

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy: Public Consultation Results

Consultation period:	6 weeks between 25/03/2024 – 06/05/2024
Documents presented:	Strategy main document (Draft) Appendix to the main document (Draft) Summary of the Strategy (Draft) Habitat Regulations Assessment (Draft) Strategic Environmental Assessment (Draft)
Form:	Survey
Location:	Online with hard copies available in all Siop Gwynedd locations and in public libraries (All responses received online)
Number of participants:	77 (including 1 un-named Public Body, 1 business and 1 Community Council)
Methods of promotion:	Cyngor Gwynedd social media accounts Cyngor Gwynedd website Direct notification to partner authorities Email to Residents Panel Advertisements in the regional newspapers Advertisements in local newspapers (if date of publication allowed)

Summary

Shown below are the results of the 5 questions in the online survey regarding the Draft Strategy and further questions regarding the content of the two related environmental documents.

Overall, the response to the draft Strategy is mixed and the results do not suggest clear support for the document. When looking through the results we must consider that the number of participants that have viewed the consultation documents are relatively low - the number of visitors that opened the main document is around half the number that opened the online survey, with the visitor numbers for the other documents lower still (e.g. around 10% of those which opened the online survey also viewed the appendix to the main document and/or the Strategic Environmental Assessment).

Having reviewed the comments provided within the responses some themes appear to be repeated between the participants, including:

- Lack of a clear action plan within the document
- Concern about the effects of climate change and the Council's ability to respond
- Concern about funding and prioritizing of flood risk management work
- Concern that different authorities are not working together to manage risks
- Not enough emphasis on natural flood risk management across the catchments
- Concerns about unsuitable developments increasing risks

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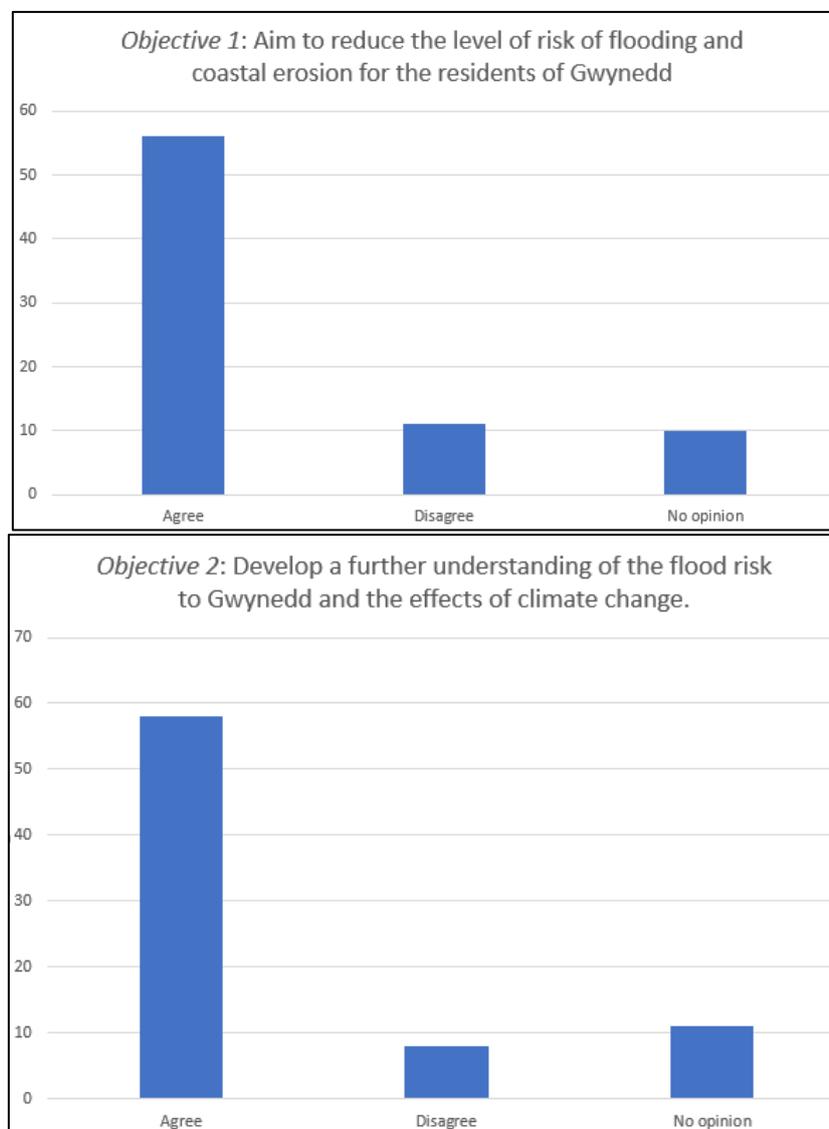
In addition to the above, several responses refer to the need to maintain surface water drains and to open water courses in order to increase capacity. Local issues are also included within the responses although we did advise participants to direct such concerns to a specific mailbox.

A brief analysis of the responses is also provided below. On the whole it is not considered that the responses to the survey make a case for significant changes to the Strategy or the related documents, however some suggestions are made to review or modify the documents in order to address the comments expressed.

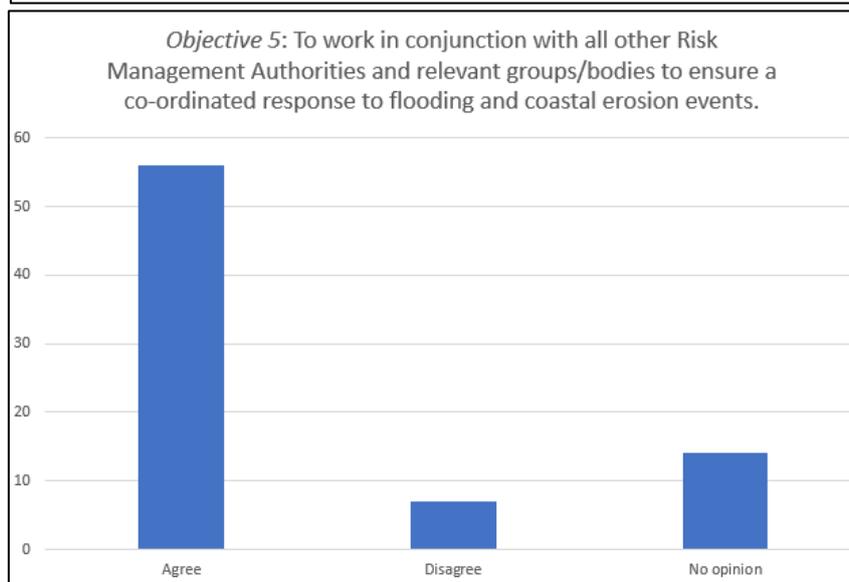
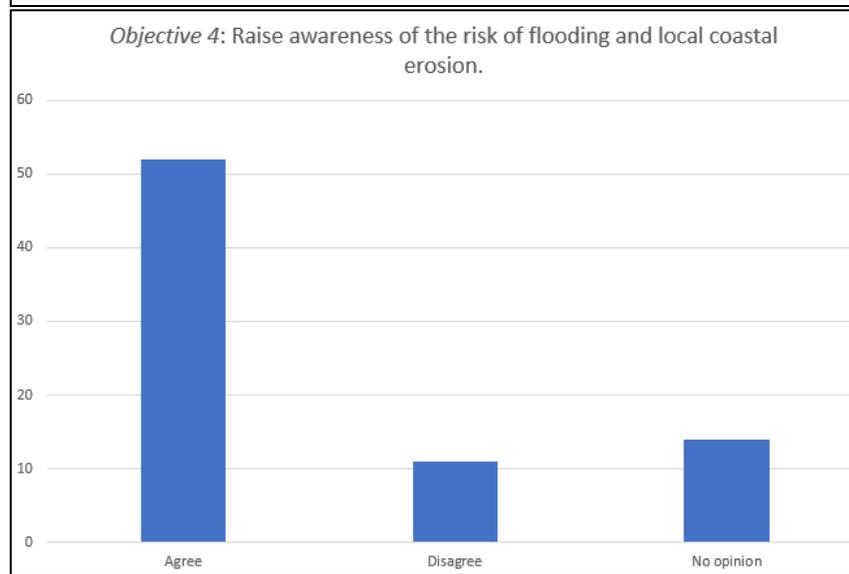
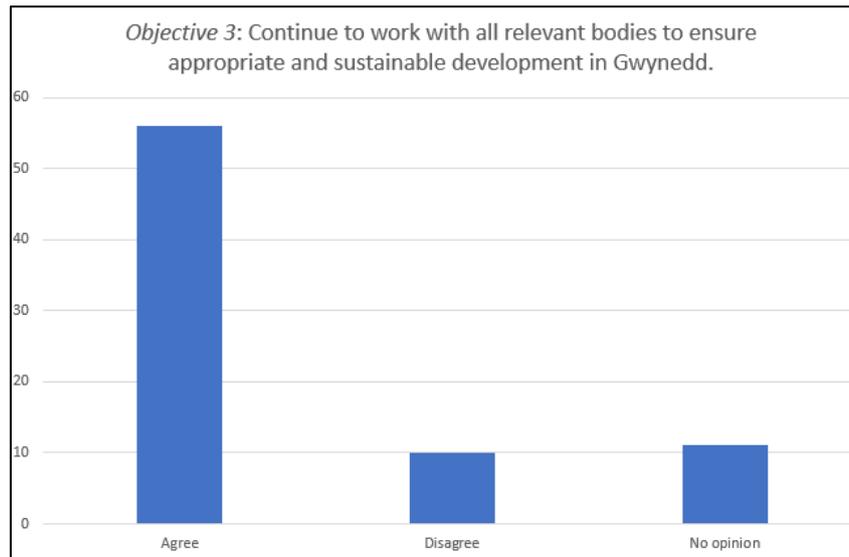
Results

Local Flood Risk Strategy

What is your opinion of the Strategic Objectives listed in the Local Strategy?



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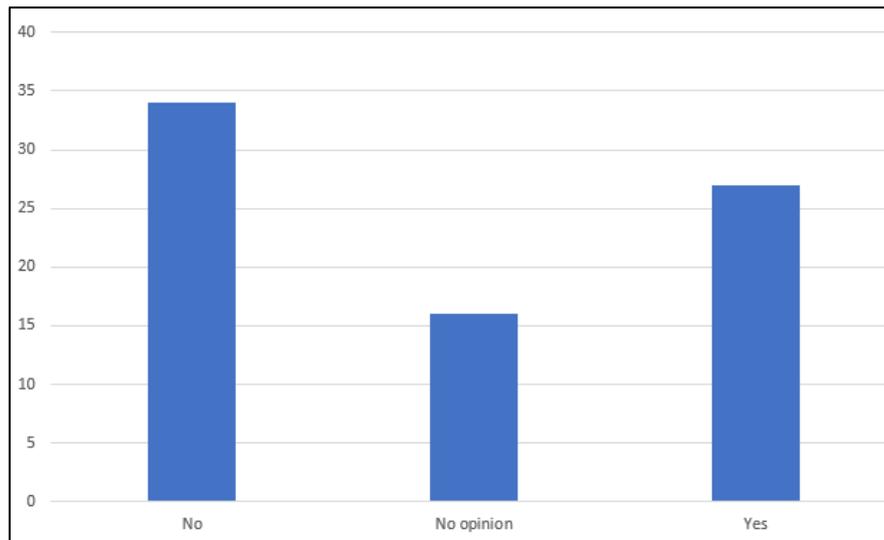


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Clear support can be seen above for the objectives that have been drawn up for the Strategy. There is a suggestion within the responses that disagree with the objectives that they are at too high level and do not give confidence that the Council will act to tackle the problems of flooding.

For information the objectives were listed within the survey and therefore the participants did not need to search for them elsewhere.

Do you consider that the Local Strategy does enough to address the effects of climate change in the future?

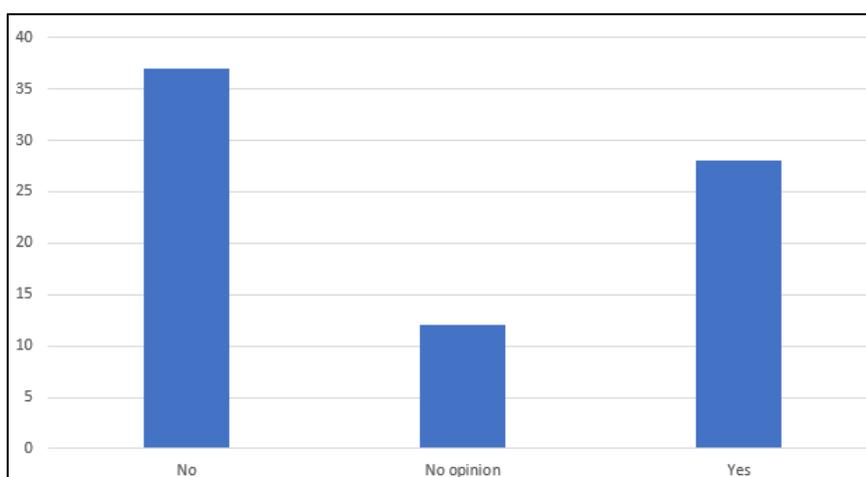


Mixed response to the question above although there is reference throughout the Strategy to the effects of climate change (Part 3, Part 9) and the methods proposed to identify and manage related risks in the future (including Objective 1: Action 1.1 ; Objective 2 Actions 2.3, 2.4).

The comments offered in the responses are mixed and not always relevant to the question being asked but it is clear that there is concern within participants regarding the effects of climate change and the Council's ability to manage related risks in the future.

Suggestion: Review the Strategy to ensure that the Council's intention to manage the effects of climate change to the best of their ability is clearly evident.

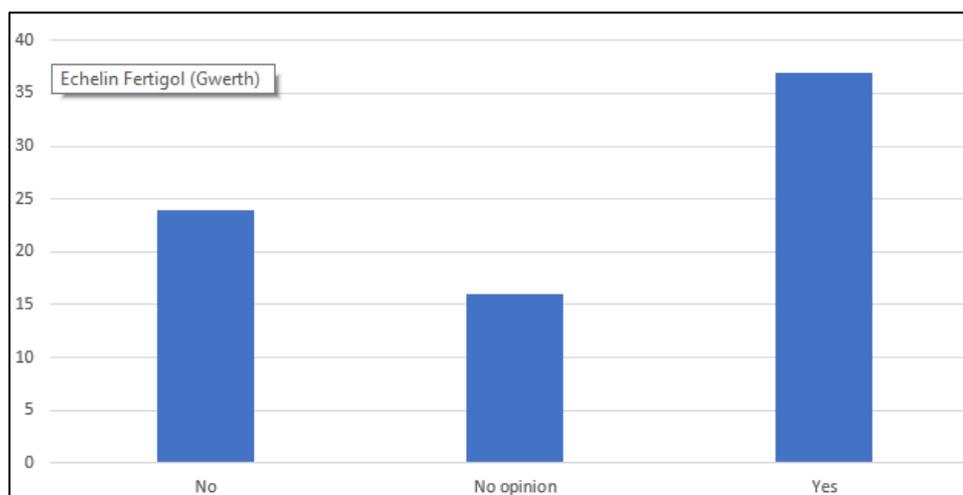
Do you consider that the Strategic Objectives have been supported by appropriate Actions?



A mixed response has been provided to the question above. The comments suggest a feeling within the participants that the document does not identify definite steps or an action plan to manage risks for the future. Pages 55-61 of the main document specifically list actions relevant to the 5 strategic objectives and inland and coastal work programs are listed in the appendix of the main document (pages 22-27 and 56-60).

Suggestion: The relatively low number who have opened the consultation documents possibly partially explains the response to this question but the feedback also suggests that the public are eager to understand what is being done to control the risks of flooding and coastal erosion and therefore it is suggested to review the Strategy document to ensure that references to work programs are clearly visible, and also that references to the latest work programs in the future are in a prominent place to be found on the Council’s website.

Does the Local Strategy highlight clearly enough roles and responsibilities of different organisations in managing flood risk and coastal erosion?

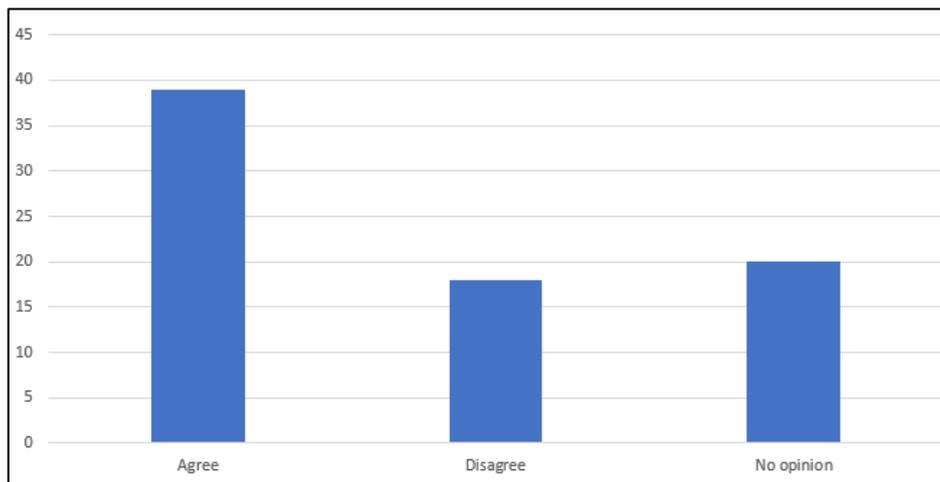


Although the response to the above question is generally positive, the feedback in the comments suggests that the public does not have faith that different authorities work together to respond to flood events and manage risks for the future.

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Suggestion: Actions 2.1 A and B (page 57 in the main document) refer to the Council's intention to work together with other Risk Management Authorities such as NRW and DCWW. Considering the feedback from the survey, the Strategy should be reviewed to ensure that the Council's commitment to collaborative working has been clearly communicated, and also possibly to highlight some examples of recent successful collaboration.

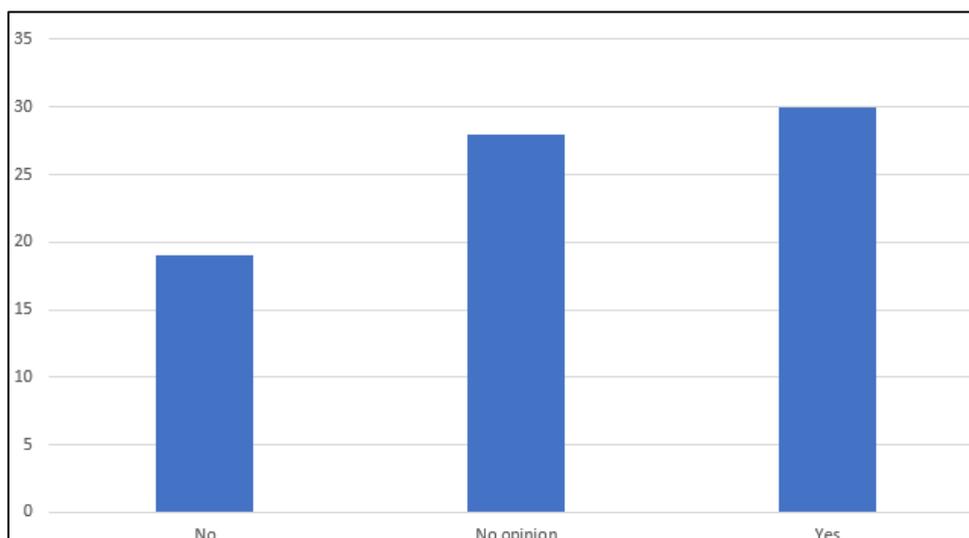
Do you agree with the method that has been used to identify the risks of flooding and coastal erosion across Gwynedd?



The response to the above question is generally positive. Possibly because it is a relatively technical question there are no relevant comments within the need to be considered further.

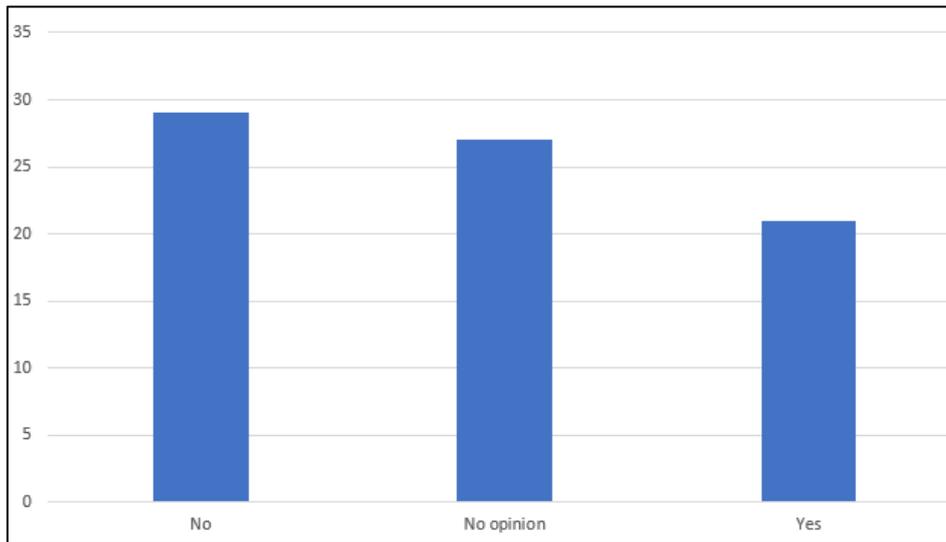
Strategic Environmental Assessment

Do you consider that the SEA is comprehensive in terms of the environmental issues discussed?



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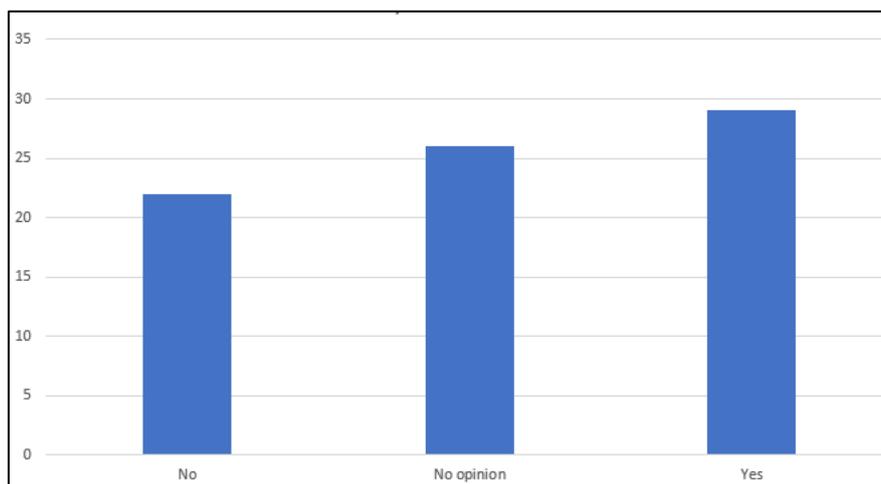
Do you think that the mitigation measures listed in the SEA are sufficient in order to manage environmental impacts effectively?



The response to the questions above is mixed. Possibly because it is relatively technical there are no comments within the responses that are relevant to the questions being asked that need to be considered further. Regard must also be given to the low number of contributors who are likely to have reviewed the document based on the numbers who have opened the link

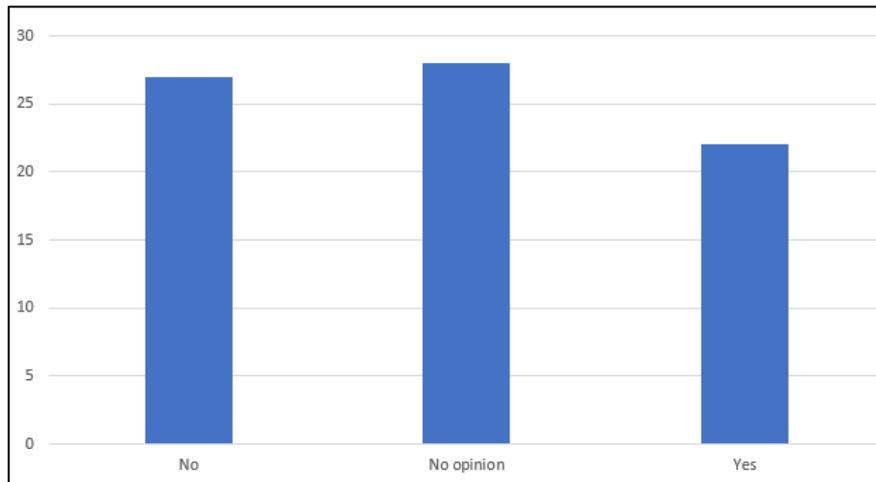
Habitat Regulations Assessment

Do you consider that the assessment is comprehensive in terms of the designated sites considered?



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Do you consider that the mitigation measures listed in the HRA are sufficient to manage harmful effects on designated sites?



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