



South Derbyshire District Council Local Plan Part 1 Review

Habitats Regulations Assessment

South Derbyshire District Council

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Basis of Report

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Executive Summary

This report presents the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the South Derbyshire Local Plan Part 1 Review in relation to listed and proposed European sites (e.g. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Ramsar sites, and any sites required to compensate for adverse effects on such sites. This HRA screening considers the following sites:

- River Mease SAC;
- West Midlands Mosses SAC;
- Midland Meres and Mosses – Phase 1 Ramsar site (coterminous with West Midlands Mosses SAC);
- Bees Nests and Green Clay Pits SAC;
- Peak District Dales SAC;
- Gang Mine SAC;
- Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC;
- Cannock Extension Canal SAC; and
- Cannock Chase SAC.

The Local Plan Part 1 Review was subject to screening to determine whether a Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on a relevant European and Ramsar sites and their qualifying features can be excluded.

The HRA identified the potential for the Local Plan to result in LSEs on all of the Habitats Sites in relation to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual) and Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) or undesirable species in combination. It also identified that The River Mease SAC may also be impacted by hydrological changes, pollution (aerial or waterborne) and turbidity and siltation through hydrological pathways which may arise from the Local Plan Part 1 Review alone or in combination.

Therefore, the next stage of the HRA, Appropriate Assessment (AA) was undertaken with recommendations provided for policy wording to secure mitigation. These recommendations have been implemented and the proposed modifications to the Regulation 19 version of the plan maintain the conclusions that adverse effects on site integrity can be excluded.



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A.3.4 C-461/17 Holohan v An Bord Pleanála

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A.4.5 Government guidance – Habitats regulations assessments: Protecting a European site (2023)

A.4.6 Government guidance – Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Habitats Regulations Assessments (2024)

A.4.7 The Habitats Regulations Assessments Handbook (2024)

Appendix B Information on European and Ramsar Sites



Acronyms and Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
EEC	European Economic Community
HRA	Habitat Regulations Assessment
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
pSAC	Possible Special Area of Conservation
pSPA	Potential Special Protection Area
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SDDC	South Derbyshire District Council
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest



1.0 Introduction and Approach

1.1 Introduction

SLR Consulting Limited (SLR) have been commissioned by South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) to produce a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) report in support of the South Derbyshire Local Plan Part 1 Review.

This report presents the South Derbyshire Local Plan Part 1 Review HRA Stage 1 Screening and Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment findings following the proposed modifications to the Regulation 19 version.

1.2 South Derbyshire Local Plan

The new South Derbyshire Local Plan is the key document that sets out a strategy for future development in South Derbyshire up to 2042. The Local Plan sets out an ambitious vision and objectives, followed by a clear spatial strategy focusing on strategic allocations. These are followed by policies for managing development and infrastructure to meet the identified challenges facing the District until 2042 to help ensure the vision is met. Having a plan in place will ensure that development comes forward in a sustainable plan-led manner.

The new Local Plan will replace Part 1 of the South Derbyshire Local Plan to deal with the critical issue of delivering unmet housing need arising from the Derby Urban Area. This issue has become a pressing requirement since the adoption of the Part 1 strategic plan in 2016. It will also increase the requirements for developers to provide green space and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and will ensure that it is consistent with the latest national government planning policy, which is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. Local Plan Policy BNE3: Biodiversity has been undated accordingly along with a range of other policies within the plan.

The Part 2 South Derbyshire Local Plan adopted in 2017 will be saved in its entirety which is the basis of this assessment. Notwithstanding this, the Part 2 Plan is under review now having concluded its initial issues and options consultation in January 2026. Two new housing-led strategic sites (Infinity Garden Village STRA1 and Land South of Mickleover STRA2) have been added to the Local Plan located in the Derby urban fringe area. In addition, two strategic scale employment locations at Former Drakelow Power Station (Former Drakelow Power Station STRA 3) and the East Midlands Intermodal Park Strategic Rail Freight Interchange/East Midlands Freeport (Policy INF3) has been added to the Local Plan (INF3 was previously safeguarded but has now been allocated). A strategic housing allocation has also been amended to deliver housing within the plan period as opposed to post plan period (Policy FLG1). The policy is to be read in conjunction with Amber Valley Local Plan Policy SHGA1 to bring the Growth Area forward for development.

1.3 Habitats Regulations Assessment

The requirement for an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is set out within Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/ European Economic Community (EEC) of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, which was most recently transposed into British law by the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), also known as the 'Habitats Regulations'.

The Habitats Regulations afford protection to European sites and their interest or qualifying features, with Part 6 setting out the requirements for screening assessments, the circumstances under which an AA is required and the further implementation of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.



The UK left the European Union (Brexit) on Exit Day, 31st January 2020, followed by Completion Day on 31st December 2020. The EU Exit Regulations (2019) establish any EU Exit-related changes to the Habitats Regulations (2017), with these considered to have no material implications on the requirement or process for a HRA of a plan. After Brexit, UK sites designated under the Habitats Regulations became part of the National Site Network (as defined in the interpretation sections of the Habitat Regulations (2017)), with a focus on maintaining ecological coherence throughout the UK.

In addition to the Habitats Regulations, UK Government policy (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Circular 06/2005) states that internationally important wetlands designated under the Convention on Wetlands 1971, called the Ramsar Convention (Ramsar sites) are afforded the same protection as SPAs and SACs for the purpose of considering development proposals that may affect them.

The Government also affords the same level of protection to potential SPAs (pSPAs), possible SACs (pSACs) and proposed Ramsar sites and to sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on any of the above sites, through planning policy such as the NPPF¹.

The purpose of the HRA is to determine whether the plan is compliant with the Habitats Regulations. HRA findings feed into the parallel Sustainability Appraisal (SA) which incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), an integral part of the plan preparation process.

¹ Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (2024) National Planning Policy Framework. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf [Accessed: 27/3/26].



2.0 Methodology

2.1 Relevant Legislation, Policy, Case Law and Guidance

Legislation, policies, case law and guidance relevant to the plan-level HRA of the new South Derbyshire Local Plan are provided in further detail in Appendix A, including references. A summary is outlined below:

2.1.1 Legislation

- The Habitats Regulations; and
- The Environment Act (2021).

2.1.2 Policy

- National Planning Policy Framework (2024).

2.1.3 Case Law

- C-323/17 People Over Wind;
- C-164/17 Grace and Sweetman;
- C-293/17 and C-294/17 Dutch Nitrogen cases;
- C-461/17 Holohan v An Bord Pleanála; and
- EWHC 351 Wealden District Council v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government & Ors 2017 (Admin).

2.1.4 Guidance

- Managing Natura 2000 Sites – the Provisions of Article 6 of the ‘Habitats’ Directive 92/43/EEC (2018);
- Government guidance – Appropriate assessment: Guidance on the use of Habitats Regulations Assessment (2019);
- European Commission guidance – Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (2021);
- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites (2022);
- Government guidance – Habitats regulations assessments: Protecting a European site (2023);
- Government guidance – Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Habitats Regulations Assessments (2024); and
- The Habitats Regulations Assessments Handbook (2024) – terminated 30th January 2026.



2.2 The HRA Process

The methodology used in this report is based on and in accordance with the UK Government² guidance (Appendix A). The new South Derbyshire Local Plan is a plan, rather than a project, and the HRA shall follow the four stages outlined below. The stages may not all need completing, depending on decisions at each stage.

- **Stage 1: Screening** – the process that determines whether the Plan is directly connected with or necessary for the conservation management of a European or Ramsar site and, if not, whether all Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European and Ramsar sites of the Plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, can be objectively excluded (without considering mitigation) and therefore whether Stage 2 is required;
- **Stage 2: AA** – the consideration of effects on the integrity of the European or Ramsar sites of the Plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, in respect of the listed or proposed European or Ramsar sites' structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where adverse effects on site integrity are identified, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those effects is undertaken. The assessment of the effect on integrity of the site is undertaken including the effect of such mitigation;
- **Stage 3: Assessment of Alternative Solutions** – the process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that might avoid or reduce the adverse effects on the integrity of the European or Ramsar sites; and
- **Stage 4: Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) and Compensatory Measures** – the assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse effects on the integrity of the European or Ramsar sites remain, IROPI has been identified. If it is deemed that the project or plan should be allowed to proceed, compensatory measures are identified, secured and their effectiveness ascertained.

2.2.1 Stage 1: Screening

Stage 1: Screening will follow the European Commission guidance (A.4.3), and the four steps outlined below.

Step 1: Ascertain whether the Plan is directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of a listed or proposed European or Ramsar site – to determine if it contributes to achieving the site's conservation objectives.

Step 2: Description of the Plan and its impact factors – appropriate details about the activities carried out within the Plan will be considered and key parameters of the Plan will be identified, such as:

- size (e.g. in relation to direct land-take);
- overall affected area including the area affected by indirect impacts (e.g. noise, turbidity, vibrations);
- physical changes in the environment (e.g. modification of riverbeds or morphology of other water bodies, changes in the density of forest cover);

² Organisations involved in producing this UK government guidance include the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Natural England, Welsh Government, and Natural Resources Wales.



- changes in the intensity of an existing pressure (e.g. increase in noise, pollution or traffic);
- resource requirements (e.g. water abstraction, mineral extraction);
- emissions (e.g. nitrogen deposition) and waste (and whether they are disposed of on land, water or in the air);
- transportation requirements (e.g. access roads);
- duration of construction, operation, decommissioning, etc.;
- temporal aspects (timing of the different stages of a plan or project);
- distance from listed or proposed European and Ramsar sites and in particular from their designating features; and
- cumulative impacts with other projects and plans.

Step 3: Identify which listed or proposed European and Ramsar sites may be affected by the Plan – all aspects of the Plan that could have potential effects on the sites through potential impact pathways will be considered. This will take account of the sites, their qualifying features and their Conservation Objectives (COs).

Step 4: Assess whether LSEs can be ruled out in view of the site's COs – the potential impacts identified will be assessed in terms of their likelihood and significance. Policies and sites will be screened out where there is no pathway for impact, or a pathway is so weak that there is no possibility for significant effects, either alone or in combination.

Screening of the WBLP policies will use the following criteria from the Habitats Regulations Assessments Handbook (A.4.7).

Table 2-1: Screening Criteria

Screening Category	Description	Screening Outcome
A	General statement of policy/general aspiration	Screen out
B	Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals	Screen out
C	Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Screen out
D	General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices	Screen out
E	Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect international nature conservation sites from adverse effects	Screen out
F	Policy that cannot lead to development or other change	Screen out
G	Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a site	Screen out
H	Policy or proposal the (actual or theoretical) effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects)	Screen out
I	Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone	Screen in



Screening Category	Description	Screening Outcome
J	Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but unlikely to be significant alone, so need to check for likely significant effects in combination	Dependant on in combination test
K	Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	Screen out after the in combination test
L	Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in combination	Screen in after the in combination test
K	Bespoke area, site or case-specific policies or proposals intended to avoid or reduce harmful effects on an international nature conservation site	Screen in

There are no COs for Ramsar sites, instead those for overlapping SACs and SPAs will be considered (in particular, where the qualifying features are the same). In the absence of any proxy COs, it will be assumed that the objective is to ensure the habitat types or habitats of species significantly present on the site do not deteriorate below the current level (at the time of the assessment) and that the species are not significantly disturbed.

The in combination assessment will consider the cumulative impacts of all the policies within the Plan as well as with other plans and projects. The plans considered for in combination effects initially include the neighbouring authorities' local plans, as listed below, which also cover the extent of potential impacts that may arise from the South Derbyshire policies. The plans considered in relation to in combination effects are:

- Amber Valley Borough Local Plan 2022-2040³;
- Emerging Local Plan for Derby⁴;
- North West Leicestershire District Local Plan 2020-2040⁵;
- Erewash Borough Core Strategy 2011-2028^{6,7};
- East Staffordshire Borough Local Plan 2012-2031⁸; and
- Derbyshire Dales District Local Plan 2013-2033⁹.

The projects considered for cumulative effects are listed below:

- East Midlands Freeport¹⁰.

During screening, the 'Precautionary Principle' needs to be applied: if an effect cannot be ruled out based on objective information, it has been reported as "likely" or not possible to rule out. Furthermore, a judgement¹¹ by the Court of Justice of the European Union (People

³ [Adopted Local Plan 2022-2040](#)

⁴ [Emerging Local Plan for Derby \(LPD\) - Derby City Council](#)

⁵ [Reg 18 \(Policies\) for consultation final.pdf \(nwleics.gov.uk\)](#)

⁶ [3 THE DELIVERY STRATEGY \(erewash.gov.uk\)](#)

⁷ [Policy Document \(erewash.gov.uk\)](#)

⁸ [Local-Plan-2012-2031-FINAL.pdf \(eaststaffsbc.gov.uk\)](#)

⁹ <https://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/documents/dddc-adopted-local-plan-2017-2/download>

¹⁰ [East Midlands Airport and Gateway Industrial Cluster \(EMAGIC\) | East Midlands Freeport \(emfreeport.com\)](#)

¹¹ <http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?docid=200970&doclang=EN>



Over Wind) ruled that Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive¹² must be interpreted as meaning that mitigation measures (referred to in the judgment as measures which are intended to avoid or reduce effects on Habitats Sites) should be assessed within the framework of an AA and that it is not permissible to take account of measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on a Habitats Site at the screening stage. The screening exercise must therefore consider elements of the plan without any proposed mitigation. Measures that reduce impacts on Habitats Sites etc. but form an integral part of the plan and would have been provided even if there were no LSE on Habitats Sites, can still be included at the screening stage¹³.

Should LSEs be identified during screening, an AA will need to be undertaken which involves further evaluation of the potential pathways for the Local Plan alone and in combination with other plans and projects. If there is no (real) pathway, adverse effects on site integrity can be excluded. For any real pathways identified, it then has to be determined whether the plan alone, or in combination with other plans and projects, could undermine the Habitats Sites' Conservation Objectives and therefore affect the Habitats Site's integrity. If there is no potential for the Conservation Objectives to be undermined, an adverse effect can be ruled out.

Where the AA has found that the Local Plan will have no effect at all on a Habitats Site alone, then an adverse effect in combination is ruled out and no further assessment is required. This approach is in accordance with established case law (Foster and Langton¹⁴).

2.2.2 What Has Been Screened?

The policies within the adopted Local Plan Part 1 (2016) have been reviewed by SDDC and amendments proposed in order to align with the NPPF (2023), biodiversity net gain requirements and to reflect planning permissions granted and more update evidence for allocation sites. The amended policies along with some saved site allocations form the Draft Local Plan Part 1 Review (Regulation 18).

The draft Regulation 19 Local Plan Part 1 Review has been published inline with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2024 transition arrangements set out in paragraph 234. As the Local Plan was prepared for pre-submission stage on or before 12 March 2025, the Transition arrangements will apply as the housing requirement figure in the Local Plan at 763 dwellings per year significantly exceeds the 80% minimum requirement. The draft Regulation 19 Local Plan Part 1 Review has been produced prior to the introduction of the National Development Management Policies (NDMP). SDDC will update the evidence base as required prior to submission of the Local Plan Part 1 Review and will continue to participate in the Derby HMA group.

An initial version of the Local Plan Regulation 19 proposed modification policies were provided to the consultants dated 17 February 2025, followed by a final version on 20 February 2025. Based on this final version of the Local Plan Part 1 Review (Regulation 19), the following policies have been subject to screening:

- Policy STRA1: Infinity Garden Village;
- Policy STRA2: Land South of Mickleover;

¹² Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

¹³ Simpson, P. (2018) People Over Wind. Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook Journal. Issue 10. Page 25.

¹⁴ R (Foster and Langton) v Forest of Dean DC and Homes and Communities Agency [2015] EWHC 2648 (Admin) Cranston J



- Policy STRA3: Former Drakelow Power Station;
- Policy FLG1: Future Location of Growth South of Mackworth;
- Policy S1: Sustainable Growth Strategy;
- Policy S4: Housing Strategy;
- Policy S5: Employment Land Strategy;
- Policy H22: Gypsies and Travellers and for Travelling Showpeople;
- Policy E1: Strategic Employment Land Allocation;
- Policy E3: Existing Employment Areas;
- Policy SD3: Sustainable Water Supply, Drainage and Sewerage Infrastructure;
- Policy SD4: Contaminated Land and Mining Legacy;
- Policy BNE1: Design Excellence;
- Policy BNE2: Heritage Assets;
- Policy BNE3: Biodiversity;
- Policy INF2: Sustainable Transport;
- Policy INF3: Strategic Rail freight Interchange/ Freeport;
- Policy INF7: Blue and Green Infrastructure;
- Policy INF8: The National Forest;
- Policy INF9: Open Space, Sport and Recreation; and
- Policy INF10: Tourism Development.

The Local Plan Part 1 also contains a number of saved policies which have also been screened for potential in combination effects. These policies have been previously subject to HRA through the extant plan development process. These are:

- Policy S3: Environmental Performance;
- Policy S7: Retail;
- Policy S8: Green Belt;
- Policy SD1: Amenity and Environmental Quality; and
- Policy SD5: Minerals Safeguarding.

Similarly, saved policies relating to allocation sites have also been screened for potential in combination effects. These policies have been previously subject to HRA through the extant plan development process. These are:

- Policy H2: Land north of William Nadin Way, Swadlincote;
- Policy H3: Land at Church Street, Church Gresley;
- Policy H4: Land at Broomy Farm, Woodville;
- Policy H6: Drakelow Park;
- Policy H7: Land at Hilton Depot, Hilton;
- Policy H11: Land north east of Hatton;
- Policy H13: Boulton Moor (South East of Derby);



- Policy H15: Wragley Way (South of Derby);
- Policy H16: Primula Way, Sunny Hill;
- Policy H18: Hackwood Farm, Mickleover; and
- Policy H19: Land West of Mickleover.

Some policies within the extant Local Plan Part 1 have been removed following the review because they are either sufficiently covered by the NPPF, amalgamated into another policy, or are allocations that have been completed and are no longer required. These policies have not been screened. They are:

- Policy S2: Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development;
- Policy H5: Council Depot;
- Policy H8: Former Aston Hall Hospital, Aston on Trent;
- Policy H9: Land at Longlands, Repton;
- Policy H10: Land south of Willington Road, Etwall;
- Policy H12: Highfields Farm (South West of Derby);
- Policy H14: Chellaston Fields, Chellaston;
- Policy H17: Holmleigh Way, Chellaston;
- Policy E4: Strategic location for Sinfin Moor Employment Site Extension; and
- Policy E5: Safeguarded Employment Sites – Dove Valley Park.

Proposed Modifications

The South Derbyshire Local Plan Part 1 Review was subject to Regulation 19 consultation between March and April 2025. Following this, proposed modifications were recommended to the Plan, which have been reviewed as part of HRA process, and this report has been updated accordingly. The majority of changes to policies involved minor rewording changes, improvements in clarity of original policy writing or typographical errors and have not affected the screening in or out of policies within this report.



3.0 Evidence Gathering

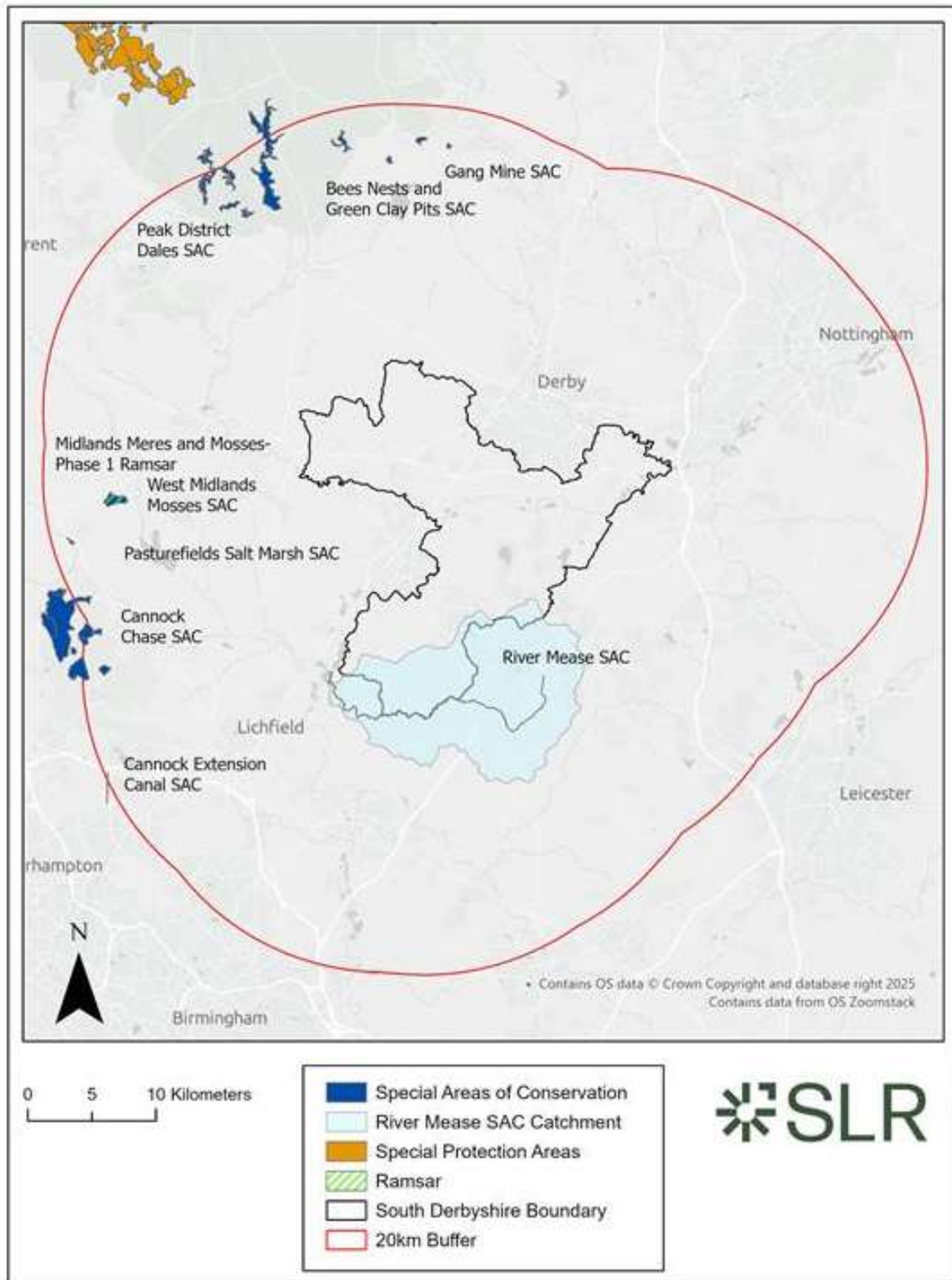
The following Habitats Sites have been identified with potential impact pathways within 20 km, including hydrological pathways, resulting from the South Derbyshire Local Plan:

- River Mease SAC;
- West Midlands Mosses SAC;
- Midland Meres and Mosses – Phase 1 Ramsar site (coterminous with West Midlands Mosses SAC);
- Bees Nests and Green Clay Pits SAC;
- Peak District Dales SAC;
- Gang Mine SAC;
- Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC;
- Cannock Extension Canal SAC; and
- Cannock Chase SAC.

These Habitats Sites are shown in Figure 3-1, only one of which is present within the South Derbyshire District Area: River Mease SAC, which runs along the southern boundary. Appendix B of this report sets out information on these sites including their location, reasons for designation, current condition, and pressures on their integrity.



Figure 3-1: Habitats Sites within 20 km of the SDDC boundary.



4.0 Stage 1 Screening

4.1 Step 1

The South Derbyshire Local Plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any listed or proposed European and Ramsar sites; therefore, the Stage 1: Screening must be undertaken following Steps 2 to 4 (Appendix A).

4.2 Step 2

The South Derbyshire Local Plan Part 1 Review sets out the spatial strategy for development across the District which can potentially lead to adverse impacts on the integrity of the Habitats Sites. Negative effects on habitats and species, whether direct, such as habitat loss, fragmentation, or degradation, or indirect, such as pollution or disturbance, all affect integrity and can be long or short term. The Habitats Sites identified as part of this process are all within a precautionary 20 km buffer zone of the District boundary. Potential hazards to those designated sites are identified in Table 4-1 below.

Table 4-1: Potential Hazards

Potential Hazard	Description
Habitat loss	A direct loss of habitat within the boundaries of the Habitats Site itself. This is not predicted to occur due to the locations of the Habitats Sites and implementation of the Local Plan.
Habitat fragmentation	Development or activities resulting in a separation of existing habitats, e.g. Functionally Linked Land, which affects the abilities of the Habitats Sites qualifying species to utilise the habitat and move between it. This is not predicted to occur due to the locations of the Habitats Sites and implementation of the Local Plan.
Physical damage	Direct damage to sites such as through fire, vandalism, littering, trampling and erosion by people using the site recreationally.
Disturbance (audio or visual)	Impacts on sight or sound that result in a change in behaviour of species from usual routines. Can occur from sources such as traffic, construction, or recreation.
INNS or undesirable species	Introduction or spread of species which can result in negative impacts to native species / habitats either from direct competition with native species or spread of disease. This can lead to simplification of and / or loss of native species communities.
Hydrological changes	Impacts to water levels or flows through direct or indirect impacts can negatively affect habitats and species through a reduction or increase in availability of water. Can occur from drainage changes or abstraction.
Pollution (aerial or waterborne)	Activities which introduce harmful compounds into natural environments such as ammonia from fertiliser or sulphurous oxides from vehicle emissions. This also includes phosphate pollution to the River Mease, in particular, as the catchment is designated as being in 'Unfavourable' condition regarding phosphate pollution, and is subject to nutrient neutrality regulations. Phosphate loadings may result from diffuse pollution or discharges from wastewater treatment works, private septic tanks or agriculture. These can negatively impact habitats and species through reduction in vigour or death.
Turbidity and siltation	Introduction of particulate matter into watercourses can reduce the ability of plants or animals to access light or create a reduction in water levels. Can occur from surface run-off from impermeable surfaces or exposed soil on farmland.



4.3 Step 3

Potential in combination effects have been identified with respect to other plans and projects in the District and in neighbouring areas. The plans considered for potential in combination effects are listed below:

- Amber Valley Borough Local Plan 2022-2040;
- Emerging Local Plan for Derby;
- North West Leicestershire District Local Plan 2020-2040;
- Erewash Borough Core Strategy 2011-2028;
- East Staffordshire Borough Local Plan 2012-2031; and
- Derbyshire Dales District Local Plan 2013-2033.

The East Midlands Freeport project has also been considered for in combination effects.

4.4 Assessment Limitations

Best endeavours have been made to ensure that this HRA is proportionate and has been based on best scientific information available at the time of writing.

The South Derbyshire Local Plan Part 1 Review is a strategic document containing policy considerations developed locally but also informed by other strategies and policies. The Local Plan Part 1 Review contains allocation sites identified as suitable for the development of housing or employment uses. The timing of the development of each site and the exact nature, form, quantum of development may only be determined through the planning permission process.

4.5 Consultation

The HRA process requires close working with Natural England in order to agree the process and outcomes and, if necessary, obtain information and agree mitigation proposals. To date, no consultation has been undertaken with Natural England; however, this report will be provided for their comment.



5.0 Screening Findings and Conclusions

5.1 Screening Findings

The Regulation 19 Local Plan Part 1 Review was subject to screening in February / March 2025. Each preferred policy was screened to identify pathways between the policies and the Habitats Sites, in isolation and/or in combination with other plans or projects. No changes to these conclusions have arisen following the proposed modifications to the Regulation 19 version.

There is only one Habitats Site within South Derbyshire District and the next nearest is 10 km away. Other such sites are further away and with the same or greater number of Local Plan areas located in between.

The screening identified potential pathways in relation to:

- Physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual) and INNS or undesirable species, potentially affecting all of the Habitats Sites considered within the HRA:
 - River Mease SAC;
 - West Midlands Mosses SAC;
 - Midland Meres and Mosses – Phase 1 Ramsar site;
 - Bees Nests and Green Clay Pits SAC;
 - Peak District Dales SAC;
 - Gang Mine SAC;
 - Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC;
 - Cannock Extension Canal SAC; and
 - Cannock Chase SAC.
- Hydrological changes, pollution (aerial or waterborne) and turbidity and siltation, potentially affecting the following Habitats Sites due to hydrological connectivity:
 - River Mease SAC.

The potential risks to Habitats Sites relate to the quantum of development proposed in combination with growth and activities in other areas. The policies for which potential pathways could exist leading to LSEs on recreation, air quality, water quality and water resources, are outlined in Table 5-1.

5.2 Screening Conclusions

As impact pathways have been identified in screening, the next step in the HRA, AA, needs to be undertaken. This is because the Plan has the potential for impact pathways to undermine the conservation objectives of the Habitats Sites identified above and therefore LSEs cannot be excluded.



Table 5-1: HRA Screening Findings

Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Review of the Local Development Plan				
Policy REV1: Review of the Local Development Plan	The policy states that South Derbyshire District will start creating a comprehensive Local Plan immediately after adopting the Part 1 Review Plan. A new Local Development Scheme will be published to outline the timeline, and the review will be submitted for examination within five years.	No specific measures or actions are set out and there is no foreseeable pathway to LSE on Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration Screen out
Spatial Strategy				
Policy S1: Sustainable Growth Strategy	The policy promotes sustainable growth of the District through housing provision, employment sites, new infrastructure, and tourism to meet the District's need whilst protecting, conserving, and enhancing the heritage assets, landscape, and rural character.	The policy does not specify location of development but does provide numbers for housing and employment development. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and hydrological connectivity resulting in hydrological changes, pollution (aerial or waterborne), turbidity and siltation.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone Screen in
Policy S3: Environmental performance (saved policy)	The policy promotes more sustainable buildings in line with the governmental drive through working with developers collaboratively to introduce new standards.	The policy aims to improve sustainability standards generally and as such has no specific impacts on Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration Screen out



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy S4: Housing Strategy	The policy specifies numbers of houses to be built in the District and where in the plan more detailed info can be found.	The policy does not specify location of development but does provide numbers for housing development. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and hydrological connectivity resulting in hydrological changes, pollution (aerial or waterborne), turbidity and siltation.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone Screen in
Policy S5: Employment Land Strategy	The policy aims to set out support for industrial and business development that specifies some particular amounts and areas set aside for development.	Whilst the specific allocation of employment land is not immediately near the Habitats Sites, the increase in activity particularly through transport corridors could lead to increased pollution and affect sensitive sites such as the River Mease SAC.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone Screen in
Policy S6: Sustainable Access	A general policy seeking to reduce the quantity and duration of transport particularly private road transport in favour of more sustainable options.	No specific measures or actions are set out and there is no foreseeable pathway to LSE on Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals Screen out



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy S7: Retail (saved policy)	Swadlincote Town Centre is to be supported, enhanced and other retail provision enhanced.	No specific measures or actions are set out and there is no foreseeable pathway to LSE on Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination Screen out
Policy S8: Green Belt (saved policy)	The green belt is to be supported and maintained with improved access and connectivity.	Increased access within the green belt and built-up adjacent areas is unlikely to result in LSE on the River Mease SAC and other Habitats Sites are sufficiently distanced to remain unaffected.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination Screen out
Strategic Allocations				
Policy STRA1: Infinity Garden Village Mixed Use Allocation	Strategic allocation of land for housing and other development in Infinity Garden Village. Includes 2000 new homes, 70 ha of employment land, exploring a retirement village, gypsy and traveller pitches, plus new vehicular access.	The policy outlines the requirements for a large-scale strategic development site located on the southern boundary of Derby. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and pollution (aerial).	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone Screen in
Policy STRA2: Land South of Mickleover	Strategic allocation of land for housing and other development at Land South of Mickleover. 2500 new homes, 5-10 ha of employment land, exploring a retirement village, gypsy and traveller pitches, plus new vehicular access.	The policy outlines the requirements for a large-scale strategic development site located on the southern boundary of Derby. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and pollution (aerial).	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone Screen in



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy STRA3: Former Drakelow Power Station	Strategic allocation of 68 ha of land for employment use. The policy ensures key biodiversity and ecological assets are safeguarded and nearby assets are not negatively impacted.	The policy outlines the requirements for a large employment site at the former Drakelow Power Station. There are no foreseeable pathways to LSE on Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	G - Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a site Screen out
Policy FLG1: Future Location for Growth South of Mackworth	The Growth Area in South Derbyshire and Amber Valley Borough will be developed through a strategic masterplan with neighbouring authorities to ensure necessary infrastructure and services. Up to 250 homes will be delivered within South Derbyshire.	The policy outlines the requirements for a potential location for large-scale growth near Mackworth to the north of the District. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and pollution.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone Screen in
Housing				
Policy H1: Settlement Hierarchy	The Settlement Hierarchy determines development levels based on the services and facilities available in each settlement. Development will be scaled to match the settlement's size and role, with each planning application assessed individually through the Development Management process.	The policy outlines the settlement hierarchy for new development in the District. None of the settlements listed within the policy are within Habitats Sites, however some are in close proximity to a number of these sites. A LSE of disturbance through increased traffic and recreation could occur as a result of this policy.	Potential LSE due to other screened in policies for disturbance.	I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone Screen in
Policy H2: Land north of William Nadin Way, Swadlincote (saved policy)	Residential development on Land north of William Nadin Way, Swadlincote for around 600 dwellings.	The policy will result in a significant number of new dwellings near Swadlincote. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and pollution.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in combination Screen in



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy H3: Land at Church Street, Church Gresley (saved policy)	Residential development on Land at Church Street/Church Gresley for around 306 dwellings.	The policy will result in a number of new dwellings in Church Gresley. Development at this site may lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and pollution.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites	L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in combination Screen in
Policy H4: Land at Broomy Farm, Woodville (saved policy)	Residential development on Land at Broomy Farm, Woodville for around 400 dwellings.	The policy will result in a number of new dwellings in Swadlincote. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and pollution.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites	L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in combination Screen in
Policy H6: Drakelow Park (saved policy)	Residential development on land at Drakelow Park, Drakelow for up to 2,239 dwellings.	The policy outlines the requirements for a large-scale strategic development site located near Drakelow, in the south west of the District. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and pollution.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in combination Screen in
Policy H7: Land at Hilton Depot, Hilton (saved policy)	Residential development on land at Hilton Depot, Hilton for around 485 dwellings.	The policy will result in a number of new dwellings in Hilton. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and pollution.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in combination Screen in



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy H11: Land north east of Hatton (saved policy)	Residential development on land north east of Hatton for around 400 dwellings.	The policy will result in a number of new dwellings in Hatton. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and pollution.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in combination Screen in
Policy H13: Boulton Moor (South East of Derby) (saved policy)	Residential development on Land at Boulton Moor will provide for around 1,950 dwellings within South Derbyshire and 800 new homes within the Derby City administrative boundary.	The policy outlines the details of residential allocation located to the south-east of Derby. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and pollution.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in combination Screen in
Policy H15: Wragley Way (South of Derby) (saved policy)	Residential development on Land at Wragley Way will provide for around 1,950 dwellings within South Derbyshire.	The policy outlines the details of a residential allocation located to the south of Derby. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and pollution.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in combination Screen in
Policy H16: Primula Way, Sunny Hill (saved policy)	Residential development at Primula Way, Sunny Hill for around 500 dwellings.	The policy outlines the details of a residential allocation located to the south-east of Derby. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and pollution.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in combination Screen in



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy H18: Hackwood Farm, Mickleover (saved policy)	Residential development on Land at Hackwood Farm, Mickleover for around 290 dwellings.	The policy outlines the details of a residential allocation located to the south of Derby. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and pollution.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in combination Screen in
Policy H19: Land West of Mickleover (saved policy)	Residential development on Land to the West of Mickleover will provide for around 1,650 dwellings.	The policy outlines the details of a residential allocation located to the south-west of Derby. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and pollution.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in combination Screen in
Policy H20: Housing Balance & Custom/Self-build	This policy sets out the balance of housing required across the District in terms of both size and tenure. Specific requirements are also set out to detail the number of homes required to meet the specific needs of those with disabilities, housing with care and residential bed spaces. The mix of market and affordable homes expected to meet wheelchair adaptability criteria are also set out for major and mixed-use developments. Provision for bungalows within mixed developments, custom and self builds are also detailed.	A general policy with no specific measures that could impact upon Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals Screen out



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy H21: Affordable Housing	Housing developments of over 10 dwellings are required to provide 40% affordable housing. Lower proportions of affordable housing will only be accepted where a viability assessment, prepared in accordance with national planning policy and guidance, clearly demonstrates that the full policy requirement cannot be achieved. The expectation for rural exception sites to provide affordable housing are also set out, alongside the criteria which need to be met where this cannot reasonably be met.	A general policy with no specific measures that could impact upon Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	<p>A - General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p> <p>Screen out</p>
Policy H22: Gypsies and Travellers and for Travelling Showpeople	There is a requirement to provide accommodation to meet the needs of Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. This will be met through provision on strategic sites, where serviced pitched will be needed alongside the first housing completion, as well as serviced pitches on alternative land.	A general policy with no specific measures that could impact upon Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	<p>A - General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p> <p>Screen out</p>
Employment and the Economy				



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy E1: Strategic Employment Land Allocation	Development will be permitted at sites from the 2016 Local Plan and new allocations, totalling over 350 ha across the District. Detailed evidence will be required to meet criteria, and planning conditions or legal obligations may ensure replacement sites are available before the original is lost.	The policy sets out the employment land allocations for the District. The policy does not specify the exact location for where industrial and business development may be permitted outside of existing industrial estates. There is potential for LSE to result through increased disturbance from traffic and recreation on Habitats Sites.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone Screen in
Policy E2: Other Industrial and Business Development	Industrial and business development outside existing industrial estates is supported if the site is within a settlement boundary, redevelops established industrial or business land, or expands existing businesses. Proposals must match the scale of existing development and not harm amenity, landscape, environment, cultural heritage, or highway safety. Planning permissions for Use Class E(g) (office, light industrial, R&D) will restrict changes to other uses through planning conditions.	The policy does not specify the exact location for where industrial and business development may be permitted outside of existing industrial estates. There is potential for LSE to result through increased disturbance from traffic and recreation on Habitats Sites.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone Screen in



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy E3: Existing Employment Areas	Redevelopment or changes of use of existing industrial and business land and premises for uses other than those falling within classes E(g), B2 and B8 of the Use Classes Order will only be permitted if the site is significantly harmful (e.g., noise, visual impact, traffic) or if there is no longer demand for such land uses.	Although the change of use for industrial and business land and premises will be allowed only under specific conditions, there are uncertainties regarding the locations of these sites and the specifics of their new uses. There is potential for LSE to result through increased disturbance from traffic and recreation on Habitats Sites.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone Screen in
Policy E6: Woodville Regeneration Area	The Woodville Regeneration Area is protected for employment-led redevelopment to support the economic, social, and environmental regeneration of Woodville and Swadlincote. Development should include at least 4.6 ha of new industrial and business development (Use Classes E(g), B2, B8), up to 300 new dwellings, and a highway, cycle, and pedestrian route linking Bridge Street, Church Gresley to Hepworth Road/Kiln Way, Woodville.	This policy will result in the development of employment land and 300 new dwellings in Woodville. An increased number of people residing in this area may result in LSEs through increased disturbance from traffic and recreation on Habitats Sites.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone Screen in



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy E7: Rural Employment Development	Rural employment developments outside development boundaries may be permitted for the re-use or conversion or replacement of existing buildings, or where no alternative suitable accommodation can be found, through development of new buildings. The development must not cause significant harm to natural or heritage assets.	There are uncertainties surrounding the locations of potential development in rural areas. Re-development or new development of employment land may increase activity particularly through transport corridors, especially if the site is not served by public transport. This has the potential to result in LSEs through increased disturbance from traffic and recreation on Habitats Sites.	Potential LSE due to other screened in policies for disturbance.	I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone Screen in
Sustainable Development				
Policy SD1: Amenity and Environmental Quality (saved policy)	Development will be supported if it does not lead to adverse impacts on the environment or amenity of existing and future occupiers within or around proposed developments.	This is a general policy which seeks to protect the natural environment of the District. It is not likely that the measures of this policy will negatively impact Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals Screen out



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy SD2: Flood Risk	<p>A sequential approach to flood risk management prioritises developing sites with the lowest flood risk. Higher-risk sites will only be considered if essential for regeneration or if they provide significant sustainability benefits. Developments must be flood-resilient, incorporate mitigation measures, not increase flood risk elsewhere, and provide a Flood Risk Assessment if needed. Surface water management measures are required on all sites. New flood infrastructure should consider environmental improvements. Runoff rates from greenfield sites should not exceed existing rates, and brownfield site runoff should not exceed previous levels.</p>	<p>This is a general policy which seeks to manage flood risk. It is not likely that the measures of this policy will negatively impact Habitats Sites.</p>	<p>No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.</p>	<p>B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p> <p>Screen out</p>



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy SD3: Sustainable Water Supply, Drainage and Sewerage Infrastructure	The Council will work with stakeholders to manage South Derbyshire's water resources, wastewater treatment, and drainage infrastructure. This includes ensuring infrastructure for new developments, supporting water conservation, incorporating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in new developments and protecting the River Mease's water quality. New developments must connect to the mains sewer where possible, and any non-mains drainage must not cause environmental harm. Developers must provide mitigation measures to avoid impacts on the River Mease SAC.	A general policy with no specific measures that could impact upon Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	<p>A - General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect international nature conservation sites from adverse effects</p> <p>Screen out</p>
Policy SD4: Contaminated Land and Mining Legacy	Planning permission for development on land which is known to comprise made ground or which is unstable, contaminated or potentially contaminated, will only be granted where the applicant has demonstrated through appropriate investigations, that the scheme will incorporate any necessary remediation measures to protect human health and/or the natural environment.	A general policy with no specific measures that could impact upon Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	<p>A - General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>Screen out</p>



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy SD5: Minerals Safeguarding (saved policy)	The Council will consult the Minerals Planning Authority on planning applications within minerals safeguarding areas. Development proposals that might sterilise economically workable mineral deposits will not be permitted unless they meet the criteria in the Derbyshire Minerals Local Plan. The Local Plan aims to safeguard commercially viable mineral resources in South Derbyshire, particularly along the Trent Valley, and ensure new development does not prejudice future mineral extraction.	A general policy with no specific measures that could impact upon Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	<p>A - General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>Screen out</p>



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
<p>Policy SD6: Sustainable Energy and Power Generation</p>	<p>The Council supports renewable energy developments, ensuring they do not harm the environment, local amenity, or safety. Proposals must include maintenance and decommissioning plans. Biomass must use sustainable sources. New plants should connect to local energy systems. Additional capacity at Drakelow and Willington Power Stations is supported if it meets environmental standards. Solar and wind projects should avoid prime agricultural land and meet safety criteria. Battery storage systems should be on previously developed land and not impact neighbours. Proposals must consider relevant energy studies and strategies.</p>	<p>The policy supports the development of new renewable energy sites. It is not currently clear where sustainable energy and power generation sites will be located, therefore it not possible to determine whether there will be LSEs on any Habitats Sites.</p>	<p>Potential LSE due to uncertainties surrounding potential development.</p>	<p>I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone</p> <p>Screen in</p>
<p>Built & Natural Environment</p>				



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
<p>Policy BNE1: Design Excellence</p>	<p>All new developments should be well-designed, sustainable, and promote healthy lifestyles. Key principles include ensuring community safety, designing streets for walking and cycling, fostering diversity and social interaction, and being accessible to all. Developments should reflect local character, be visually attractive, and respect neighbouring uses. They should also support healthy living, efficient resource use, and follow guidelines for the National Forest where applicable. Proposals must consider the Council's Design SPD and may be reviewed by a formal design panel.</p>	<p>The policy supports sustainable design across the District and is not likely to impact any Habitats Sites.</p>	<p>No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.</p>	<p>A - General statement of policy/general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p> <p>Screen out</p>
<p>Policy BNE2: Heritage Assets</p>	<p>The Council supports development that conserves and enhances heritage assets, including conservation areas, listed buildings, and archaeological sites. Proposals must include a heritage assessment and avoid substantial harm unless justified by public benefits. Non-designated assets will be judged on a balanced basis. Archaeological assets should be protected, with preservation in situ preferred. If not possible, excavation and recording are required, with records made publicly available.</p>	<p>The policy supports the conservation of heritage assets and is not likely to have an impact on any Habitats Sites.</p>	<p>No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.</p>	<p>A - General statement of policy/general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p> <p>Screen out</p>



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy BNE3: Biodiversity	<p>The Council supports development that protects, enhances, and restores biodiversity, aiming for a net gain. Developments must follow the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, minimise, restore, offset) and avoid impacting important conservation sites. Biodiversity will be supported through long-term plans, maintaining ecological networks, and securing biodiversity net gain. Proposals must include surveys to assess impacts and mitigation. On-site provision is prioritised for biodiversity loss, with off-site compensation if necessary. Developments should integrate biodiversity-enhancing features and protect existing natural assets. Proposals within the River Mease catchment must demonstrate no adverse effects on the Special Area of Conservation.</p>	<p>The policy aims to protect and enhance biodiversity across the District and is not likely to negatively impact Habitats Sites.</p>	<p>No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.</p>	<p>A - General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect international nature conservation sites from adverse effects</p> <p>Screen out</p>



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy BNE4: Landscape Character and Local Distinctiveness	South Derbyshire’s landscape and soilscape will be protected and enhanced through careful design. Developments must retain key features like trees and hedgerows, conserve local distinctiveness, and offset unavoidable harm. Proposals impacting landscape character or visual amenity need satisfactory mitigation. Major proposals require a landscape and visual impact assessment. Developers must consider landscape types and character areas, especially within the National Forest, and protect the best and most versatile soils.	The policy aims to protect and enhance the natural landscape and is not likely to negatively impact any Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	<p>A - General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p> <p>Screen out</p>
Infrastructure				



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy INF1: Infrastructure and Developer Contributions	New development will be permitted if necessary infrastructure is already in place, or there is a reliable mechanism to ensure its timely delivery. The Council's Planning Obligations SPD outlines infrastructure requirements, which can be delivered through S106 Planning Obligations or a Community Infrastructure Levy. Developers may provide infrastructure themselves if it meets relevant standards. Contributions towards local recruitment, skills, and training programmes may be required. Development must be supported, and its effects mitigated, with critical infrastructure completed early in construction.	This is a general policy which aims to reduce new infrastructure being built to support new developments. It is not likely to impact Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	<p>A - General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>Screen out</p>



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
<p>Policy INF2: Sustainable Transport</p>	<p>Planning permission will be granted if the development minimises travel impact, prioritises walking, cycling, and public transport, and reduces car travel. The Council will negotiate developer contributions for necessary infrastructure. Significant transport-impact developments need a Transport Assessment and Travel Plan; less significant ones need a Transport Statement. The Council will enhance walking, cycling, and public transport networks with partners, and protect land for new stations and hubs. Developments must provide adequate service vehicle access, parking, and follow current standards for safety and mobility.</p>	<p>This is a general policy which supports development which minimises travel impact, therefore it is not likely to negatively impact Habitats Sites.</p>	<p>No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in combination assessment required.</p>	<p>A - General statement of policy/general aspiration Screen out</p>
<p>Policy INF3: East Midlands Intermodal Park Strategic Rail Freight Interchange/ East Midlands Freeport</p>	<p>Land is allocated for the East Midlands Intermodal Park at Egginton Common. The development must include a rail connection, facilities for 775-meter freight trains, and rail-accessible buildings. It should provide trunk road access, minimise local highway use by HGVs, and avoid negative impacts on amenity, safety, and the environment. The proposal should enhance the landscape, preserve heritage assets, and contribute to green infrastructure and biodiversity.</p>	<p>There are no pathways identified that would cause any LSEs on any Habitats Sites as a result of this policy.</p>	<p>No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.</p>	<p>A - General statement of policy/general aspiration Screen out</p>



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy INF4: Transport Infrastructure Improvement Schemes	The Council will collaborate with partners to deliver key transport schemes, including the South Derby Integrated Transport Link, A50 junction improvements, Walton-on-Trent Bypass, and Swarkestone Causeway Bypass. Financial contributions from developers may be required to mitigate transport impacts. Proposals that hinder these schemes will not be permitted. Scheme designs will minimise environmental impact, consider active travel routes, cater to pedestrians, cyclists, and those with impaired mobility, and mitigate flood risks. Indicative alignments for key projects will be protected from compromising developments.	Until details of the development which will occur as a result of infrastructure improvement schemes are released, it is not possible to determine whether this policy will impact Habitats Sites. Significant changes to infrastructure near to Habitats Sites may increase disturbance through increased traffic and recreation.	Potential LSE due to uncertainties surrounding potential development.	<p>I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone</p> <p>Screen in</p>
Policy INF5: East Midlands Airport	Development affecting East Midlands Airport's safety or operations will not be permitted. Consultation with the airport is required for tall structures, interference with navigational aids, distracting lighting, aviation uses within 13km, bird-attracting proposals (such as landscaping, quarrying, waste disposal, reservoirs, land restoration, sewage works, nature reserves, and bird sanctuaries), wind turbines within 30km, and solar arrays causing glint and glare.	It is not likely that this policy will impact any Habitats Sites due to the nature of the policy and the distance between East Midlands Airport and the closest European site.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	<p>A - General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>Screen out</p>



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
<p>Policy INF6: Community Facilities</p>	<p>Development increasing demand for community facilities must either provide these facilities or contribute to new or improved ones. New community facilities will be supported if they meet local needs, are accessible by public transport and active travel, and offer multipurpose services. Alterations or expansions of existing facilities to enhance services will be supported. Existing community facilities will be protected unless there is no demand or an equivalent alternative is provided.</p>	<p>Development of community facilities to support tourism may impact Habitats Sites with LSEs through disturbance from traffic and recreation and through hydrological pathways dependent on their location.</p>	<p>Potential LSE due to other screened in policies for turbidity and siltation, hydrological changes, disturbance and waterborne pollution.</p>	<p>I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone</p> <p>Screen in</p>



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
<p>Policy INF7: Blue and Green Infrastructure</p>	<p>The District Council will conserve, enhance, and extend blue and green infrastructure, protecting ecological, biological, and geological assets. Designated sites like SSSIs and Local Wildlife Sites will be protected and connected to green infrastructure. Development must protect community identity with appropriate blue and green infrastructure, enhancing existing corridors and creating buffers. Major developments should contribute to new green infrastructure, providing access to facilities, promoting physical activity, and supporting biodiversity. Proposals harming green infrastructure will not be permitted unless mitigated. Developments in the Trent Valley Vision area must support its goals. Proposals should follow Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework, integrating biodiversity features and connecting to broader networks. Strategic developments must create or contribute to new greenspaces, avoiding damage to existing assets.</p>	<p>This policy ensures that green and blue infrastructure is protected and enhanced. It is not likely to negatively impact any Habitats Sites.</p>	<p>No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.</p>	<p>A - General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>Screen out</p>



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
<p>Policy INF8: The National Forest</p>	<p>Within the National Forest, South Derbyshire District Council will work with partners to deliver the National Forest Strategy, diversify the economy, create a sustainable environment, provide leisure opportunities, achieve 33% woodland cover, and protect trees. Residential schemes over 0.5ha and developments over 1ha must include tree planting and landscaping. On-site planting is preferred, but commuted sums may be accepted. New developments should respect the Forest's setting and appearance. The Council will improve access to the Forest and support tourism, leisure, and sustainable development in the Heart of the National Forest.</p>	<p>This policy supports the protection of the National Forest and economic diversification in the area through promoting the tourist industry. The southwestern portion of the National Forest borders the River Mease SAC, and any development or increases in visitors to the area could have LSEs on turbidity and siltation of the river, waterborne pollution, or hydrological changes.</p> <p>Development of facilities to support tourism may impact this European site, with LSEs through disturbance from traffic and recreation.</p>	<p>Potential LSE due to other screened in policies for turbidity and siltation, hydrological changes, disturbance and waterborne pollution.</p>	<p>I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone</p> <p>Screen in</p>



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy INF9: Open Space, Sport and Recreation	South Derbyshire's open space and sports facilities are deemed insufficient. The Council will work with partners to provide high-quality green spaces, sports pitches, allotments, woodlands, cemeteries, and natural green spaces for new and existing residents. New or enhanced facilities will be sought where needed, and school facilities should be community accessible. Loss of open space is only allowed if compensated or if alternative facilities are provided. New open spaces should connect to existing Green Infrastructure to improve accessibility and biodiversity.	This policy aims to improve and increase open space, sport and recreation facilities across the District and is not likely to adversely impact any European site.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	<p>A - General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>Screen out</p>



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
<p>Policy INF10: Tourism Development</p>	<p>Tourism development, including overnight accommodation and visitor attractions, will be permitted in urban areas, Key Service Villages, or other suitable locations. The Council will enhance sustainable access, including public transport, walking, and cycling. New tourism development should reuse existing buildings, be temporary, or be sustainable and well-designed. Proposals in the National Forest must follow the Sustainable Tourism Accommodation Design Guide. Developments impacting the landscape, environment, or heritage will be refused. A business plan is required for financial viability, and loss of holiday accommodation must be justified.</p>	<p>Whilst the policy supports tourist development in sustainable locations, it is uncertain whether development would be permitted that could negatively impact Habitats Sites, such as the River Mease SAC. Any development generating overnight stays within the River Mease SAC catchment would need to demonstrate nutrient neutrality.</p>	<p>Potential LSE due to uncertainties surrounding potential development.</p>	<p>I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone</p> <p>Screen in</p>



6.0 Appropriate Assessment

6.1 Introduction

This section presents the AA. The AA involves further evaluation of the potential pathways for the Local Plan in combination with other plans and projects. This stage follows on from the screening stage and aims to examine those identified likely significant effects on European Sites in more detail and the impacts on the integrity of the site and its conservation objectives.

For any pathways identified, it then has to be determined whether the Plan, in combination with other plans and projects, could undermine the Habitats Sites' conservation objectives and therefore affect the Site's integrity. If there is no potential for the conservation objectives to be undermined, an adverse effect can be ruled out. Each potential impact pathway identified in screening as requiring further investigation (see Section 5) is considered in turn within this section.

6.2 Physical Damage, disturbance (audio or visual) and spread of INNS or undesirable species

Screening identified that the Plan has the potential to lead to physical damage to the following Habitats Sites:

- River Mease SAC;
- West Midlands Mosses SAC;
- Midland Meres and Mosses – Phase 1 Ramsar site;
- Bees Nests and Green Clay Pits SAC;
- Peak District Dales SAC;
- Gang Mine SAC;
- Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC;
- Cannock Extension Canal SAC; and
- Cannock Chase SAC.

6.2.1 Potential Effect In Combination

Some Habitats Sites have an established 'Zone of Influence' (ZOI) informed by targeted visitor surveys within which increases in population would be expected to result in adverse effects on site integrity. ZOIs are specific to each European or Ramsar site (and often to specific component sites of a Habitats Site) and as such it is not always appropriate to apply a generic or non-specific ZOI to a Habitats Site. ZOIs are a guide of average distance travelled to a Habitats Site; it is acknowledged that individuals may travel further than this distance. Typically, within the ZOI, existing pressures, Projects and Plans are already having an adverse effect on the integrity of the relevant site, and any new residential development would therefore contribute to this 'in combination' effect even if it would not have such an effect on its own. However, new residential developments outside the ZOI would not usually contribute to this in combination effect as the Site is beyond the distance typically travelled locally for recreation.



There is an established ZOI for recreation around **Cannock Chase SAC** which covered a radius of 15km¹⁵.

Cannock Chase SAC is designated for Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* and European dry heaths. Both qualifying features are sensitive to physical damage from wildfire/ arson. The following targets define the conservation objectives for the Cannock Chase SAC in relation to recreation¹⁶:

- Maintain and restore the distribution and structure of Qualifying Features.

The South Derbyshire Local Plan Area is outside of the established ZOI for Cannock Chase SAC, therefore development as a result of the Local Plan – in combination with other Plans and Projects - will not undermine the achievement of the conservation objectives of these sites through physical damage. As a result, adverse effects on the integrity of the sites can be excluded.

There are no established ZOI for the remaining Habitats Sites screened into the AA, however, the SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) can be used to provide some indication of whether Natural England considers the risks of residential development within certain distances of the SSSIs is likely.

SSSI IRZs are a GIS tool developed by Natural England to help assess the potential risks of development on SSSI. The IRZs create a series of zones around each SSSI that indicate the types of development that could have adverse impacts at different distances. The zones reflect the sensitivities of the features for which the SSSI is notified. Developers, consultants, and the public can use the IRZs to help them decide if a proposed development might affect an SSSI. They can also use the IRZs to decide whether to seek pre-application advice from Natural England.

When establishing IRZs, Natural England assesses the sensitivities of the notified features against potential impacts from development proposals. These impacts could include:

- Changes in air quality;
- Changes in water quality and water supply;
- Disturbance of notified species, such as birds, bats, and reptiles; and
- Loss or damage of offsite habitats that the notified species depend on.

Although IRZs do not necessarily relate to the reasons for designation of Habitats Sites, they can provide information about risks to the habitats and species on SSSI component sites of Habitats Sites.

All remaining sites which have potential pathways in relation to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species, intersect or are immediately adjacent to their SSSI component sites. The advice from Natural England regarding the SSSI IRZ's is:

“The Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI IRZs) indicate that at the location selected, the proposed development is unlikely to have a harmful effect on terrestrial Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and the Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or Ramsar sites that they underpin. Therefore, you

¹⁵ Footprint Ecology (2021) Cannock Chase SAC Planning Evidence Base Review. Available at: [Liley and Panter - 2020 - Cannock Chase SAC Planning Evidence Base Review St.pdf](#)

¹⁶ Natural England (2020) Cannock Chase SAC. Available at: [UK0030107_Cannock_Chase_SAC_Published_10_Jul_2024](#)



do not need to consult Natural England on the likely impacts of development on terrestrial SSSIs and the SACs, SPAs or Ramsar sites that they underpin.”

The **River Mease SAC** is located within the Plan Area, along a section of its southern boundary. Whilst IRZs extend into the Plan Area, the IRZ immediately adjacent to the SSSI and SAC does not require consultation with Natural England on any potential development. It can be concluded that it is unlikely for the site to be impacted by recreational disturbance leading to physical damage, disturbance, or the spread of INNS or undesirable species.

The following sites have IRZs which do not extend into the South Derbyshire District Council Local Plan area. This would therefore make it unlikely for sites to be negatively impacted as a result of recreational access.

- The **West Midlands Mosses SAC** IRZ does not extend into the SDDC Local Plan area. Furthermore, the IRZ which requires consultation with Natural England is more than 12km from the SDDC Plan Area;
- The **Midland Meres and Mosses – Phase 1 Ramsar** IRZ does not extend into the SDDC Local Plan area. Furthermore, the IRZ which requires consultation with Natural England is more than 12km from the SDDC Plan Area;
- **Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC** IRZ does not extend into the SDDC Local Plan area. Furthermore, the IRZ which requires consultation with Natural England is more than 18km from the SDDC Plan Area;
- **Cannock Extension Canal SAC** IRZ does not extend into the SDDC Local Plan area. Furthermore, the IRZ which requires consultation with Natural England is more than 20km from the SDDC Plan Area;
- **Bees Nests and Green Clay Pits SAC** IRZ does not extend into the SDDC Local Plan area. Furthermore, the IRZ which requires consultation with Natural England is more than 11km from the SDDC Plan Area; and
- The **Peak District Dales SAC** IRZ does not extend into the SDDC Local Plan area. Furthermore, the IRZ closest to the SDDC Local Plan area does not require consultation with Natural England, and this IRZ is more than 11km from the SDDC Local Plan area.
- **Gang Mine SAC** IRZ does not extend into the SDDC Local Plan area. Furthermore, the IRZ closest to the SDDC Local Plan area does not require consultation with Natural England, and this IRZ is more than 14km from the SDDC Local Plan area;

No visitor survey data is available to determine any site-specific ZOIs for the sites listed above. However, the distances of these Habitats Sites from SDDC Local Plan area are similar or greater than any of the ZOIs that have been published based on studies of visitor travel distances (e.g. for Cannock Chase SAC). Therefore, whilst the people of South Derbyshire might travel to these sites in small numbers occasionally, the contribution to any disturbance effects (and therefore the undermining of any conservation objectives to minimise recreation and maintain or restore habitats) would be imperceptible.

The distance that residents might be prepared to travel may be related to the availability of open space locally and therefore the remainder of this section examines recreation space within South Derbyshire.

There are a number of existing areas of formal and informal open space which are used for recreation across the District, including Local Wildlife Sites, Local Nature Reserves, the National Forest and farmland. Despite this, the South Derbyshire Local Plan states



that current provision of open space and sports and recreation facilities are not sufficient to meet local need in the District.

Local Plan policies seek to create new and enhance existing open space in the District¹⁷:

Policy **INF9: Open Space, Sport and Recreation** ensures that sufficient high quality green space and recreation facilities will be provided to meet the needs of new residential development, and where possible, to meet the needs of the existing population. It also requires:

- Opportunities for creating new or enhanced facilities where there are deficiencies;
- Open space provision as part of school development to be accessible to the wider community when not in use by the school;
- The loss of open space, sport and recreational facilities to be permitted in exceptional circumstances where an assessment proves that existing open space and facilities exceed the required level of provision;
- Loss of open space to be compensated for through equivalent or better provision; and
- New open spaces to be connected to existing Green Infrastructure in order to improve accessibility across and between sites and enhance the biodiversity.

Local Plan policy **BNE3: Biodiversity** requires development to avoid adverse impact on the nature conservation value of habitat sites, following a hierarchy, with the weight of protection depending on their location in the hierarchy. SACs are afforded the greatest protection, followed by irreplaceable habitats, national designations, locally and regionally important geodiversity sites.

Local Plan policy **INF7: Blue and Green Infrastructure** supports the conservation, enhancement, and extension of blue and green infrastructure within the District. The policy requires all major development to contribute to the delivery of new green infrastructure, including areas of Sustainable Alternative Natural Grassland (SANG) which connects to the existing network. This will be achieved through the provision of leisure facilities, physical activity and wellbeing opportunities.

Local Plan policy **INF8: The National Forest** supports an increase in leisure opportunities for local communities and visitors within the National Forest.

In addition, Local Plans from neighbouring Local Authorities also support the creation and enhancement of open space for recreation and leisure. These include:

Derbyshire Dales District Council¹⁸:

- Policy HC14: Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Facilities: Requires new development to contribute to open space provision.
- Policy HC15: Community Facilities: Supports the maintenance and improvements to local community facilities and services.

North West Leicestershire Borough Council¹⁹:

¹⁷ South Derbyshire District Council (2025) Local Plan Review. Available at: [Local Plan Review - Pre Submission Local Plan Part 1 Review | South Derbyshire District Council](#)

¹⁸ Derbyshire Dales District Council (2017) Adopted Derbyshire Dales Local Plan. Available at: <https://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/documents/dddc-adopted-local-plan-2017-2/download>

¹⁹ North West Leicestershire District Council (2021) Local Plan. Available at: [Adopted Written Statement 2021 - public copy \(4\).pdf](#)



- Policy IF3: Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities: Requires new development to provide or contribute to recreational facilities.
- Policy EN3: National Forest: Requires the provision of leisure opportunities within the National Forest.

Lichfield District²⁰:

- Policy HSC1: Open Space Standards: Sets minimum standards for recreational space in new developments.
- Policy HSC2: Playing Pitch & Sport Facility Standards: Requires provision or contributions for sport facilities.

6.2.2 Further Mitigation

It was previously recommended that policy wording was added to Policy **S1: Sustainable Growth Strategy Local Plan** to require all development to provide new or enhance existing open space which should provide alternative areas for residents to use for recreation. This would provide further mitigation to reduce the likelihood of development having any adverse effects on European Sites as a result of recreation. This policy was amended to include reference to the provision of 'sport and physical recreational facilities'. Policy **INF9: Open Space and Recreation** was also amended to reflect that any loss is replaced by equivalent or higher quality open space, sports and recreational buildings and land.

Amendments to Policy **BNE3: Biodiversity** was also recommended to include reference to recreational impacts and ensure the protection of SPAs and Ramsar sites alongside SACs which were already included. These sites have instead been referred to as Sites of International and National Importance, with recreational impacts covered across other policy wording, as outlined above.

6.2.3 Conclusions

It can be determined that there should be no adverse effect on the integrity of any Habitats Sites alone or in combination arising from physical damage, disturbance, or the spread of INNS or undesirable species. Local Plan policies Policy INF9: Open Space and Recreation, INF8: The National Forest, INF3: Green and Blue Infrastructure, EN1: Nature Conservation/ Biodiversity Net Gain, and AP5: Health and Wellbeing - in combination with similar policies within other Plans - will provide mitigation against the deterioration of conditions on those Habitats Sites which have been screened in for this risk- particularly if the wording is strengthened. This would make it possible to avoid any adverse effects on these Habitats Sites.

6.3 Hydrological Changes

Mitigation should be implemented through changes to the Local Plan policies in combination with similar policies within other Plans Hydrological changes, waterborne pollution and turbidity and siltation

The River Mease SAC and its catchment are located to the south of the Local Plan area (Figure 3-1). It was not possible to objectively exclude LSEs for the following policies when considered alone:

²⁰ Lichfield District Council (2015) Local Plan Strategy. Available at: <https://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/235/local-plan-strategy>



- Policy S1: Sustainable Growth Strategy;
- Policy S4: Housing Strategy;
- Policy S5: Employment Land Strategy;
- Policy SD6: Sustainable Energy and Power Generation;
- Policy INF4: Transport Infrastructure Improvement Schemes;
- Policy INF6: Community Facilities;
- Policy INF8: The National Forest; and
- Policy INF10: Tourism Development.

Furthermore, it was not possible to objectively exclude LSEs for the following policies when considered in combination:

- Policy H2: Land north of William Nadin Way, Swadlincote (saved policy);
- Policy H3: Land at Church Street, Church Gresley (saved policy);
- Policy H4: Land at Broomy Farm, Woodville (saved policy);
- Policy H6: Drakelow Park (saved policy);
- Policy H7: Land at Hilton Depot, Hilton (saved policy);
- Policy H11: Land north east of Hatton (saved policy);
- Policy H13: Boulton Moor (South East of Derby) (saved policy);
- Policy H15: Wragley Way (South of Derby) (saved policy);
- Policy H16: Primula Way, Sunny Hill (saved policy);
- Policy H18: Hackwood Farm, Mickleover (saved policy); and
- Policy H19: Land West of Mickleover (saved policy).

6.3.1 Potential Effect Alone

The policies listed above have potential to lead to hydrological changes due to increased levels of abstraction or discharge, which could occur during construction as well as once development or proposals are operational. During construction there is also potential for development to increase levels of dust, debris and mobilise silt to runoff into watercourses and lead to negative effects such as turbidity and siltation. All of these have potential to adversely affect the qualifying features of the River Mease SAC, if located within its catchment.

The species and habitats which are supported by the River Mease SAC are vulnerable to pollution and poor water quality, as a result of current and historical activities within the catchment, such as development and housing, wastewater, urban and agricultural runoff, and habitat modification. There are a number of nutrient neutrality catchment areas, listed by Natural England, which includes the River Mease SAC. Nutrient neutrality is a means of ensuring that a development plan or project does not add to existing nutrient loading within catchments, so there is no net increase in nutrient loading as a result of the plan or project.

Policies included within the SDDC Local Plan should provide some provision for mitigation for the impact of development on the River Mease SAC.

Policy **BNE3: Biodiversity** ensures biodiversity in the District will be supported by delivering long term plans to restore the River Mease to an improved ecological condition and improve



water quality within the River Mease, other water bodies, and additional catchments failing to meet nutrient neutrality requirements.

Policy **SD3: Sustainable Water Supply, Drainage and Sewerage Infrastructure** states that development within the River Mease catchment must support the delivery of the River Mease Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) and contribute to the achievement of its conservation objectives. New development will only be permitted where there is sufficient headroom capacity available at the relevant Wastewater Treatment Works. Development must not cause an adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC, and where appropriate, mitigation measures or contribution to any future strategic mitigation scheme should be made. The supporting text for this policy makes reference to nutrient neutrality within the River Mease, and outlines how Severn Trent Water have proposed that foul sewage will be pumped from the Sewage Treatment Works at Packington and Measham to another treatment works outside of the River Mease catchment area.

Policy **SD2: Flood Risk** requires the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) on new development sites in order to minimise the likelihood of an increase in flood risk locally. Additionally, development must be prioritised in areas with the lowest risk of flooding, and development should not be permitted in areas of higher flood risk, and only considered where essential. This should reduce the likelihood of an increase in flood risk resulting from new development.

In addition, several neighbouring local authorities have policies within their local plans which provide protection for the River Mease SAC from hydrological changes.

North West Leicestershire Local Plan²¹:

- Policy **EN2: River Mease Special Area of Conservation** will only allow development to proceed if it can be shown that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the River Mease SAC, either alone or in combination with other development.
- The **housing and employment policies** within the Local Plan all include a clause stating: *“Any development provided for within this policy which discharges wastewater into the Mease catchment will be subject to the provisions of policy En2. Any such development which does not meet these provisions will not be permitted.”*

Lichfield Local Plan²²:

- Policy **NR8: River Mease Special Area of Conservation** states that development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that it will not be likely to lead directly or indirectly to an adverse effect upon the integrity of the SAC.

North Warwickshire Local Plan²³:

- Policy LP33: Water and Flood Risk Management requires development to result in no detrimental effect on ecological status of water bodies.

6.3.2 Potential Effects In Combination

Due to the hydrological connections within the River Mease catchment area, there is potential for the above impacts to be further exacerbated when considering those policies with potential adverse effects in combination. Furthermore, the housing policies listed above,

²¹ North West Leicestershire District Council (2021) Local Plan. Available at: [Adopted Written Statement 2021 - public copy \(4\).pdf](#)

²² Lichfield District Council (2015) Local Plan Strategy. Available at: [Adopted local plan](#)

²³ North Warwickshire Borough Council (2021) Local Plan. Available at: [Local Plan \(Adopted 2021\) | Local Plan for North Warwickshire | North Warwickshire Borough Council](#)



whilst LSEs could be excluded for these policies alone; have potential to lead to adverse effects when considered in combination.

6.3.3 Mitigation

It was previously recommended that the Local Plan requires all developments to follow best practice pollution prevention guidelines, such as adherence with the following CIRIA guidance documents to manage construction run-off:

- CIRIA C532 (2001). Control of water pollution from construction sites. Guidance for consultants and contractors;
- CIRIA C648 (2006) – Control of Water Pollution from Linear Construction Projects; and
- CIRIA C741 (2015) – Environmental Good Practice on site. 4th Edition.

Additionally, the incorporation and management of interceptors (e.g.: SuDS) into development schemes to trap the silt, oil and other possible contaminants in run-off to prevent pollution and degradation of the downstream habitats should be designed in accordance with current best practice, including adherence to CIRIA C753 (2015) The SuDS Manual and the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Volume 11 Section 3 Part 10 HD 45/09 Road Drainage and the Water Environment. These requirements should be added to the policy or the supporting text for Policies SD2: Flood Risk and SD3: Sustainable Energy and Power Generation. Additional wording has been added to refer to the use of SuDS and the 'avoidance of pollutants' into SD3 with supporting text referring to tackling diffuse pollution and improving water quality.

Finally, in order to ensure adverse effects resulting from development on the River Mease SAC are mitigated, and to be consistent with the Local Plans of neighbouring authorities which are located within the River Mease catchment, it was previously recommended that a specific River Mease SAC policy was added to the Local Plan. Additional wording has been incorporated instead to policies SD3 and BNE3 to improve clarity on the need to follow the Nutrient Neutrality approach to demonstrate that no adverse effect on the SAC will result.

6.3.4 Conclusions

Mitigation is provided by SDDC Local Plan policies BNE4: Biodiversity, SD3: Sustainable Water Supply, Drainage and Sewerage Infrastructure and SD2: Flood Risk, which support the protection of the River Mease SAC from hydrological degradation as a result of development resulting from the Local Plan. Neighbouring Local Plan policies also provide mitigation, particularly those policies which relate directly to the protection of the River Mease SAC.





Appendix A Relevant Legislation, Policy, Case Law and Guidance

South Derbyshire District Council Local Plan Part 1 Review

Habitats Regulations Assessment

South Derbyshire District Council

SLR Project No.: 430.000116.00001

1 May 2026

A.1 Legislation

A.1.1 The Habitats Regulations

The requirement for the HRA is set out within Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/European Economic Community (EEC) of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. This has been transposed into British law by the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), also known as the 'Habitats Regulations'.

The Habitats Regulations afford protection to European sites and their interest features. Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) sets out the requirements for screening assessments, the circumstances under which an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required and the further implementation of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.

The UK left the European Union (Brexit) on Exit Day, 31st January 2020, followed by Completion Day on 31st December 2020. The EU Exit Regulations (2019) establish any EU Exit-related changes to the Habitats Regulations (2017), with these considered to have no material implications on the requirement or process for a HRA of a Plan. After Brexit, UK sites designated under the Habitats Regulations became part of the National Site Network (as defined in the interpretation sections of the Habitats Regulations (2017)), with a focus on maintaining ecological coherence throughout the UK.

A.1.2 The Environment Act (2021)

The Environment Act passed into UK law in 2021 to protect and enhance the environment for future generations. The Act sets legally binding targets to halt the decline in species by 2030, require new developments to improve or create habitats and deliver interim Environmental Improvement Plans, including interim targets. In 2018, the 25 Year Environment Plan²⁴ set out government actions to help the natural world regain and retain good health through ten goals. This plan was reviewed and refreshed in 2023, in line with the Environment Act 2021, to produce the Environmental Improvement Plan²⁵ and reinforces the vision and sets out the plan to deliver against the ten goals. The apex goal, **Goal 1**: Thriving plants and wildlife, is supported by the other nine goals:

- **Goal 2**: Clean air;
- **Goal 3**: Clean and plentiful water;
- **Goal 4**: Managing exposure to chemicals and pesticides;
- **Goal 5**: Maximise our resources, minimise our waste;
- **Goal 6**: Using resources from nature sustainably;
- **Goal 7**: Mitigating and adapting to climate change;
- **Goal 8**: Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards;
- **Goal 9**: Enhancing biosecurity; and

²⁴ HM Government (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5ab3a67840f0b65bb584297e/25-year-environment-plan.pdf> [Accessed: 28/8/25].

²⁵ HM Government (2023) Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 First revision of the 25 Year Environment Plan. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64a6d9c1c531eb000c64fffa/environmental-improvement-plan-2023.pdf> [Accessed: 28/8/25].



- **Goal 10:** Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment.

A.2 Policy

A.2.1 National Planning Policy Framework (2024)

In addition to the Habitats Regulations, UK Government policy (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Circular 06/2005) states that internationally important wetlands designated under the Convention on Wetlands 1971, called the Ramsar Convention (Ramsar sites) are afforded the same protection as SPAs and SACs for the purpose of considering development proposals that may affect them. The Government also affords the same level of protection to potential SPAs (pSPAs), possible SACs (pSACs) and proposed Ramsar sites and to sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on any of the above sites, through planning policy such as the National Planning Policy Framework²⁶.

Paragraphs 194 and 195 relate to habitats sites and state:

“The following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:

- a) potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;*
- b) listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and*
- c) sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.*

The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site (either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects), unless an appropriate assessment has concluded that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site.”

A.3 Case Law

A.3.1 C-323/17 People Over Wind

In April 2018, the judgement for this case clarified that mitigation measures to avoid or reduce harmful effects on a listed or proposed European and Ramsar site(s) cannot be taken into account during the screening stage for the purposes of decision making and must instead progress through to the AA stage. This is relevant for HRAs undertaken at both the plan and project level.

A.3.2 C-164/17 Grace and Sweetman

In July 2018, the judgement for this case clarified the distinction between mitigation and compensation in relation to HRA. “It is only when it is sufficiently certain that a measure will make an effective contribution to avoiding harm, guaranteeing beyond all reasonable doubt that the project will not adversely affect the integrity of the area, that such a measure may be taken into consideration when the appropriate assessment is carried out. ...As a general rule, any positive effects of the future creation of a new habitat, which is aimed at compensating for the loss of area and quality of that habitat type in a protected area, are highly difficult to forecast with any degree of certainty or will be visible only in the future.”

²⁶ Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (2024) National Planning Policy Framework. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf [Accessed: 27/8/25].



Therefore, they can only be taken into account following the AA stage and passing of the three tests at the Derogations stage.

A.3.3 C-293/17 and C-294/17 Dutch Nitrogen cases

In November 2018, the judgement for these joined cases clarified that “it is only when it is sufficiently certain that a measure will make an effective contribution to avoiding harm to the integrity of the site concerned, by guaranteeing beyond all reasonable doubt that the plan or project at issue will not adversely affect the integrity of that site, that such a measure may be taken into consideration in the ‘appropriate assessment’” and “The appropriate assessment of the implications of a plan or project for the sites concerned is not to take into account the future benefits of such ‘measures’ if those benefits are uncertain, inter alia because the procedures needed to accomplish them have not yet been carried out or because the level of scientific knowledge does not allow them to be identified or quantified with certainty.”

A.3.4 C-461/17 Holohan v An Bord Pleanála

In November 2018, the judgement for this case clarified that an AA must consider the listed or proposed European and Ramsar site and its qualifying features as well as the implications of the proposed project “for habitat types and species to be found outside the boundaries of that site, provided that those implications are liable to affect the conservation objectives of the site.” It also clarified that “where the competent authority rejects the findings in a scientific expert opinion recommending that additional information be obtained, the ‘appropriate assessment’ must include an explicit and detailed statement of reasons capable of dispelling all reasonable scientific doubt concerning the effects of the work envisaged on the site concerned.”

A.3.5 EWHC 351 Wealden District Council v Secretary of State for Communities And Local Government & Ors 2017 (Admin)

In March 2017, the judgement for this case clarified that it requires an in combination assessment considering the effects of other projects, which in this case resulted in an exceedance of the 1,000 Annual Average Daily Traffic threshold.

A.4 Guidance

A.4.1 Managing Natura 2000 Sites – the Provisions of Article 6 of the ‘Habitats’ Directive 92/43/EEC (2018)²⁷

The European Commission has produced a document which aims at providing guidelines to the Member States on the interpretation of certain key concepts used in Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

A.4.2 Government guidance – Appropriate assessment: Guidance on the use of Habitats Regulations Assessment (2019)²⁸

UK government guidance has been published on the use of HRA and AA. It provides further agreement in light of the People Over Wind Case (Section A.3.1) and clarification on

²⁷ European Commission (2018) Managing Natura 2000 sites – The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Available at: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/caf47cb6-207a-11e9-8d04-01aa75ed71a1/language-en> [Accessed: 28/8/25].

²⁸ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2018 to 2021) and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2019) Guidance



features that are integral to the design or physical characteristics of the project that is being assessed. These may include the layout, timing and location of a scheme, which may be considered at the screening stage.

A.4.3 European Commission guidance – Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (2021)²⁹

The European Commission has provided a methodological guidance document on the application of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive to assist authorities and national agencies in the Member States and in candidate countries, as well as developers, consultants, site managers, practitioners and other stakeholders in the application of obligations stemming from these provisions.

A.4.4 Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites (2022)³⁰

The European Commission supports a broad interpretation of the terms ‘plan’ and ‘project’ in the implementation of Article 6(3). The term ‘plan’ includes land-use or spatial plans and sectoral plans (e. g. for transport, energy, water management) and includes National Policy Statements. Implicit in the Habitats Directive is the application of the precautionary principle, i.e. that absence of scientific evidence on the significant negative effect of an action cannot be used as justification for approval of this action. The emphasis of the assessment should thus be on objectively demonstrating, with supporting evidence, following the three stages.

A.4.5 Government guidance – Habitats regulations assessments: Protecting a European site (2023)³¹

This guidance outlines how a competent authority must decide if a plan or a project that affects a European site can go ahead. The HRA principles and process is outlined in full detail.

A.4.6 Government guidance – Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Habitats Regulations Assessments (2024)³²

Guidance has been published online to summarise the applicant and decision maker obligations under the Habitats Regulations in the context of NSIPs. This refers to the guidance and the stages outlined in Appendix A.4.3.

Appropriate assessment Guidance on the use of Habitats Regulations Assessment. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appropriate-assessment> [Accessed: 27/8/25].

²⁹ European Commission: Directorate-General for Environment (2021) Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Available at: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/99a99e59-3789-11ec-8daf-01aa75ed71a1/language-en> [Accessed 28/8/25].

³⁰ European Commission: Directorate-General for Environment (2022) Guidance document on assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – A summary. Available at: <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2779/086397> [Accessed 28/8/25].

³¹ Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Natural England, Welsh Government, and Natural Resources Wales (2023) Guidance Habitats regulations assessments: protecting a European site. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site> [Accessed: 27/8/25].

³² Planning Inspectorate (2025) Guidance Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Habitats Regulations Assessments. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-habitats-regulations-assessments> [Accessed: 28/8/25].



A.4.7 The Habitats Regulations Assessments Handbook (2024)³³

The Handbook has two principal objectives to:

- Improve the understanding and interpretation of the Habitats Regulations; and
- Aid consistency in applying their requirements in respect of plans and projects.

Part F in particular has been referred to in the preparation of this HRA as it provides practical guidance for the assessment of plans under the Regulations. This Handbook has now been terminated as of 30th January 2026.

³³ Tyldesley, D. and Chapman, C. (2013) The Habitats Regulations Handbook, November 2024 edition UK: DTA Publications Limited.





Appendix B Information on European and Ramsar Sites

South Derbyshire District Council Local Plan Part 1 Review

Habitats Regulations Assessment

South Derbyshire District Council

SLR Project No.: 430.000116.00001

1 May 2026

Name	River Mease SAC (UK0030258) ³⁴
Location in relation to plan area	Within the District / Plan Area, forming part of the southern boundary.
Reason(s) for designation:	
<p><u>Habitats:</u> H3260: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation; Rivers with floating vegetation often domination by water-crowfoot</p> <p><u>Species:</u> S1092: <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish S1149: <i>Cobitis taenia</i> Spined loach S1163: <i>Cottus gobio</i> Bullhead S1355: <i>Lutra lutra</i> Otter</p>	
SSSI component sites	River Mease SSSI
Conservation Objectives³⁵	To restore and maintain
Key current and predicted issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently in unfavourable condition due to excessive phosphorus in the catchment, affecting dissolved oxygen levels and substrate condition and biota within the river. • Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions • Fire and fire suppression • Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)

³⁴ English Nature (2005) Citation for River Mease SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5260114940395520> [Accessed: 20/2/25].

³⁵ Natural England (2022) European Site Conservation Objectives: Supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features River Mease Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Site Code: UK0030258. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/TerrestrialAdvicePDFs/UK0030258.pdf> [Accessed: 20/2/25].



Name	West Midlands Mosses SAC (UK0013595) ³⁶
Location in relation to plan area	14 km west
Reason(s) for designation:	
<u>Habitats:</u> H3160: Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds H7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs	
SSSI Component Sites	Chartley Moss is located within the SDDC boundary. Other SSSIs outside SDDC boundary: Abbots Moss; Clarepool Moss; and Wynbunbury Moss.
Conservation Objectives³⁷	To restore and maintain
Key current and predicted issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial) • Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants • Biocenotic evolution, succession • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions • INNS

³⁶ English Nature (2005) Citation for West Midlands Mosses SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4581355488804864> [Accessed: 20/2/25].

³⁷ Natural England (2018) European Site Conservation Objectives: Supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features West Midlands Mosses Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Site Code: UK0013595. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/TerrestrialAdvicePDFs/UK0013595.pdf> [Accessed: 20/2/25].



Name	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar Site ³⁸
Location in relation to plan area	14 km west
Reason(s) for designation:	
<p>Criterion 1: The site comprises a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog.</p> <p>Criterion 2: Supports a number of rare species of plants associated with wetlands including five nationally scarce species together with an assemblage of rare wetland invertebrates (three endangered insects and five other British Red Data Book species of invertebrates).</p>	
SSSI Component Sites	<p>Chartley Moss is located within the SDDC boundary.</p> <p>Other SSSIs outside SDDC boundary: Bagmere; Berrington Pool, Shropshire; Betley Mere; Bomere, Shomere and Betton Pools; Brown Moss; Clarepool; Fenemere; Flaxmere; Hatch Mere; Marton Pool, Chirbury; Quoisley Meres; Tatton Meres; The Mere, Mere; White Mere; and Wybunbury Moss.</p>
Conservation Objectives	N/A for Ramsar sites, refer to West Midlands Mosses SAC
Key current and predicted issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eutrophication • INNS

³⁸ JNCC (2008) Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands. Available at: <https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/RIS/UK11043.pdf> [Accessed: 20/2/25].



Name	Peak District Dales SAC (UK0019859) ³⁹
Location in relation to plan area	15 km north
Reason(s) for designation:	
<p><u>Habitats:</u></p> <p>H4030 European dry heaths</p> <p>H6130 Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i></p> <p>H6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (including "important orchid rich sites" priority feature)</p> <p>H7230 Alkaline fens</p> <p>H8120 Calcareous screes of the montane to alpine levels</p> <p>H8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmodic vegetation</p> <p>H9180 <i>Tilo-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes, and ravines</p> <p><u>Species:</u></p> <p>S1092 White-clawed crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></p> <p>S1096 Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i></p> <p>S1163 Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i></p>	
SSSI Component Sites	Ballidon Dale; Coombs Dale; Cressbrook Dale; Dove Valley and Biggin Dale; Hamps and Manifold Valleys; Lathkill Dale; Long Dale and Gratton Dale; Long Dale, Hartington; Matlock Woods; Monk's Dale; The Wye Valley; Topley Pike and Deep Dale; and Via Gellia Woodlands.
Conservation Objectives⁴⁰	To restore and maintain
Key current and predicted issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions • Biocenotic evolution, succession • Grazing • Fertilisation • Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) • Air pollution • INNS

³⁹ English Nature (2005) Citation for Peak District Dales SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6716670957584384> [Accessed: 20/2/25].

⁴⁰ Natural England (2022) European Site Conservation Objectives: Supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features Peak District Dales Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Site Code: UK0019859. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/TerrestrialAdvicePDFs/UK0019859.pdf> [Accessed: 20/2/25].



Name	Bees Nests and Green Clay Pits SAC (UK0030087) ⁴¹
Location in relation to plan area	15.5 km northwest
Reason(s) for designation:	
<u>Habitats:</u> H6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (including "important orchid rich sites" priority feature)	
<u>Species:</u> S1166 Great crested newt <i>Tristatus cristatus</i>	
SSSI Component Sites	Bee's Nest & Green Clay Pits
Conservation Objectives⁴²	To maintain or restore
Key current and predicted issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants • INNS • Water quality

Name	Gang Mine SAC (UK0012817) ⁴³
Location in relation to plan area	17 km north
Reason(s) for designation:	
<u>Habitats:</u> H6130 Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia caliminariae</i>	
SSSI Component Sites	Gang Mine
Conservation Objectives⁴⁴	To restore and maintain
Key current and predicted issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants • Undesirable species

⁴¹ English Nature (2005) Citation for Bee's Nest and Green Clay Pits SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6009872961241088> [Accessed: 20/2/25].

⁴² Natural England (2016) European Site Conservation Objectives: Supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features Bee's Nest & Green Clay Pits Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Site Code: UK0030087. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/TerrestrialAdvicePDFs/UK0030087.pdf> [Accessed: 20/2/25].

⁴³ English Nature (2005) Citation for Gang Mine SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4951305659351040> [Accessed: 20/2/25].

⁴⁴ Natural England (2016) European Site Conservation Objectives: Supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features Gang Mine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Site Code: UK0012817. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/TerrestrialAdvicePDFs/UK0012817.pdf> [Accessed: 20/2/25].



Name	Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC (UK0012789) ⁴⁵
Location in relation to plan area	18 km to the west of the District
Reason(s) for designation:	
<u>Habitats:</u> H1340 Inland salt meadows	
SSSI Component Sites	Pasturefields Salt Marsh
Conservation Objectives ⁴⁶	To restore and maintain
Key current and predicted issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality • Water quality and quantity • Undesirable species

Name	Cannock Chase SAC (UK0030107) ⁴⁷
Location in relation to plan area	18 km west
Reason(s) for designation:	
<u>Habitats:</u> H4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> H4030 European dry heaths	
SSSI Component Sites	Cannock Chase
Conservation Objectives ⁴⁸	To restore and maintain
Key current and predicted issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interspecific floral relations • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants • Grazing • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions • Undesirable species • Air pollution • Water quality

⁴⁵ English Nature (2005) Citation for Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6469877841788928> [Accessed: 20/2/25].

⁴⁶ Natural England (2018) European Site Conservation Objectives: Supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features Pasturefields Salt Marsh Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Site Code: UK0012789. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/TerrestrialAdvicePDFs/UK0012789.pdf> [Accessed: 20/2/25].

⁴⁷ English Nature (2005) Citation for Cannock Chase SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6230005797355520> [Accessed: 20/2/25].

⁴⁸ Natural England (2020) European Site Conservation Objectives: Supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Site Code: UK0030107. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/TerrestrialAdvicePDFs/UK0030107.pdf> [Accessed: 20/2/25].



Name	Cannock Extension Canal SAC (UK0012672) ⁴⁹
Location in relation to plan area	20 km southwest
Reason(s) for designation:	
<u>Species:</u> S1831 Floating water plantain <i>Luronium natans</i>	
SSSI Component Sites	Cannock Canal Extension
Conservation Objectives⁵⁰	To restore and maintain
Key current and predicted issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INNS • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants • Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) • Grazing

⁴⁹ English Nature (2005) Citation for Cannock Extension Canal SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6613548121718784> [Accessed: 20/2/25].

⁵⁰ Natural England (2018) European Site Conservation Objectives: Supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features Cannock Extension Canal Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Site Code: UK0012672. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/TerrestrialAdvicePDFs/UK0012672.pdf> [Accessed: 20/2/25].





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