



**Cyfoeth
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Nick Fackrell
Forest Resource Planner
Natural Resources Wales

15 September 2016

Dear Nick

Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Neath Forest Resource Plan

Thank you for giving the Strategic Assessment Team (SAT), Natural Resources Wales, the opportunity to comment on the Neath Valley Forest Resource Plan (FRP) Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Our comments are made in the context of our roles under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended), and as advisers to the Welsh Government on matters pertaining to the natural heritage of Wales and its coastal waters.

Please note that these comments relate only to the HRA aspect of the FRP, and the proposals therein. They do not relate to the appropriateness of any other aspects of the FRP or the proposals it contains.

Please also note that this response will be published on the Natural Resources Wales external website.

Our overarching comment is that we welcome and support the FRP process, together with your commitment to HRA.

In relation to this specific HRA, we agree with the conclusion that no pathways exist between the Neath Valley FRP area and any European sites, and therefore there will be no impacts on any European sites.

We therefore agree that HRA is not required in this instance.

We hope that you find these comments useful, but if you would like to discuss any of these points further please do not hesitate to contact Roger Matthews via Natural Resources Wales' Strategic Assessment Mailbox at strategic.assessment@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Roger Matthews
Senior Environmental Assessment Adviser

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Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg
Correspondence welcomed in Welsh and English