

**Prif Gynllunydd, Y Gyfarwyddiaeth Gynllunio
Chief Planner, Planning Directorate**

To: Heads of Planning, Chief Planning
Inspector

27/03/2026

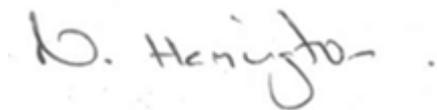
Dear Colleagues,

As a result of updated condition assessments for marine Special Areas of Conservation in Wales, additional work was commissioned from DTA Ecology to utilise and build on the existing interim planning policy position and WG/DTA guidance published in 2025.

In addition, the Taskforce set up to seek solutions to the challenges presented by nutrients requested clarification on how the Development Plans Manual (Edition 3, March 2020) 'Tests of Soundness' should be applied to LDPs where the impact of additional nutrients on SACs had been identified.

To this end, please find attached the workshop report from DTA Ecology and the requested clarification note regarding the application of 'Tests of Soundness' to Local Development Plans (LDPs) where additional nutrients may impact on Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), along with the evidence outputs of the DTA workshop held on 1 December 2025.

Yours faithfully,



**Neil Hemington
Prif Gynllunydd, Y Gyfarwyddiaeth Gynllunio
Chief Planner, Planning Directorate**