations and "alternatives" to a plan or project are likely to apply	Case by case	Defra
5. Consider which of the "top 40" infrastructure projects would benefit from a "lead" competent authority being identified	Case by case	Defra
6. Set up a Multi-Stakeholder Infrastructure and Habitats Group	July 2012	Defra

Improving implementation processes and streamlining guidance

Objective: To give clearer guidance, with a more consistent, risk-based approach to implementation that avoids excessive precaution, while being compliant with the Directives.

Measure	By when	Who
7. Produce a new customer-focussed overarching guidance manual	Consult November 2012; publish March 2013	Defra
8. Undertake a stock-take of over 1,600 pages of current guidance and make proposals for simplification	March 2013	Defra
9. Provide customer-focussed and up-to-date information on the Directives on one website with sign-posting to point businesses and others to detailed guidance.	August 2012	Defra
10. Ask the Law Commission to consider recommending a new right for an applicant for a European Protected Species licence to appeal against a decision to refuse a licence or to attach unreasonable conditions to a licence.	Ongoing	Law Commission.
11. Implement vigorously the Penfold Review measures to streamline non-planning consents processes	Ongoing	Natural England (NE), Environment Agency (EA), Dept. for Communities and Local Government

Improving the quality, quantity and sharing of data

Objective: To improve evidence based decision making; increase data availability.

Measure	By when	Who
12. Introduce a new process for agreeing upfront evidence requirements for 'top 40', and other nationally significant infrastructure projects	September 2012	Defra
13. Introduce new consistent standards on the acceptable range and quality of evidence that will enable statutory agencies to provide their advice	Consult November 2012; publish March 2013	NE with EA, Marine Management Organisation (MMO), JNCC
14. Publish new approach to increasing the information on the conservation objectives of protected sites	June 2012	NE with JNCC
15. Establish a Habitats and Wild Birds Directives Marine Evidence Group to address marine data sharing, research gaps, and post-construction monitoring	July 2012	Defra
16. Explore the practical implications on operating capacity with MEDIN, the MEDIN Data Archive Centres and other equivalent data sharing facilities	October 2012	Defra
17. Commit to managing data consistently and sharing priority data not yet publicly accessible; ensuring data can be identified through MEDIN and accessed from the MEDIN Data Archive Centres or equivalent data sharing facilities	December 2012	Industry, NE, EA, JNCC, MMO, The Crown Estate
18. New rolling programme of post construction monitoring reviews on priority marine sectors	Ongoing	Cefas, MMO
19. Identify priority terrestrial data and put programme in place for sharing priority data not yet publicly accessible	December 2012	NE, JNCC
20. The Environment Agency will make available their information about the risks posed to protected sites by activities they regulate	December 2012	EA
21. Review the effectiveness of mitigation measures for species licences through evaluating post-licence monitoring data	December 2012	NE
22. Continue to work with NGOs to agree actions to improve the relevance and consistency of existing surveillance and monitoring schemes for species of European importance	March 2013	Defra, NE, JNCC
23. Work with NGOs such as the Wildlife Trusts, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust (ART) and the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT), to develop local pilot studies and initiatives, linked to Nature Improvement Areas where appropriate, to explore and develop new ways to improve monitoring of European Protected Species	April 2013	Defra, NE, JNCC, Wildlife Trusts, BCT, ART and others

Improving the customer experience

Objective: To encourage a shared culture of openness, transparency and delivery.

Measure	By when	Who
24. Lead government agencies to commit in Corporate Plans to a culture of co-operation, transparency, openness and delivery focus, with appropriate key performance indicators (KPIs)	April 2012	NE, EA, MMO, JNCC
25. Defra ministers will host a stakeholder roundtable discussion in 6 months to look at how the recommendations are establishing the culture we want	Autumn 2012	Defra
26. Establish staff interchange arrangements between businesses, SNCBs and regulators to improve partnership working	Ongoing from April 2012 (progress report to Defra by Oct 2012)	NE Industry Development Group, MMO
27. Welcome the industry-led development of professional standards. Defra, NE and other delivery bodies will work with the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM) to support them in the development of the Charter Mark for Ecologists	April 2012 onwards	Defra, NE, IEEM
28. Defra workshop with the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and the Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE) to explore new ways to manage ecological expertise	September 2012	Defra, IEEM, ALGE

© Crown Copyright 2012

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence.

To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/ or e-mail: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk. Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at HDImplementationreview@defra.gsi.gov.uk. This document is also available from our website at www.defra.gov.uk/habitats-review/

Published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Revised version published on 4th April 2012 – delivery date for measure 23 corrected

PB 13724a