



South Derbyshire District Council Local Plan Part 2 Review

Habitats Regulations Assessment

South Derbyshire District Council

Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE11 0AH

Prepared by:

SLR Consulting Limited

Unit 2, Newton Business Centre, Thorncliffe Park
Estate, Newton Chambers Road, Chapelton,
Sheffield, S35 2PH

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Executive Summary

This report presents the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the South Derbyshire Local Plan Part 2 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 (hereafter referred to as Habitats Sites). This HRA screening considers the following Habitats 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 2 Review was subject to screening to determine whether a Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on a relevant Habitats 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 alone and in-combination.

Therefore, the next stage of the HRA, Appropriate Assessment (AA) was undertaken. The AA considered the potential effects of the screened-in policies and allocations, taking account of mitigation provided through policies within Part 1 and Part 2 of the South Derbyshire Local Plan, as well as relevant policies within neighbouring Local Plans. The AA concluded that the South Derbyshire Local Plan Part 2 Review will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of any Habitats Site, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects. Accordingly, adverse effects on the integrity of Habitats Sites can be excluded.



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

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

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)

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

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 Habitats 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 2 Review.

This report presents the Local Plan Part 2 Review HRA Stage 1 Screening and Stage 2 AA findings.

1.2 South Derbyshire Local Plan

The South Derbyshire Local Plan is being prepared in two parts and sets the spatial strategy for development in the District up to 2042. The Local Plan Part 1 Review contains strategic allocations and policies, whilst the Local Plan Part 2 Review includes non-strategic site allocations and development management policies.

The Local Plan Part 1 Review and Part 2 Review should be read together and, when adopted, will replace the policies contained within the adopted Local Plan Part 1 (2016) and Local Plan Part 2 (2017). The Local Plan Part 2 Review has been informed by consultation with stakeholders and is supported by a technical evidence base, including this HRA report.

1.3 Habitats Regulations Assessment

The purpose of the HRA is to determine whether the plan is compliant with the Habitats Regulations. HRA findings feed into the parallel Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

The requirement for an AA is set out within Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/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, including those forming part of the National Site Network. Part 6 sets out the requirements for HRA screening, the circumstances under which AA is required and the implementation of the requirements of Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. Following the UK's departure from the European Union, sites formerly referred to as European sites form part of the National Site Network. These changes did not materially alter the requirement for, or process of, HRA.

In England, Ramsar sites are afforded protection under the Habitats Regulations. Government policy also affords the same level of protection to potential Special Protection Areas (pSPAs), possible Special Areas of Conservation (pSACs), proposed Ramsar sites and sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on Habitats Sites.



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 (2026).

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 in accordance with the UK Government¹ guidance (Appendix A). The HRA shall follow the four stages outlined below. The stages may not all need completing, depending on what is concluded at each stage.

- **Stage 1: Screening** – the process of determining whether the Plan is directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of a Habitats Site and, if not, whether it may result in Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) on any Habitats Site or Ramsar site, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects. Mitigation measures are not taken into account at this stage. Where LSEs cannot be excluded on the basis of objective information, the Plan is taken forward to AA.
- **Stage 2: AA** – the assessment of the potential implications of the Plan on the integrity of Habitats Sites and Ramsar sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, having regard to their conservation objectives. If required, mitigation measures are identified and considered to determine whether adverse effects on site integrity can be avoided.
- **Stage 3: Assessment of Alternative Solutions** – where adverse effects on site integrity cannot be ruled out, alternative solutions that would avoid or reduce those effects are considered.
- **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);
- changes in the intensity of an existing pressure (e.g. increase in noise, pollution or traffic);
- resource requirements (e.g. water abstraction, mineral extraction);

¹ Organisations involved in producing this UK government guidance include the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Natural England, Welsh Government, and Natural Resources Wales.



- 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 Habitats Sites and in particular from their designating features; and
- cumulative impacts with other projects and plans.

Step 3: Identify which listed or proposed Habitats 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.

Step 4: Assess whether LSEs can be ruled out in view of the site's conservation objectives – 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 policies will use the following criteria from the Habitats Regulations Assessments Handbook (A.4.7A.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 policies	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
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



Screening Category	Description	Screening Outcome
L	Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination	Screen in after the in-combination test
M	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 conservation objectives 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 conservation, 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 2022-2040²;
- Emerging Local Plan for Derby 2023 to 2043³;
- North West Leicestershire District Local Plan 2020-2040⁴;
- Erewash Borough Core Strategy 2011-2028^{5,6};
- East Staffordshire Borough Local Plan 2012-2031⁷; and
- Derbyshire Dales District Local Plan 2013-2033⁸.

The projects considered for cumulative effects are listed below:

- East Midlands Freeport⁹.

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 judgement¹⁰ by the Court of Justice of the European Union (People Over Wind) ruled that Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive¹¹ 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

² [Adopted Local Plan 2022-2040](#)

³ [Emerging Local Plan for Derby \(LPD\) - Derby City Council](#)

⁴ [Reg 18 \(Policies\) for consultation_final.pdf \(nwleics.gov.uk\)](#)

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

⁶ [Policy Document \(erewash.gov.uk\)](#)

⁷ [Local-Plan-2012-2031-FINAL.pdf \(eaststaffsbc.gov.uk\)](#)

⁸ <https://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/documents/dddc-adopted-local-plan-2017-2/download>

⁹ [East Midlands Airport and Gateway Industrial Cluster \(EMAGIC\) | East Midlands Freeport \(emfreeport.com\)](#)

¹⁰ <http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?docid=200970&doclang=EN>

¹¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.



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 stage¹².

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 Langton¹³).

2.2.2 What Has Been Screened?

This HRA has been undertaken for the Local Plan Part 2 Review. The following policies and sites have been screened:

- Policy SDT1: Settlement Boundaries and Development
- Policy H23: Non-Strategic Housing Allocations
- Policy H23A: North of Linton Road, Castle Gresley
- Policy H23B: Southwest Swadlincote
- Policy H23C: Swadlincote Lane, Church Gresley
- Policy H23D: Land South of Walton Road, Drakelow
- Policy H23E: Land off Peregrine Avenue and Willington Road, Etwall
- Policy H23F: Land South of Etwall
- Policy H23G: Land East of Hatton
- Policy H23H: Land East of Hilton
- Policy H23I: Land South of Primula Way, Littleover
- Policy H23J: Jawbone Lane, Melbourne
- Policy H23K: Kings Newton Lane, Melbourne
- Policy H23L: Land off Old Etwall Road, Mickleover
- Policy H23M: Land off Mount Pleasant Road, Repton
- Policy H23N: William Nadin Way, Swadlincote Site D
- Policy H23O: Land North of Willington
- Policy H23P: Land off Kingfisher Way, Willington

¹² Simpson, P. (2018) People Over Wind. Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook Journal. Issue 10. Page 25.

¹³ R (Foster and Langton) v Forest of Dean DC and Homes and Communities Agency [2015] EWHC 2648 (Admin) Cranston J



- Policy H24: Replacement Dwellings in Rural Areas
- Policy H25: Rural Workers' Dwellings
- Policy H26: Residential Gardens within Rural Areas
- Policy H27: Residential Extensions and Other Householder Development
- Policy H28: Residential Conversions
- Policy H29: Extensions to and Intensification of Authorised Gypsy and Traveller Sites
- Policy H30: Looked After Children (draft policy)
- Policy BNE5: Development in Rural Areas
- Policy BNE6: Agricultural Development
- Policy BNE7: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows
- Policy BNE8: Local Green Space
- Policy BNE9: Enhancement of Local Green Spaces
- Policy BNE10: Advertisements and Visual Pollution
- Policy BNE11: Shopfronts
- Policy BNE12: Former Power Station Land
- Policy RTL1: Retail Hierarchy
- Policy RTL2: Swadlincote Town Centre Potential Redevelopment Locations
- Policy INF11: Telecommunications
- Policy INF12: Provision of Secondary Education Facilities



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 Local Plan 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 **3-2** also shows the South Derbyshire Local Plan Part 2 Site Allocations and Site-Specific Local Plan Policies.



Figure 3-1: Habitats Sites in relation to the Local Plan Area.

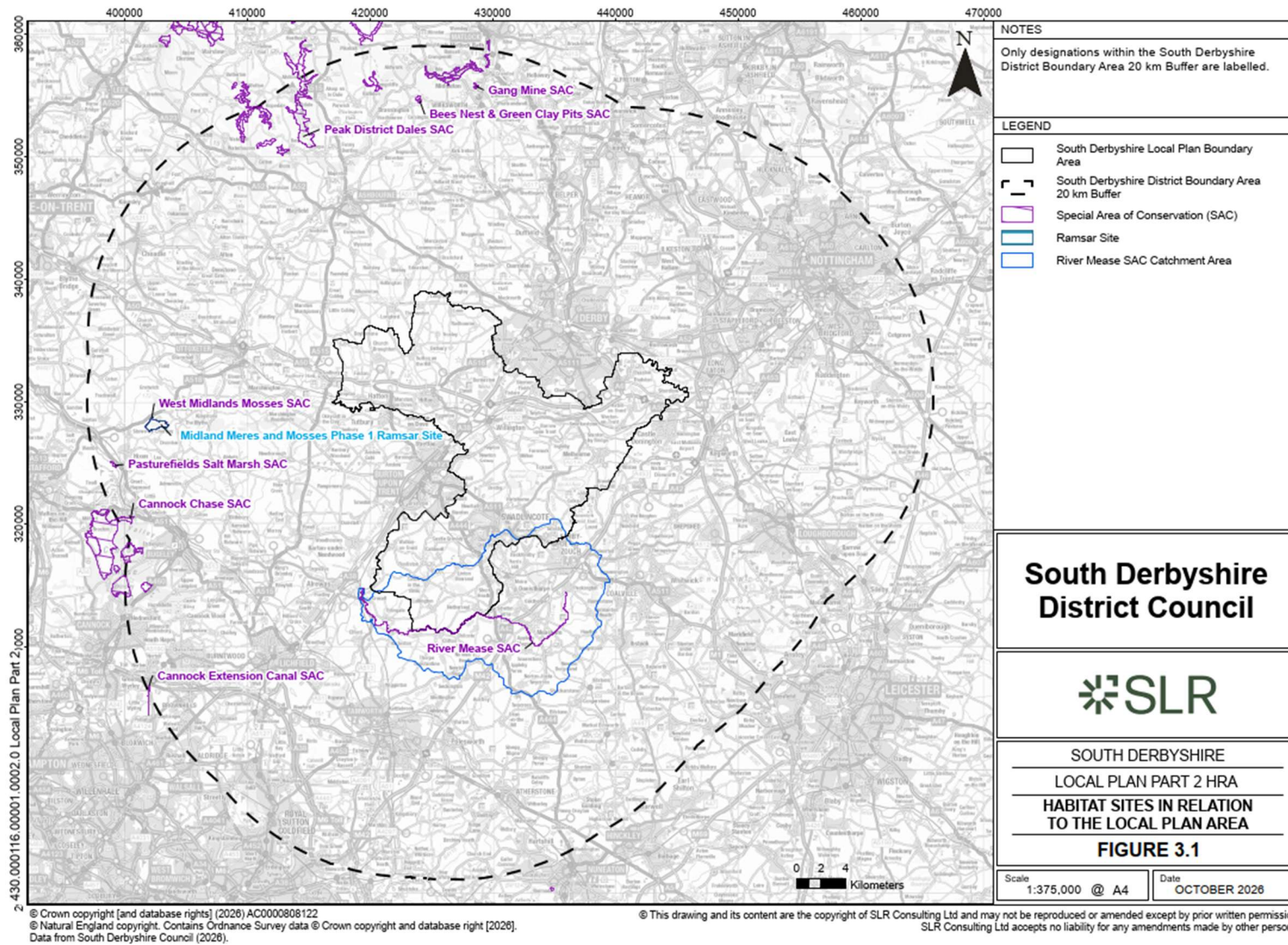
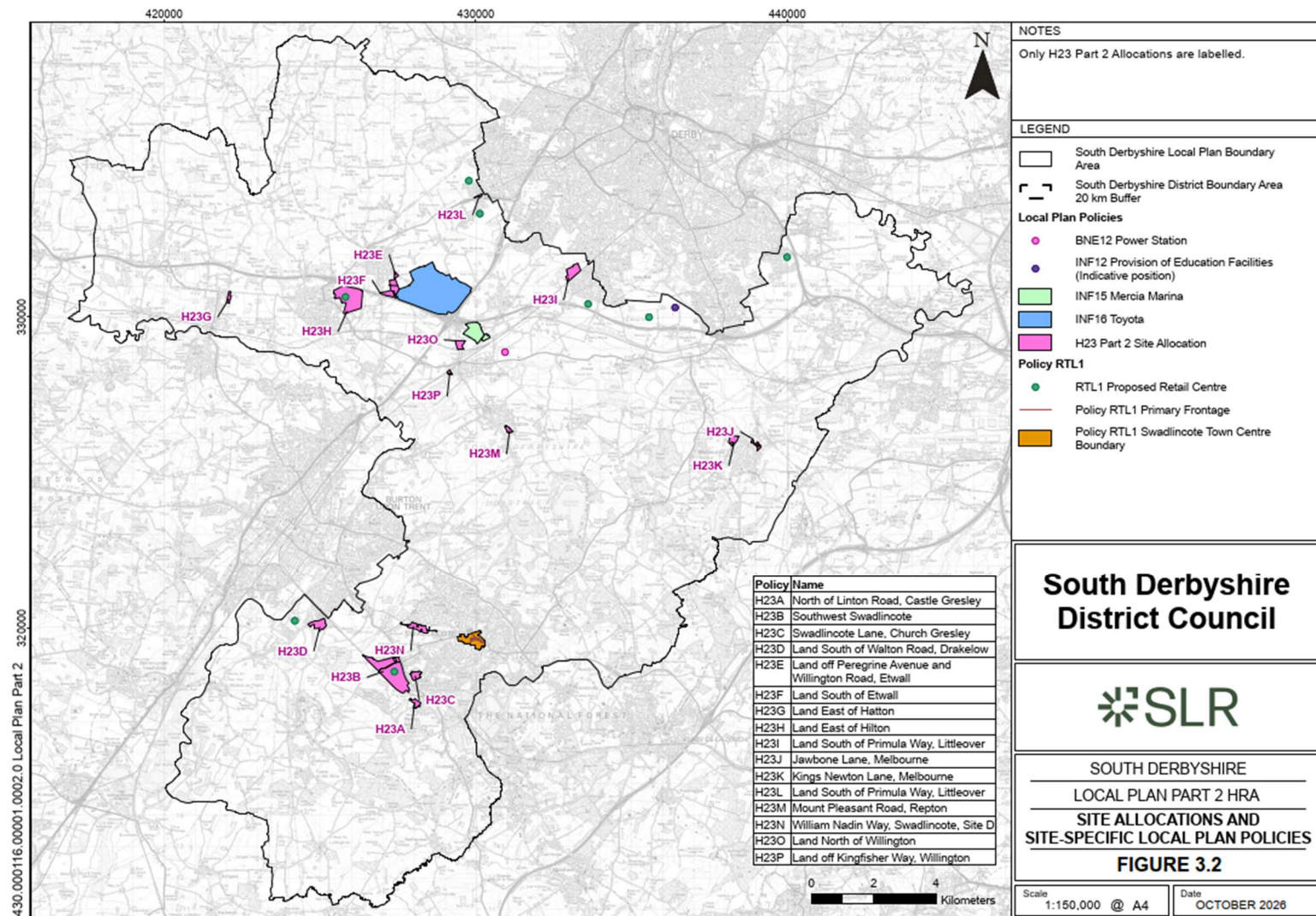


Figure 3-2: South Derbyshire Local Plan Part 2 Site Allocations and Site-Specific Local Plan Policies



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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 Habitats 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 2 Review sets out policies and sites which could 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 2 Review is a strategic document containing policy considerations developed locally but also informed by other strategies and policies. The Local Plan Part 2 Review contains 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. This report will be provided for their comment.



5.0 Screening Findings and Conclusions

5.1 Screening Findings

The South Derbyshire Local Plan Part 2 Review was subject to screening in October 2026. Each policy and site was screened to identify pathways to Habitats Sites, in isolation and/or in-combination with other plans or projects.

There is one Habitats Site within South Derbyshire District (River Mease SAC), with the next nearest Habitats Site located approximately 10 km from the District boundary. Other Habitats Sites are located at greater distances and are separated from the District by one or more local authority areas.

The screening identified potential pathways in relation to:

- Physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), and the introduction or spread of invasive non-native species (INNS) and other undesirable species 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.

The potential risks to Habitats Sites relate to the quantum of development proposed in-combination with growth and activities in other areas. The sites and policies for which potential pathways have been identified 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 impact pathways have been identified through which the Plan, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, could undermine the conservation objectives of the Habitats Sites identified above. As a result, LSEs cannot be excluded at the screening stage.



Table 5-1: HRA Screening Findings

Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In-combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Settlement Boundaries				
Policy SDT1: Settlement Boundaries and Development	Defines settlement boundaries across the District and supports development within those boundaries where it accords with the development plan. Development outside settlement boundaries is restricted and subject to policies relating to Rural Areas.	This policy defines settlement boundaries across the District and directs development towards existing settlements. Development outside settlement boundaries is restricted. The policy does not allocate development, and no impact pathways could lead to LSEs on Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	H – A policy which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in-combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects) Screen out
Housing				
Policy H23: Non-Strategic Housing Allocations	Allocates non-strategic housing sites across the District to provide additional housing supply and flexibility in housing delivery. The policy identifies 16 housing allocations totalling approximately 3,031 dwellings and sets out requirements relating to transport, flood risk, heritage, biodiversity and design.	The policy allocates approximately 3,031 dwellings across 16 sites within the District and will result in significant population growth. The increase in housing has the potential to generate additional recreational visits to Habitats Sites, resulting in pathways for physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), and the introduction or spread of invasive non-native species (INNS) and other undesirable species. Given the scale of development proposed, LSEs on Habitats Sites cannot be excluded, either alone or in-combination with other Local Plan policies.	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 H23A: North of Linton Road, Castle Gresley	Allocates land north of Linton Road, Castle Gresley, for approximately 75 dwellings, together with affordable housing, open space, biodiversity enhancements, active travel links and protection of heritage assets.	The policy will result in a number of new dwellings in Castle Gresley. Pathways have been identified in relation to a potential increase in recreational activity. The scale of development arising from the policy alone is not expected to generate sufficient recreational pressure to lead to LSEs. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded when the policy is considered alone.	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 H23B: Southwest Swadlincote	Allocates land at Cadley Lane, Castle Gresley, for approximately 800 dwellings with supporting green infrastructure, open space, education provision, active travel connections and a neighbourhood-scale retail facility.	The policy will result in a number of new dwellings in Castle Gresley. Pathways have been identified in relation to a potential increase in recreational activity. The scale of development arising from the policy alone is not expected to generate sufficient recreational pressure to lead to LSEs. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded when the policy is considered alone.	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 H23C: Swadlincote Lane, Church Gresley	Allocates land at Swadlincote Lane, Church Gresley, for approximately 187 dwellings with access, active travel, open space, biodiversity and noise mitigation requirements.	The policy will result in a number of new dwellings in Church Gresley. Pathways have been identified in relation to a potential increase in recreational activity. The scale of development arising from the policy alone is not expected to generate sufficient recreational pressure to lead to LSEs. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded when the policy is considered alone..	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 H23D: Land South of Walton Road, Drakelow	Allocates land south of Walton Road, Drakelow, for approximately 250 dwellings alongside a food store, sports provision, open space and active travel connections.	The policy will result in a number of new dwellings in Drakelow. Pathways have been identified in relation to a potential increase in recreational activity. The scale of development arising from the policy alone is not expected to generate sufficient recreational pressure to lead to LSEs. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded when the policy is considered alone.	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 H23E: Land off Peregrine Avenue and Willington Road, Etwall	Allocates land off Peregrine Avenue, Etwall, for approximately 91 dwellings with accessibility standards, active travel links and affordable housing requirements.	The policy will result in a number of new dwellings in Etwall. Pathways have been identified in relation to a potential increase in recreational activity. The scale of development arising from the policy alone is not expected to generate sufficient recreational pressure to lead to LSEs. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded when the policy is considered alone.	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 H23F: Land South of Etwall	Allocates land south of Etwall for approximately 120 dwellings together with open space, landscape buffers and active travel connections.	The policy will result in a number of new dwellings in Etwall. Pathways have been identified in relation to a potential increase in recreational activity. The scale of development arising from the policy alone is not expected to generate sufficient recreational pressure to lead to LSEs. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded when the policy is considered alone.	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 H23G: Land East of Hatton	Allocates land east of Hatton for approximately 80 dwellings with supporting open space and links to existing development.	The policy will result in a number of new dwellings in Hatton. Pathways have been identified in relation to a potential increase in recreational activity. The scale of development arising from the policy alone is not expected to generate sufficient recreational pressure to lead to LSEs. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded when the policy is considered alone.	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 H23H: Land East of Hilton	Allocates land east of Hilton for approximately 550 dwellings, a local centre, sports provision, extensive green infrastructure and active travel connections.	The policy will result in a number of new dwellings in Hilton. Pathways have been identified in relation to a potential increase in recreational activity. The scale of development arising from the policy alone is not expected to generate sufficient recreational pressure to lead to LSEs. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded when the policy is considered alone.	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 H23I: Land South of Primula Way, Littleover	Allocates land south of Primula Way, Littleover, for approximately 200 dwellings with open space and access through adjoining development.	The policy will result in a number of new dwellings in Littleover. Pathways have been identified in relation to a potential increase in recreational activity. The scale of development arising from the policy alone is not expected to generate sufficient recreational pressure to lead to LSEs. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded when the policy is considered alone.	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 H23J: Jawbone Lane, Melbourne	Allocates land at Jawbone Lane, Melbourne, for approximately 66 dwellings together with affordable housing, cemetery land, biodiversity net gain and active travel infrastructure.	The policy will result in a number of new dwellings in Melbourne. Pathways have been identified in relation to a potential increase in recreational activity. The scale of development arising from the policy alone is not expected to generate sufficient recreational pressure to lead to LSEs. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded when the policy is considered alone.	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 H23K: Kings Newton Lane, Melbourne	Allocates land at Kings Newton Lane, Melbourne, for approximately 140 dwellings with affordable housing, open space and pedestrian connectivity requirements.	The policy will result in a number of new dwellings in Melbourne. Pathways have been identified in relation to a potential increase in recreational activity. The scale of development arising from the policy alone is not expected to generate sufficient recreational pressure to lead to LSEs. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded when the policy is considered alone.	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 H23L: Land off Old Etwall Road, Mickleover	Allocates land off Old Etwall Road, Mickleover, for approximately 17 dwellings with noise mitigation, sustainable travel measures and highway improvements.	The policy will result in a number of new dwellings in Mickleover. Pathways have been identified in relation to a potential increase in recreational activity. The scale of development arising from the policy alone is not expected to generate sufficient recreational pressure to lead to LSEs. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded when the policy is considered alone.	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 H23M: Land off Mount Pleasant Road, Repton	Allocates land off Mount Pleasant Road, Repton, for approximately 75 dwellings with public rights of way retention, open space and landscaping requirements.	The policy will result in a number of new dwellings in Repton. Pathways have been identified in relation to a potential increase in recreational activity. The scale of development arising from the policy alone is not expected to generate sufficient recreational pressure to lead to LSEs. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded when the policy is considered alone.	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 H23N: William Nadin Way, Swadlincote Site D	Allocates land at William Nadin Way, Swadlincote, for approximately 150 dwellings together with active travel links and open space provision.	The policy will result in a number of new dwellings in Swadlincote. Pathways have been identified in relation to a potential increase in recreational activity. The scale of development arising from the policy alone is not expected to generate sufficient recreational pressure to lead to LSEs. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded when the policy is considered alone.	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 H23O: Land North of Willington	Allocates land north of Willington for approximately 80 dwellings with open space, accessibility and design requirements.	The policy will result in a number of new dwellings in Willington. Pathways have been identified in relation to a potential increase in recreational activity. The scale of development arising from the policy alone is not expected to generate sufficient recreational pressure to lead to LSEs. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded when the policy is considered alone.	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 H23P: Land off Kingfisher Way, Willington	Allocates land off Kingfisher Way, Willington, for approximately 50 dwellings with landscaping and public rights of way connections.	The policy will result in a number of new dwellings in Willington. Pathways have been identified in relation to a potential increase in recreational activity. The scale of development arising from the policy alone is not expected to generate sufficient recreational pressure to lead to LSEs. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded when the policy is considered alone.	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 H24: Replacement Dwellings in Rural Areas	Supports replacement dwellings in Rural Areas where the replacement is not significantly larger, more intrusive or materially relocated and where the existing dwelling is not of historic merit.	The policy relates to the replacement of existing dwellings and does not facilitate a net increase in housing or population. Therefore, it would not be expected to increase recreational visits to Habitats Sites. No impact pathways have been identified, therefore LSEs on Habitats Sites can be excluded.	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 H25: Rural Workers' Dwellings	Supports permanent and temporary rural workers' dwellings where an essential functional and financial need can be demonstrated and occupancy restrictions are applied.	The policy may permit new residential development at currently unknown locations within the District. Pathways have been identified in relation to a potential increase in recreational activity. The scale of development arising from the policy alone is not expected to generate sufficient recreational pressure to lead to LSEs. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded when the policy is considered alone.	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 H26: Residential Gardens within Rural Areas	Permits extension of residential gardens in Rural Areas where proposals do not result in disproportionate encroachment or domestication of the countryside.	This policy permits extensions to residential gardens subject to specified criteria. There are no measures within the policy that could result in effects on European or Ramsar sites. No LSEs have been identified.	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 H27: Residential Extensions and Other Householder Development	Supports extensions, alterations, outbuildings and other householder development where proposals are proportionate and do not harm local character or residential amenity.	This policy supports residential extensions and other householder development subject to specified criteria. There are no measures within the policy that could result in effects on European or Ramsar sites. No LSEs have been identified.	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 H28: Residential Conversions	Supports the conversion of suitable buildings in Rural Areas to residential use where buildings are capable of conversion without substantial rebuilding and the setting is enhanced	The policy may permit new residential development through the conversion of existing buildings in Rural Areas. Pathways have been identified in relation to a potential increase in recreational activity. However, the policy is expected to facilitate a limited number of residential conversions. The scale of development arising from the policy alone is therefore not expected to generate sufficient recreational pressure to lead to LSEs. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded when the policy is considered alone.	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 H29: Extensions to and Intensification of Authorised Gypsy and Traveller Sites	Supports extensions and intensification of existing authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites where need is demonstrated and site amenity, infrastructure and environmental considerations are addressed.	This policy supports the extension and intensification of existing authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites where specified criteria are met. Pathways have been identified in relation to a potential increase in recreational activity. However, population growth arising from extensions or intensification is expected to be limited in scale. As a result, the scale of development arising from the policy alone is not expected to generate sufficient recreational pressure to lead to LSEs. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded when the policy is considered alone.	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
Built and Natural Environment				
Policy BNE5: Development in Rural Areas	Controls development outside settlement boundaries and identifies the forms of development that may be acceptable within Rural Areas.	Proposals are required to avoid undue impacts on landscape character and quality, biodiversity, agricultural land and heritage assets. The policy does not allocate land or promote development. No impact pathways have been identified and therefore LSEs on Habitats Sites can be excluded.	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 BNE6: Agricultural Development	Supports agricultural development where it is necessary, appropriately scaled and designed, and incorporates suitable landscape mitigation.	This policy sets out criteria for agricultural development proposals. The policy does not allocate land or promote development. No impact pathways have been identified and therefore LSEs on Habitats Sites can be excluded.	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 BNE7: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows	Protects important trees, woodland and hedgerows and requires appropriate protection, mitigation, replacement planting and long-term management.	The policy seeks to protect and enhance trees, woodland and hedgerows across the District. The policy is protective in nature and contains no measures that could result in LSEs on Habitats Sites. No impact pathways have been identified and therefore LSEs can be excluded.	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 BNE8: Local Green Space	Protects designated Local Green Spaces from inappropriate development whilst supporting their long-term management, biodiversity and recreational value.	This policy seeks to protect designated Local Green Spaces from inappropriate development. By protecting local recreational assets, the policy may help reduce recreational pressure on Habitats Sites and associated risks relating to physical damage, disturbance, and the introduction or spread of INNS. The policy is protective in nature and no impact pathways have been identified through which it could result in LSEs on Habitats Sites. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect international nature conservation sites from adverse effects Screen out



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In-combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy BNE9: Enhancement of Local Green Spaces	Supports the enhancement, management, accessibility and biodiversity value of designated Local Green Spaces.	The policy supports the enhancement, management, accessibility and biodiversity value of designated Local Green Spaces. By enhancing local recreational assets, the policy may help reduce recreational pressure on Habitats Sites and associated risks relating to physical damage, disturbance, and the introduction or spread of INNS. The policy is protective in nature and no impact pathways have been identified through which it could result in LSEs on Habitats Sites. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect international nature conservation sites from adverse effects Screen out
Policy BNE10: Advertisements and Visual Pollution	Controls advertisements, street furniture and related infrastructure to protect visual amenity, public safety and local character.	This policy relates to advertisements and visual amenity. No impact pathways have been identified through which the policy could result in LSEs on Habitats Sites. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded.	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 BNE11: Shopfronts	Requires shopfronts to be well designed, proportionate to their setting and sympathetic to historic character where applicable.	This policy relates to the design of shopfronts and associated features. No impact pathways have been identified through which the policy could result in LSEs on Habitats Sites. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded.	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	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In-combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy BNE12: Former Power Station Land	Supports redevelopment of the former Willington Power Station site for energy-related and other appropriate development guided by a development framework.	The policy does not allocate residential development and is therefore not expected to result in increased recreational pressure on Habitats Sites. Whilst redevelopment of the site could give rise to construction-related effects, including aerial pollution, the site is sufficiently distanced (>16 km) from the nearest Habitats Site for impact pathways to be identified. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	H – A policy which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in-combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects) Screen out
Retail				
Policy RTL1: Retail Hierarchy	Establishes the District's retail hierarchy and directs retail and town centre uses towards appropriate centres, whilst protecting existing retail provision.	The policy does not allocate development. No impact pathways have been identified through which the policy could result in LSEs on Habitats Sites. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded.	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 RTL2: Swadlincote Town Centre Potential Redevelopment Locations	Promotes redevelopment and investment opportunities within Swadlincote Town Centre to enhance vitality, viability and town centre regeneration.	The policy supports redevelopment and investment opportunities within Swadlincote Town Centre. Given the nature and location of the development envisaged, no impact pathways have been identified through which the policy could result in LSEs on Habitats Sites. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	H – A policy which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in-combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects) Screen out



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In-combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Infrastructure				
Policy INF11: Telecommunications	Supports telecommunications infrastructure where visual, environmental and heritage impacts are minimised.	Whilst the policy may support telecommunications-related development, no impact pathways have been identified through which the policy could result in LSEs on Habitats Sites. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded.	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 INF12: Provision of Secondary Education Facilities	Allocates land within Infinity Garden Village for a new secondary school and establishes requirements relating to access, scale and environmental impacts	The policy allocates land for a secondary school within Infinity Garden Village. The growth associated with Infinity Garden Village was assessed through the HRA of Local Plan Part 1 under Policy STRA1. Policy INF12 provides supporting infrastructure for that allocation and does not introduce additional growth beyond that already assessed. No additional impact pathways have been identified through which the policy could result in LSEs on Habitats Sites. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded.	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 INF13: Infinity Garden Village	Supports development proposals and cross-boundary collaboration within the Southern Derby Area in accordance with Policy STRA1, contributing to the delivery of the wider Infinity Garden Village mixed-use development.	The policy supports development proposals and cross-boundary collaboration associated with Infinity Garden Village in accordance with Policy STRA1. The policy does not allocate additional development beyond that already provided for through the Local Plan Part 1 and does not introduce any new development requirements. No additional impact pathways have been identified through which the policy could result in LSEs on Habitats Sites. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded.	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 INF14: Burial Grounds	Supports the provision of new burial space within the District, particularly in the Swadlincote Urban Area, where proposals do not result in unacceptable impacts on groundwater, transport networks, or neighbouring residential amenity.	The policy supports the provision of new burial space where proposals do not result in unacceptable impacts on groundwater, transport or neighbouring amenity. Whilst the policy may facilitate development, no impact pathways have been identified through which the policy could result in LSEs on Habitats Sites. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded.	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 INF15: Public Art	Seeks the provision of locally distinctive public art on residential developments of 50 dwellings or more to enhance local character and sense of place.	The policy seeks the provision of public art within larger residential developments. The policy does not allocate development or increase the scale of development proposed elsewhere in the Local Plan. No impact pathways have been identified through which the policy could result in LSEs on Habitats Sites. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded.	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 INF16: Mercia Marina	Supports the ongoing development of Mercia Marina through the enhancement of residential moorings, visitor accommodation, moorings and visitor attractions within the marina site and limited adjoining land, subject to avoiding unacceptable impacts on local amenity, landscape, the natural environment and heritage assets.	The policy supports the enhancement of Mercia Marina through the provision of additional visitor accommodation, moorings and visitor attractions. Mercia Marina is not hydrologically connected to the River Mease SAC or any other Habitats Site. Furthermore, by supporting recreation and tourism within the District, the policy may help reduce recreational pressure on Habitats Sites by providing alternative visitor opportunities. Therefore, no impact pathways have been identified through which the policy could result in LSEs on Habitats Sites and LSEs can be excluded.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect international nature conservation sites from adverse effects Screen out



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In-combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy INF17: Toyota Policy	Supports the continued investment, diversification and growth of Toyota's operations within South Derbyshire, including new and modernised facilities, employment opportunities, biodiversity enhancements, sustainable transport measures and low-carbon energy generation.	The policy does not allocate housing or introduce population growth that would increase recreational pressure on Habitats Sites. No impact pathways have been identified through which the policy could result in LSEs on Habitats Sites. Therefore, LSEs can be excluded.	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



6.0 Appropriate Assessment

6.1 Introduction

This section presents the AA of the South Derbyshire Local Plan Part 2 Review. The AA considers in greater detail those impact pathways identified at the screening stage as having the potential to result in LSEs on Habitats Sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

The purpose of the AA is to determine whether the Local Plan could adversely affect the integrity of any Habitats Site by undermining its conservation objectives. Where it can be concluded that the conservation objectives of a Habitats Site would not be compromised, adverse effects on site integrity can be excluded. Each impact pathway identified at the screening stage is therefore considered below.

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

Screening identified that the following policies and site allocations within the Local Plan Part 2 Review have the potential to increase recreational visits to Habitats Sites. This could result in adverse effects through physical damage, trampling, visual and noise disturbance, and the introduction or spread of invasive non-native species (INNS) and other undesirable species. The following policies and allocations were therefore screened in for AA:

LSEs identified alone and in-combination

- Policy H23: Non-Strategic Housing Allocations.

In-combination:

- Policy H23A: North of Linton Road, Castle Gresley;
- Policy H23B: Southwest Swadlincote;
- Policy H23C: Swadlincote Lane, Church Gresley;
- Policy H23D: Land South of Walton Road, Drakelow;
- Policy H23E: Land off Peregrine Avenue and Willington Road, Etwall;
- Policy H23F: Land South of Etwall;
- Policy H23G: Land East of Hatton;
- Policy H23H: Land East of Hilton;
- Policy H23I: Land South of Primula Way, Littleover;
- Policy H23J: Jawbone Lane, Melbourne;
- Policy H23K: Kings Newton Lane, Melbourne;
- Policy H23L: Land off Old Etwall Road, Mickleover;
- Policy H23M: Land off Mount Pleasant Road, Repton;
- Policy H23N: William Nadin Way, Swadlincote Site D;
- Policy H23O: Land North of Willington;
- Policy H23P: Land off Kingfisher Way, Willington;
- Policy H25: Rural Workers' Dwellings;



- Policy H28: Residential Conversions; and
- Policy H29: Extensions to and Intensification of Authorised Gypsy and Traveller Sites.

The Habitats Sites for which these impact pathways cannot be excluded are:

- 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 effects alone and in-combination

Some Habitats Sites have an established Zone of Influence (ZOI), informed by visitor survey data, within which increases in population are expected to contribute to recreational pressure and associated adverse effects on site integrity. ZOIs are specific to individual Habitats Sites and reflect the typical distances travelled by visitors. Whilst visitors may travel beyond the identified ZOI, development located outside the ZOI would not normally be expected to contribute materially to recreational pressure on the relevant Habitats Site.

Where existing recreational pressures are acting on a Habitats Site, additional residential development within the ZOI may contribute to adverse effects in-combination with other plans and projects, even where the effects of an individual development would not be significant in isolation.

There is an established ZOI for recreation around **Cannock Chase SAC** extending 15 km from the site boundary¹⁴.

Cannock Chase SAC is designated for Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* and European dry heaths. These qualifying features are sensitive to physical damage associated with recreational pressure.

The South Derbyshire Local Plan Area is outside of the established ZOI for Cannock Chase SAC. Consequently, development arising from the Local Plan, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, would not be expected to contribute to recreational pressure on the SAC. Adverse effects on the integrity of Cannock Chase SAC through physical damage can therefore be excluded.

There are no established ZOIs for the remaining Habitats Sites screened into this AA. However, SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) published by Natural England provide an indication of whether residential development is likely to pose a risk to the features of the underlying SSSI and associated Habitats Site. Whilst IRZs are not specifically designed to

¹⁴ 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](#)



assess effects on Habitats Sites, they provide a useful indication of potential risks to the SSSI component sites that underpin many Habitats Sites.

All remaining Habitats Sites for which potential impact pathways relating to physical damage, disturbance, invasive non-native species (INNS) or other undesirable species have been identified either intersect, or are immediately adjacent to, their SSSI component sites.

Natural England's advice through the SSSI IRZ tool is as follows:

“The SSSI IRZs indicate that at the location selected, the proposed development is unlikely to have a harmful effect on terrestrial SSIs and the SACs, SPAs or Ramsar sites that they underpin. Therefore, you do not need to consult Natural England on the likely impacts of development on terrestrial SSIs 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. Given the advice provided through the SSSI IRZ tool and noting that residential development within the adjacent IRZ does not trigger consultation with Natural England, it can be concluded that significant recreational effects resulting in physical damage, disturbance or the spread of INNS are unlikely.

The following sites have IRZs which do not extend into the South Derbyshire District Council Local Plan area. This indicates that Natural England does not identify residential development within South Derbyshire as posing a likely risk to the qualifying habitats and species of these sites.

- 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.

Some Local Plan policies (contained within both Parts 1 and 2 of the Local Plan) seek to create new and enhance existing open space within the District. This should increase the availability and attractiveness of recreation opportunities closer to where people live, reducing the need for residents to travel elsewhere for recreation. As a result, these policies are expected to help reduce recreational pressure on Habitats Sites.

Policy **BNE8: Local Green Space** protects designated Local Green Spaces from inappropriate development which should support the retention of open space for recreation.

Policy **BNE9: Enhancement of Local Green Spaces** supports the enhancement of Local Green Spaces, improving their quality and attractiveness. This should help to mitigate recreational pressure on Habitats Sites by encouraging recreation to take place locally rather than at designated sites.

Policies included within Part 1 of the Local Plan which provide mitigation for the effects of recreational pressure on Habitats Sites are as follows:

- Policy **INF9: Open Space, Sport and Recreation**;
- Policy **BNE3: Biodiversity**;
- Policy **INF7: Blue and Green Infrastructure**; and
- Policy **INF8: 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 Council¹⁵:

- 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 Council¹⁶:

¹⁵ 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>

¹⁶ 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 District¹⁷:

- 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 Conclusions

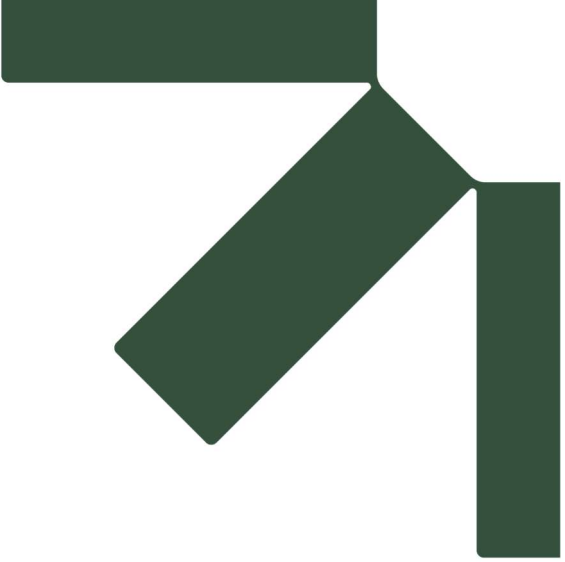
It can be concluded that the South Derbyshire Local Plan Part 2 Review will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of any Habitats Site, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, through physical damage, disturbance, or the introduction and spread of INNS and other undesirable species.

Cannock Chase SAC lies beyond the established recreational ZOI and therefore development arising from the Local Plan would not be expected to contribute to recreational pressure on the site. For the remaining Habitats Sites, available evidence including Natural England's SSSI IRZ tool indicates that residential development within South Derbyshire is unlikely to adversely affect the habitats and species for which those sites are designated.

Furthermore, policies within the Local Plan and neighbouring Local Plans support the provision and enhancement of green infrastructure, open space and recreation facilities, thereby increasing opportunities for recreation closer to where people live and reducing pressure on designated sites. Adverse effects on the integrity of Habitats Sites can therefore be excluded.

¹⁷ Lichfield District Council (2015) Local Plan Strategy. Available at:
<https://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/235/local-plan-strategy>





Appendix A Relevant Legislation, Policy, Case Law and Guidance

South Derbyshire District Council Local Plan Part 2 Review

Habitats Regulations Assessment

South Derbyshire District Council

SLR Project No.: 430.000116.00001

16 October 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 Habitats Sites and their qualifying 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.

Following the UK's departure from the European Union, sites formerly referred to as European sites form part of the National Site Network. These changes did not materially alter the requirement for, or process of, HRA.

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 Plan¹⁸ 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 Plan¹⁹ 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
- **Goal 10**: Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment.

¹⁸ 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].

¹⁹ 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].



A.2 Policy

A.2.1 National Planning Policy Framework (2026)

In addition to the requirements of the Habitats Regulations, national planning policy provides protection for certain sites not forming part of the National Site Network. The National Planning Policy Framework states that the following should be afforded the same level of protection as Habitats Sites:

- Potential Special Protection Areas (pSPAs) and possible Special Areas of Conservation (pSACs);
- Listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and
- 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 National Planning Policy Framework also confirms that the presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where a 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.” 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)²⁰

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)²¹

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 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

²⁰ 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].

²¹ 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 Appropriate assessment Guidance on the use of Habitats Regulations Assessment. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appropriate-assessment> [Accessed: 27/8/25].



Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (2021)²²

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)²³

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)²⁴

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)²⁵

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.

A.4.7 The Habitats Regulations Assessments Handbook (2024)²⁶

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.

²² 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].

²³ 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].

²⁴ 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].

²⁵ 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].

²⁶ Tyldesley, D. and Chapman, C. (2013) The Habitats Regulations Handbook, November 2024 edition UK: DTA Publications Limited.



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.





Appendix B Information on Habitats Sites

South Derbyshire District Council Local Plan Part 2 Review

Habitats Regulations Assessment

South Derbyshire District Council

SLR Project No.: 430.000116.00001

16 October 2026

Name	River Mease SAC (UK0030258) ²⁷
Location in relation to plan area	Within the District / Plan Area, forming part of the southern boundary.
Reason(s) for designation:	
<u>Habitats:</u> H3260: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation; Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot <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	
SSSI component sites	River Mease SSSI
Conservation objectives²⁸	To restore and maintain
Key current and predicted issues	• 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)

²⁷ English Nature (2005) Citation for River Mease SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5260114940395520> [Accessed: 06/10/26].

²⁸ 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: 06/10/26].



Name	West Midlands Mosses SAC (UK0013595) ²⁹
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 objectives³⁰	To restore and maintain
Key current and predicted issues	• 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

²⁹ English Nature (2005) Citation for West Midlands Mosses SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4581355488804864> [Accessed: 06/10/26].

³⁰ 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: 06/10/26].



Name	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar Site ³¹
Location in relation to plan area	14 km west
Reason(s) for designation:	
Criterion 1: The site comprises a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog. 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).	
SSSI Component Sites	Chartley Moss is located within the SDDC boundary. 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.
Conservation objectives	N/A for Ramsar sites, refer to West Midlands Mosses SAC
Key current and predicted issues	• Eutrophication • INNS

³¹ JNCC (2008) Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands. Available at: <https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/RIS/UK11043.pdf> [Accessed: 06/10/26].



Name	Peak District Dales SAC (UK0019859) ³²
Location in relation to plan area	15 km north
Reason(s) for designation:	
<u>Habitats:</u> H4030 European dry heaths H6130 Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> H6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (including "important orchid rich sites" priority feature) H7230 Alkaline fens H8120 Calcareous screes of the montane to alpine levels H8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmodic vegetation H9180 <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes, and ravines <u>Species:</u> S1092 White-clawed crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> S1096 Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> S1163 Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i>	
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 objectives ³³	To restore and maintain
Key current and predicted issues	• Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions • Biocenotic evolution, succession • Grazing • Fertilisation • Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) • Air pollution • INNS

³² English Nature (2005) Citation for Peak District Dales SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6716670957584384> [Accessed: 06/10/26].

³³ 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: 06/10/26].



Name	Bees Nests and Green Clay Pits SAC (UK0030087) ³⁴
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 objectives ³⁵	To maintain or restore
Key current and predicted issues	• Air pollution, air-borne pollutants • INNS • Water quality

Name	Gang Mine SAC (UK0012817) ³⁶
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 objectives ³⁷	To restore and maintain
Key current and predicted issues	• Air pollution, air-borne pollutants • Undesirable species

³⁴ English Nature (2005) Citation for Bee's Nest and Green Clay Pits SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6009872961241088> [Accessed: 06/10/26].

³⁵ 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: 06/10/26].

³⁶ English Nature (2005) Citation for Gang Mine SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4951305659351040> [Accessed: 06/10/26].

³⁷ 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: 06/10/26].



Name	Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC (UK0012789) ³⁸
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 ³⁹	To restore and maintain
Key current and predicted issues	• Air quality • Water quality and quantity • Undesirable species

Name	Cannock Chase SAC (UK0030107) ⁴⁰
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 ⁴¹	To restore and maintain
Key current and predicted issues	• Interspecific floral relations • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants • Grazing • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions • Undesirable species • Air pollution • Water quality

³⁸ English Nature (2005) Citation for Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6469877841788928> [Accessed: 06/10/26].

³⁹ 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: 06/10/26].

⁴⁰ English Nature (2005) Citation for Cannock Chase SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6230005797355520> [Accessed: 06/10/26].

⁴¹ 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: 06/10/26].



Name	Cannock Extension Canal SAC (UK0012672) ⁴²
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 objectives ⁴³	To restore and maintain
Key current and predicted issues	• INNS • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants • Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) • Grazing

⁴² English Nature (2005) Citation for Cannock Extension Canal SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6613548121718784> [Accessed: 06/10/26].

⁴³ 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: 06/10/26].





Making Sustainability Happen