

**PEAK DISTRICT  
CORE STRATEGY**

**HABITATS REGULATIONS  
ASSESSMENT**

**APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT  
DRAFT REPORT**

**Prepared for Peak District National  
Park Authority  
by  
Land Use Consultants**

**October 2009**

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# I. INTRODUCTION

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- I.1. Land Use Consultants (LUC) has been appointed by Peak District National Park Authority to undertake the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Peak District Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD). This HRA Appropriate Assessment Report follows on from the Stage 1 Screening Study (April 2009) which concluded that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is necessary. This HRA Appropriate Assessment Report sets out the findings of the Appropriate Assessment to determine whether the Core Strategy Preferred Approaches, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, are likely to have a significant adverse effect on Natura 2000 sites, and thus whether full Appropriate Assessment (Stage 2 of HRA) is required. It has been prepared for formal consultation with Natural England.

## **THE REQUIREMENT TO UNDERTAKE HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENT PLANS**

- I.2. The requirement to undertake HRA of development plans was confirmed by a letter (9 March 2006) from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to all planning authorities (including Regional Planning Bodies). Previously it had been considered that the Habitat Regulations<sup>1</sup>, working in tandem with development plans, provided sufficient protection for Natura 2000 sites. Following a European Court of Justice ruling it was confirmed that development plans themselves must be subject to 'appropriate assessment' under the Habitat Regulations in order to demonstrate that their implementation would not adversely affect the integrity of such sites. In other words, it is no longer sufficient for development plans to rely on regulations – instead they must be assessed to demonstrate no adverse effect. Therefore the Peak District National Park Authority's Core Strategy is required to undergo an HRA. Amendments to the Habitats Regulations to implement the ruling were published for England and Wales in July 2007<sup>2</sup>.
- I.3. The HRA should be undertaken by the 'competent authority' which in the case of the Peak District Core Strategy is Peak District National Park Authority, the planning authority preparing the DPD. Land Use Consultants has been commissioned to carry out the HRA on their behalf.

## **WHAT ARE NATURA 2000 SITES?**

- I.4. The Habitats Regulations Assessment refers to the assessment of the potential effects of a development plan on one or more European Sites (collectively termed 'Natura 2000' sites). Natura 2000 is a Europe-wide network of sites of international importance for nature conservation established under the European Council Directive 'on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora' (92/43/EEC; 'Habitats Directive').

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<sup>1</sup> *The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994.*

<sup>2</sup> *The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007.* HMSO Statutory Instrument 2007 No. 1843.

- I.5. The network comprises Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). SPAs are classified under the European Council Directive ‘on the conservation of wild birds’ (79/409/EEC; ‘Birds Directive’) for the protection of wild birds and their habitats (including particularly rare and vulnerable species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive, and migratory species). SACs are designated under the Habitats Directive and target particular habitats (Annex I) and/or species (Annex II) identified as being of European importance. The Government also expects candidate SACs (cSACs), potential SPAs (pSPAs), and Ramsar sites to be included within the HRA<sup>3</sup>. Ramsar sites support internationally important wetland habitats and are listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention, 1971). All references to Natura 2000 (N2K) Sites hereafter should be taken to also include cSAC, pSPA and Ramsar sites unless otherwise stated.

## **PEAK DISTRICT CORE STRATEGY**

- I.6. The Peak District Core Strategy will be the overarching planning policy document for the Peak District National Park, and will form part of a wider set of local planning policy documents known as the Local Development Framework (LDF). It will set out the long term spatial vision and objectives for the Authority’s area, and the strategic policies and development principles required to deliver that vision. It seeks to implement the spatial and transport policies of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands and its sub-regional component, as well as incorporating its housing requirement. It sets out broad locations for delivering the housing and other strategic development needs such as employment, retail, leisure, community, essential public services and transport development.
- I.7. The Core Strategy should contain clear and concise policies for delivering the Strategy which will apply to the whole of the local planning authority’s area or to locations within it, but it does not identify individual sites.
- I.8. The Core Strategy is at the Preferred Approaches Stage and is currently undergoing a 12 week public consultation exercise. There is still an opportunity to influence the development of the Strategy and ensure that N2K Sites are fully taken into consideration. Therefore it was felt that it was important to carry out the Appropriate Assessment at this stage, and the assessment will be rerun on the draft Submission Core Strategy, enabling any comments from Natural England to be fully taken into account as the draft submission Core Strategy is drawn up.

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<sup>3</sup> *Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation*. OPDM, 2005.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

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2.1. In undertaking the HRA, the following guidance documents have been drawn upon:

- Natural England (March 2007) *Draft Guidance – The Assessment of Regional Spatial Strategies and Sub-regional strategies under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations*, David Tyldesley Associates for Natural England, Peterborough;
- Department for Communities and Local Government (August 2006) *Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment. Guidance for Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*, DCLG, London;
- Scott Wilson, Levett-Therivel, Treweek Environmental Consultants and Land Use Consultants (August 2006) *Appropriate Assessment of Plans*, Scott Wilson et al.

### STAGES OF THE HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

2.2. HRA should conclude whether or not a proposal or policy in a development plan is likely to adversely affect the integrity of the N2K Site in question. This is judged in terms of the implications of the plan for a site's 'qualifying features' and conservation objectives. Significantly, HRA is based on a rigorous application of the precautionary principle and therefore requires those undertaking the exercise to be confident that the plan will not have an adverse effect on these conservation objectives. Where uncertainty or doubt remains, an adverse effect should be assumed.

2.3. In line with the Amended Habitats Regulations and current guidance documents on Habitats Regulations Assessment<sup>4,5</sup> the HRA process is made up of three stages. **Table 2.1** summarises the stages involved in carrying out a full HRA. This report relates to Stage I Screening.

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<sup>4</sup> *Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.* European Commission Environment DG, November 2001.

<sup>5</sup> *Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment, Guidance For Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents.* Department for Communities and Local Government, August 2006.

**Table 2.1: Stages in HRA**

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Stage 1: Screening	Identify N2K Sites and their conservation objectives  Description of the plan Identification of potential effects on N2K Sites  Assessment of the effects on N2K Sites	Where effects are unlikely, prepare a 'finding of no significant effect report'. Where effects judged likely, or lack of information to prove otherwise, proceed to Stage 2.
Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment	Gather information (plan and N2K Sites)  Impact prediction  Evaluation of impacts in view of conservation objectives  Where impacts considered to affect qualifying features, identify alternative options  Assess alternative options If no alternatives exist, define and evaluate mitigation measures where necessary	Appropriate assessment report describing the plan, N2K Site baseline conditions, the adverse effects of the plan on the N2K Site, how these effects will be avoided through, firstly, avoidance, and secondly, mitigation including the mechanisms and timescale for these mitigation measures.  If effects remain after all alternatives and mitigation measures have been considered proceed to Stage 3.
Stage 3: Assessment where no alternatives exist and adverse impacts remain taking into account mitigation	Identify 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI) Identify potential compensatory measures	This stage should be avoided if at all possible. The test of IROPI and the requirements for compensation are extremely onerous and are likely to be justified only very occasionally and would involve engagement with both the Government and European Commission.

- 2.4. It is normally anticipated that an emphasis on Stages 1 and 2 of this process will, through a series of iterations, help ensure that potential adverse effects are identified and eliminated through the inclusion of mitigation measures designed to avoid, reduce or abate effects. The need to consider potential compensatory measures where no alternatives exist could imply more onerous changes to a plan document and would also need to satisfy the test of 'Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest.' It is generally understood that so-called IROPI are likely to be justified only very occasionally and would involve engagement with both the Government and European Commission.

### **STAGE I: SCREENING**

- 2.5. The Screening Stage (Stage 1) of the HRA was undertaken in April 2009 and assessed the refined options. The Screening Stage determined that the Peak District National

Park Core Strategy may have an adverse impact on the integrity of N2K Sites. The tasks undertaken are described below:

- 2.6. **Task 1: Site identification** - All N2K Sites in and around the plan area were identified.
- 2.7. **Task 2: Identify the qualifying features, vulnerabilities and conservation objectives of each N2K Site potentially affected** – The conservation objectives of each interest feature of each N2K Site potentially affected were examined and understood.
- 2.8. **Task 3: Consider the plan and identify the changes that it may cause which may be relevant to the N2K Sites** - Policies and proposals in the plan and the changes that they may cause which may be relevant to the N2K Sites were considered. This is involved estimating likely magnitude, duration, location and extent of effects of the changes as far as they could reasonably be predicted at this stage.
- 2.9. **Task 4: Potential for adverse impact on qualifying features (alone or in-combination)** - Acknowledging the plan is not necessary for site management; the likelihood of significant effects on any interest feature was assessed, alone or in combination with other projects and plans, directly or indirectly.
- 2.10. In line with good practice in plan-making, a series of alternative options were considered at this early stage in the process rather than waiting until the Preferred Approaches and Submission stages. Alternative approaches for the type, scale and nature of development are an important element of the HRA and will be considered throughout the process as one means of avoiding and mitigating any adverse effects on N2K Sites.

## **STAGE 2: APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT**

- 2.11. The Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA should conclude whether or not a proposal or policy in a development plan would adversely affect the integrity of the site in question. This is judged in terms of the implications of the plan for a site's 'qualifying features' and conservation objectives. Significantly, HRA is based on a rigorous application of the precautionary principle and therefore requires those undertaking the exercise to be confident that the plan will not have a significant impact on these conservation objectives. Where uncertainty or doubt remains, an adverse impact should be assumed. The conclusions of this assessment have therefore been stated in terms of whether adverse effects on integrity could be ruled out, with uncertainty leading to the conclusion that such effects could not be ruled out.
- 2.12. The tasks undertaken at the Appropriate Assessment were:
  - **Task 1: Describe the Preferred Approaches and gather further information on N2K Sites and pressures and trends** – The objectives and content of the Preferred Approaches document were described. Policies with the potential to affect N2K Sites were identified and taken forward for more

detailed assessment, having regard to the findings of HRA Screening of the Refined Options.

- **Task 2: Identify other relevant plans and programmes** – The Habitats Directive requires the effects of the Core Strategy to be considered ‘in combination’ with other relevant plans and programmes. A targeted review of plans and programmes was undertaken where the likelihood of adverse effects arising was considered to be uncertain.
- **Task 3: Evaluate the effects of the Preferred Approaches** – The effects of the Preferred Approaches were assessed in relation to each N2K Site and judgments made as to whether the integrity of each site would be adversely affected. Judgments were informed by comparing the potential effects of policies to the factors required to maintain site integrity, given existing trends and pressures on sites and the effect ‘in-combination’ with other relevant plans and programmes.
- **Task 4: Determine avoidance and mitigation measures required to rule out adverse effects on site integrity** – Where it was concluded that adverse effects on site integrity could arise or where uncertainty remains, consideration was given to avoidance and mitigation measures that would enable adverse effects to be ruled out.

## CONSULTATION WITH NATURAL ENGLAND

- 2.13. HRA requires close working with Natural England as the statutory nature conservation body<sup>6</sup> in order to obtain the necessary information, agree the process, outcomes and mitigation proposals. Regulation 85B(2) in the Amended Habitat Regulations 2007 requires plan-making authorities to consult the appropriate nature conservation body regarding the assessment ‘within such reasonable time as the plan-making authority may specify’.
- 2.14. The Environment Agency, whilst not a statutory nature conservation body for HRA, is also in a strong position to provide advice and information during the assessment since it is required to undertake HRA to evaluate the potential impact of its licensing of activities (e.g. licensed water abstraction) on Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites.
- 2.15. On behalf of the Peak District National Park Authority, LUC is therefore sending this Screening Report to NE and EA to obtain their formal responses. Input received will be incorporated into the final Appropriate Assessment Report.

**Note to PDNPA: We have not had any further input from NE or EA beyond the Screening Stage. We recommend that both are engaged with to draw on NE’s local knowledge of N2K Sites and EA’s knowledge of water and air quality issues. Formal responses to the report should also be obtained.**

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<sup>6</sup> Regulation 4 of *The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007*. HMSO Statutory Instrument 2007 No. 1843.

### 3. IDENTIFICATION OF N2K SITES AND QUALIFYING FEATURES

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#### SITE IDENTIFICATION

- 3.1. In theory, the Core Strategy can only directly determine planning strategy or development within the boundaries of the National Park. However, there are still likely to be trans-boundary effects as a result of its implementation. It is considered that any effects are unlikely to extend significantly beyond the boundaries, except possibly in combination with other plans. A 15km buffer area has therefore been used around the Park boundary.
- 3.2. The initial task was to identify the N2K Sites within or adjacent to the Peak District National Park which had the potential to be affected by the Peak District National Park Core Strategy. GIS was used to identify and map the locations and boundaries of the N2K Sites. In line with the precautionary principle, N2K Sites lying wholly or partially within National Park's administrative boundary and a 15km buffer area around it were included in the study to reflect the fact that the draft Core Strategy may affect sites outside the plan area itself.
- 3.3. Nine sites are potentially impacted and these are listed in **Table 3.1**, along with their locations in relation to the National Park Authority boundary listed in **Table 3.2** and illustrated in **Figure 3.1**.

**Table 3.1 N2K Sites considered in the HRA screening assessment**

SACs	SPAs	Ramsar Sites
Bees Nest & Green Clay Pits	Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)	Midland Meres & Mosses - Phase 1
Denby Grange Colliery Ponds	South Pennine Moors Phase 2	
Gang Mine		
Peak District Dales		
Rochdale Canal		
South Pennine Moors		

**Table 3.2 N2K Sites in relation to the National Park Authority boundary.**

Natura 2000 Site Name	Site	
	Category	Location
<b>Sites within the Peak District National Park Boundary</b>		
Peak District Dales	SAC	Within
South Pennine Moors	SAC	Largely within
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)	SPA	Largely within
<b>Sites outside Peak District National Park Boundary (within 15km)</b>		
Midland Meres & Mosses - Phase 1	Ramsar	Within 15km
Rochdale Canal	SAC	Within 15km
Bees Nest & Green Clay Pits	SAC	Within 15km
Denby Grange Colliery Ponds	SAC	Within 15km
Gang Mine	SAC	Within 15km
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	SPA	Largely within 15km



## IDENTIFICATION OF QUALIFYING FEATURES, VULNERABILITIES AND CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

- 3.4. To enable an initial assessment of the potential effects of the Peak District National Park Core Strategy on the N2K Sites, descriptive information was collated for each of the sites drawing on the work undertaken for the HRA of the East Midlands RSS, including:
- Information on designated features from Standard Data Forms for SACs and SPAs and Information Sheets for Ramsar sites<sup>7</sup>.
  - Information on factors required to maintain site integrity<sup>8</sup>.
- 3.5. The designated qualifying features of the sites, factors for maintaining the integrity of the site, vulnerabilities and conservation objectives can be seen in **Appendix I**.
- 3.6. Natural England is in the process of setting out conservation objectives for all SACs and SPAs, and progress towards these objectives can be taken as an indicator of favourable condition at the site. Ramsar sites do not have agreed conservation objectives, but in most instances overlap with SPA site boundaries. However, it should be noted that Ramsar qualifying features include a range of habitats and non-bird species common to SAC designations, as well as bird species and assemblages and their supporting habitats, which are common to SPAs.

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<sup>7</sup> These were obtained from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and Natural England websites ([www.jncc.gov.uk](http://www.jncc.gov.uk) and [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk))

<sup>8</sup> These were obtained from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and Natural England websites ([www.jncc.gov.uk](http://www.jncc.gov.uk) and [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk))

## 4. FINDINGS OF HRA SCREENING OF THE CORE STRATEGY REFINED OPTIONS

### DESCRIPTION OF THE CORE STRATEGY REFINED OPTIONS

- 4.1. The Refined Options Core Strategy contained seven topics - climate change, housing, economy, landscape, minerals, settlement, & transport – and a number of key issues are identified under each of the topics along with a series of refined options to tackle these issues. The key issues are listed in **Table I.1**.

**Table I.1 Key issues identified in the Peak District Core Strategy Refined Options**

<b>Key Issues</b>
<b>Climate Change</b>
Issue 1: The scale of energy installations
Issue 2: Spatial distribution of renewable energies
Issue 3: Incorporating on-site renewables and energy efficiency
Issue 4: Flood risk reduction and water conservation
Issue 5: Impact of climate change on land management, biodiversity and air quality
Issue 6: The need for waste management facilities
Issue 7: Environmentally acceptable sites for waste management facilities where need has been demonstrated and no alternatives less damaging to the National Park exist.
Issue 8: Waste arising from all development in the National Park
<b>Economy</b>
Issue 1: Agriculture and diversifying the rural economy (in the open countryside)
Issue 2: Provision of employment land
Issue 3: Spatial distribution of employment sites (within settlements)
Issue 4: Provision of new tourist facilities, or facilities aimed at promoting the understanding of the National Park.
Issue 5: Serviced and self-catering holiday accommodation
Issue 6: Caravans and camping
<b>Housing</b>
Issue 1: To what degree should the local need for affordable housing be accommodated?
Issue 2: Should policies set out criteria to respond to the needs of different groups – such as families with children / key workers / the elderly or infirm (including institutional housing) / Gypsies and Travellers?
Issue 3: Can enhancement projects (including conversions) deliver a bigger proportion of affordable housing?
Issue 4: If a site by site assessment is favoured, there are two basic options when deciding whether this is “appropriate”
Issue 5: How best can we provide additional affordable housing without endangering National Park Purposes?
Issue 6: Where should “buy-back” be focussed?
Issue 7: Are particular tenure types or size and type of home needed in particular places? Should target groups be dealt with by area? Should these matters be in policy or targets?
Issue 8: Should the LDF identify sites or buildings, or just broad locations for affordable housing or enhancement opportunities?

<b>Key Issues</b>
<b>Landscape</b>
(no overarching issues)
<b>Minerals</b>
Issue 1 – Achieving a gradual reduction in the impact of minerals activity by considering scale, alternatives and the national need for minerals
Issue 2 – Safeguarding
Issue 3: ROMPs/EIAs/Consolidation of Permissions
Issue 4: Restoration/After use
<b>Settlement</b>
Issue 1: Establishing the best pattern of development for the National Park and its communities
<b>Transport</b>
Issue 1a - The demand for new road schemes to accommodate current and future levels of traffic growth
Issue 1b - The adverse impact of cross-park traffic
Issue 1c - The detrimental impact of speed upon the National Park's environment, its communities, and its visitors
Issue 1d - The adverse traffic impact of new business development
Issue 2a - The adverse impact of visitors' and residents' cars upon the National Park
Issue 2b - The adverse impact of motor vehicles upon environmentally sensitive areas of the National Park
Issue 2c - Balancing the need for car parking facilities against their impact
Issue 3a - The demand for new rail schemes to provide alternative means of transport to, from, within, and across the Park
Issue 3b - The need to increase the perceived attractiveness of public transport
Issue 4a - The availability of access to public transport
Issue 4b - The availability of access to services
Issue 5 - The need to ensure that roads & transport infrastructure are in keeping with the National Park setting
Issue 6 - Pressures of freight transport and provision of lorry parking
Issue 7 - The detrimental impact of air transport upon the National Park
Issue 8 - Climate Change
Issue 9 - Accessibility
Issue 10 - 'In principle support' for Tintwistle relief road

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE EFFECTS OF THE REFINED OPTIONS CORE STRATEGY ON THE N2K SITES**

- 4.2. The nature of the options stage and the fact that a large number of options were still being considered and consulted on meant that a significant amount of uncertainty remained at the Refined Options stage about the final direction of the Strategy. Each of the seven sections of the plan (climate change, housing, economy, landscape, minerals, settlement, & transport) were considered in turn looking at all of the issues and refined options proposed and a judgement made on their likely effects (including magnitude, duration, location and extent) on each of the N2K Sites that are being considered as part of this screening process.

## CONSIDERATION OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS OF THE CORE STRATEGY (ALONE OR IN-COMBINATION)

- 4.3. Acknowledging that the plan is not necessary to European site management, the significance of effects on the site's integrity was also considered. The results of this process are available separately in the HRA Screening Report<sup>9</sup> and are summarised in Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1 Summary of Screening assessment for each N2K Site against the seven Core Strategy issues**

N2K Site	Potential effects of refined options						
	Minerals	Housing	Settlement	Transport	Landscape	Economy	Climate Change
Peak District Dales SAC	-	-	-	-	?	-	-
South Pennine Moors SAC	?	-	-	-	?	-	-
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA	?	-	-	-	?	-	-
Midland Meres & Mosses - Phase 1 Ramsar	?	0	0	?	0	0	-
Rochdale Canal SAC	?	0	0	0	0	0	-
Bees Nest & Green Clay Pits SAC	-	-	?	0	0	?	-
Denby Grange Colliery Ponds SAC	?	?	0	?	0	0	-
Gang Mine SAC	-	?	?	?	0	?	-
South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA	?	-	-	-	0	-	-

### Key

-	Likely Significant Effect
?	Uncertain Effects
0	No Effect

- 4.4. The Screening assessment concluded that alone, the Core Strategy was likely to have a significant effect on the N2K Sites within 15km of the Peak District National Park Boundary (or there is uncertainty whereby significant effects could not be ruled out). Therefore it was decided that, at the Refined Options stage, in-combination effects with other plans or projects did not need to be assessed in order to conclude whether it was necessary to proceed to the next stage of the HRA. The potential for

<sup>9</sup> Peak District Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report: Prepared for Peak District National Park Authority by Land Use Consultants (April 2009)

in-combination effects would be considered in full at the second stage of the HRA process, Appropriate Assessment.

## 5. DESCRIPTION OF CORE STRATEGY PREFERRED APPROACHES

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### THE PREFERRED APPROACHES DOCUMENT

- 5.1. The Preferred Approaches document contains a total of 59 policies within 12 different topic-based chapters. Some policies are quite complete whereas others are less defined and require further development. A number of these policies present broad objectives for the National Park and/or aim to protect or enhance the natural environment, including biodiversity. General spatial policies aim to secure the purposes of the National Park and ensure development is in line with sustainable development principles. Policy GSP4b provides the overall settlement strategy, although the Core Strategy will not contain strategic site allocations due to limited development needs within the National Park. Policies are generally criteria based, allowing for small scale development only, under appropriate circumstances so long as particular policy safeguards are met.

### INITIAL SCREENING EXERCISE

- 5.2. An initial screening exercise was undertaken, to establish which policies could have an effect on N2K Sites and those that did not require any further assessment. For this initial screening process, the policies were screened using the following criteria:
- 1) Policy unlikely to lead to development itself as it relates to broad strategic objectives or qualitative criteria for development.
  - 2) Policy aims to protect and enhance the natural environment (including biodiversity).
  - 3) Policy has the potential to affect an N2K Site or Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
- 5.3. Those policies identified as having potential for effects (3) were then taken forward for Appropriate Assessment. This equated to about half of all policies of the Preferred Approaches document as can be seen in **Table 5.1**.
- 5.4. Policies meeting criteria 1) and/or 2) were used to inform the Appropriate Assessment to provide the policy context for the Core Strategy as a whole, including the potential for mitigating adverse effects where appropriate. As part of the process, recommendations for improvements to policies have been made, in order to ensure that adverse effects will be avoided or mitigated (see **Chapter 7**).



**Table 5.1: Initial Screening of Policies of the Core Strategy Preferred Approaches**

Key to Screening Criteria

- 1) Policy unlikely to lead to development itself as it relates to broad strategic objectives or qualitative criteria for development.
- 2) Policy aims to protect and enhance the natural environment (including biodiversity).
- 3) Policy has the potential to affect an N2K Site or Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Policy	1	2	3	Comment
GSP1: Securing National Park purposes		✓		Overarching policy which states that all proposals for development or use of land within the National Park will be considered in accordance with the policies of the Core Strategy. This policy seeks to protect and enhance the National Park. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
GSP2: Major development within the National Park			✓	Allows for major development within the National Park. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
GSP3: Sustainable development principles	✓			Overarching policy which seeks to ensure that all development in the National Park contributes to the sustainable development of the area. Development will not result from this policy by itself. This policy seeks to protect and enhance the National Park. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
GSP4a: Principles for conserving and enhancing the National Park's valued characteristics		✓		Overarching policy which seeks to ensure that development will only be permitted where it conserves and enhances the valued characteristics of the landscape(s) and its component parts. This policy seeks to protect and enhance the National Park. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
GSP4b: Settlement Strategy			✓	Outlines the Settlement strategy for the National Park, naming places where development is acceptable <i>in principle</i> . As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
GSP5: Securing planning benefits	✓	✓		This policy concerns the use of conditions and legal agreements. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.

Policy	1	2	3	Comment
L1a: Conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Park		✓		This policy re-states that all development should seek to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape. As such the policy seeks to protect and enhance the National Park. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
L1b: Trees, Woodlands, Hedgerows and Other Landscape Features		✓		This policy seeks to limit any negative impact resulting from development on important trees, woodlands, hedgerows or other landscape features. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
L1c: Landscape enhancement and improvement	✓	✓		This policy seeks to ensure that, where development occurs, the landscape and valued features will be enhanced and improved. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
L2: Sites of wildlife or geodiversity importance	✓	✓		This policy seeks to ensure that development sustains, and where possible improves, the quality and extent of wildlife habitats and geodiversity features, the natural processes on which they depend, and the populations of naturally occurring species which they support. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
L3a: Cultural heritage	✓			This policy seeks to ensure that development that will affect cultural heritage must conserve and enhance the distinctive qualities of the existing historic built environment in the National Park. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
L3b: Evaluating sites and feature of special significance	✓			This policy seeks to limit the potential impact of proposals on sites or features with a statutory designation or an international, national or regional interest. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
L3c: Listed buildings and other building of historic or vernacular merit	✓			This policy states that the effective conservation of all buildings of historic or vernacular merit will be pursued. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not

Policy	1	2	3	Comment
				identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
L3d: Sites and landscapes of historic, archaeological or cultural significance	✓			This policy states that, other than in exceptional circumstances, development will not be permitted if it would adversely affect a site or feature (or its setting) which has statutory designation as a Scheduled Monument or which is of international, national or regional significance. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
L3e: Important parks and gardens	✓			This policy states that development which would adversely affect the character or setting of parks and gardens which make an important contribution to the National Park will not normally be permitted. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
VE1a: Visiting and enjoying the National Park	✓	✓		This policy states that the National Park Authority will work with its partners to maintain and strengthen its exceptional environmental and recreational functions and potential. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
Ve1b: Recreation, environmental education and interpretation development			✓	Allows for the development of recreation, environmental education and interpretation facilities. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
CC1: Sustainable Design and Construction	✓	✓		This policy states that the principles of sustainable development should guide all stages of the design. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
CC2: Achieving low carbon development	✓			This policy seeks to recognise the contribution that low carbon development can have in helping to meet national and regional targets for carbon reduction. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
CC3: Renewable Energy Developments			✓	Allows for renewable energy developments. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
CC4: Flood risk reduction	✓	✓		This policy seeks to restrict development which could have a harmful impact upon the functionality of floodwater storage or surface water

Policy	1	2	3	Comment
				conveyance corridors will not be permitted. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
CC5: Impact of climate change on land management, biodiversity and air quality		✓		This policy seeks to foster the sustainable management of all land and water within the National park in relation to limiting the impact of climate change on the natural environment of the Park. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
CC6a: Management of domestic, industrial and commercial waste			✓	Allows for the development of local and very small-scale community-run waste facilities. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
CC6b: Agricultural waste generated within the National Park			✓	Allows for the development of renewable energy generation from waste facilities. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
CC7: Dealing with construction and demolition waste			✓	Allows for the management and reuse of construction and demolition waste on site. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
HC1: Reasons for new housing in the National Park	✓			This policy states the reasons for permitting new housing in the National Park. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
HC2: The scale of housing delivery in the National Park			✓	This policy allows for newly built housing, provided that it complies with preferred approach HC1 and can be developed without harm to valued characteristics and national park purposes. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
HC3: Achieving affordable housing for local needs			✓	Allows for the provision of affordable homes. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
HC4a: Size, type and tenure of newly provided housing for different groups in the community			✓	Allows for gypsy, traveller or showmen's caravan sites. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
HC4b: Housing for key workers, including those employed in agriculture, forestry or other rural enterprises			✓	Allows for new homes for key workers in agricultural, forestry or other rural enterprises. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
HC5: Increasing the proportion of affordable housing on enhancement schemes including changes of use to existing buildings			✓	Allows for residential development. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
HC6: Identifying housing sites	✓			This policy states that housing sites will not be formally identified in the LDF. As such development would not result from this policy by itself.

Policy	1	2	3	Comment
				As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
HC7: Where to buy existing housing stock for use as affordable housing	✓			This policy regards where existing housing stock should be bought for use as affordable housing. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
HC8: Community services and facilities			✓	Allows for the provision or improvement of community facilities and services. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
HC9: Shopping			✓	Allows for new retail premises. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
<b>Economy</b>				
E1: Businesses in the countryside			✓	Promotes business diversification. Allows for reuse of agricultural buildings. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
E2: Employment in towns and villages			✓	Allows for small scale employment development. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
E3: Identifying and safeguarding employment sites			✓	Allows for development of additional employment sites. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
E4: Hotels, bed and breakfast and self-catering holiday accommodation			✓	Allows for change of use of traditional buildings, extensions of existing buildings, and new build Bakewell. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
E5: Caravans and camping			✓	Allows for small touring and backpack camping and caravan sites, the provision of improved facilities on existing sites, and permanent dwellings for site warden's accommodation. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
MIN1: Minerals	✓			States that proposals for new mineral extraction or extensions will not be permitted (except for those covered by MIN5 and MIN6). As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
MIN2: Aggregates	✓			States that proposals for new mineral extraction or extensions will not be permitted (except for those covered by MIN5 and MIN6). As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
MIN3: Cement-making materials	✓			States that proposals for new mineral extraction or extensions will not be permitted (except for those covered by MIN5 and MIN6). As such,

Policy	1	2	3	Comment
				this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
MIN4: Industrial limestone	✓			States that proposals for new mineral extraction or extensions will not be permitted (except for those covered by MIN5 and MIN6). As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
MIN5: Fluorspar			✓	This policy encourages the continuation of the extraction of fluorspar ore by underground mining and the retention and continued operation of tailing lagoons. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
MIN6: Small-scale building and roofing stone			✓	This policy permits small scale proposals for the working of building and roofing stone. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
MIN7: Safeguarding	✓			This policy states that certain minerals should be safeguarded from sterilisation. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
MIN8: Restoration	✓	✓		This policy regards restoration arrangements. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
T1a: Reducing the need to travel and encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport	✓	✓		This policy seeks to reduce the need to travel and encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
T1b: Travel Plans	✓			This policy states that travel plans will be encouraged. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
T2: Design of transport infrastructure	✓	✓		This policy states that transport infrastructure will be carefully designed to take full account of the valued characteristics of the National Park. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
T3: Managing the demand for new roads			✓	Allows for new road schemes and developments. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
T4: Providing sustainable access to essential services, and park and ride to visitor areas			✓	Allows for park and ride schemes for key visitor sites. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.

Policy	1	2	3	Comment
T5: Managing the demand for rail, and using former railway routes for non-motorised users			✓	Allows for heavy rail, light rail and guided bus developments. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
T6: Routes for walking, cycling and horse riding, and waterways			✓	Allows for the enhancement of the Rights of Way network, and redirection of Rights of Way and waterways where necessary. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
T7: Directing traffic onto the most appropriate routes			✓	Allows for additional transport infrastructure to support transport management schemes. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
T8: Ensuring that the adverse impact of motor vehicles is minimised	✓	✓		This policy seeks to minimise the adverse impact of motor vehicles. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.
T9: Managing the demand for car and coach parks			✓	Allows for car and coach parking facilities. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
T10: Managing the demand for freight transport and the provision of lorry parking			✓	Allows for the provision of freight transport and lorry parking. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
T11: Managing the demand for air travel against its impact on the valued characteristics of the National Park			✓	Allows for development related to helicopter and other powered flights. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.
T12: Utilities Infrastructure			✓	Allows for utility infrastructure, including telecommunications infrastructure. As such, policy has the potential to affect N2K sites.



## **6. OTHER RELEVANT PLANS AND PROGRAMMES**

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### **REQUIREMENTS AND PURPOSE OF IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS**

- 6.1. Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an Appropriate Assessment of ‘Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects’.

### **APPROACH**

- 6.2. A targeted approach to the assessment of in-combination effects will be carried out at the next stage of the Appropriate Assessment when the draft Submission Plan is assessed.

### **PLANS AND PROGRAMMES REVIEWED**

- 6.3. To be completed at the next stage of the Appropriate Assessment.



## 7. EVALUATING THE EFFECTS OF THE CORE STRATEGY PREFERRED APPROACHES

### METHODOLOGY AND ASSUMPTIONS APPLIED

- 7.1. In order to undertake a more detailed assessment of policies contained in the Preferred Approaches document it was necessary to develop a deeper understanding of the likely effects of the policies themselves and relate this to the factors important to maintaining the integrity of N2K Sites.
- 7.2. The 29 policies that were considered to have potential for some effect on N2K Sites were reviewed in order to record the potential effects that could arise. These effects are generic and will not necessarily occur, but the review of policies helps to understand the type of effect that could result from different types and scales of development. The results of this exercise are presented in **Appendix 2**.
- 7.3. In order to make transparent and consistent judgements, a number of assumptions were developed relating to the likelihood of adverse effects affecting the integrity of N2K Sites. These relate to different types of effect e.g. contamination due to water pollution, and are based on established evidence wherever possible. The assumptions are set out in **Table 7.1**.

**Table 7.1: Assumptions Applied to Determine the Likelihood of Adverse Effects on the Integrity of Natura 2000 Sites**

Type of Effect	Adverse Effects on Site Integrity More Likely If...
<b>Loss, damage or fragmentation</b>	Preferred Approach is likely to lead to development which will result in direct loss or damage to N2K Site
<b>Contamination due to air pollution</b>	Atmospheric chemical balance is a factor that is important to maintaining the N2K Site's integrity and critical loads are almost or already exceeded <sup>10</sup>  <i>And</i>  N2K Site is within 200m of a major road <sup>11</sup> (A or B)  <i>Or</i>  N2K Site is within 200m of an area proposed for minerals extraction  <i>Or</i>  N2K Site is within 10km of proposed thermal treatment waste facility or within 1km of all other waste facility types <sup>12</sup>
<b>Contamination due to water pollution</b>	Chemical balance of water is a factor that is important to maintaining the N2K Site's integrity and the site is known to be under pressure as a result

<sup>10</sup> According to the UK Air Pollution Information System (APIS)

<sup>11</sup> Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume 11 (Highways Agency, 2003)

<sup>12</sup> EU Habitats and Birds Directive Handbook (Environment Agency)

Type of Effect	Adverse Effects on Site Integrity More Likely If...
	<p>of chemical imbalance</p> <p><i>And</i></p> <p>N2K Site is within 200m of a watercourse linked to an area likely to experience development (Category A or B Settlements in particular)</p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p>in the case of run-off, N2K Site is within 200m of an area likely to experience development (Category A or B Settlements in particular)</p>
<b>Changes in water levels</b>	<p>Maintenance of water table is important to maintaining the N2K Site's integrity and the site is known to be under pressure from changes in water levels</p> <p><i>And</i></p> <p>N2K Site is within 200m of a watercourse linked to an area likely to experience development (Category A or B Settlements in particular)</p>
<b>Contamination through transmission of pests and diseases</b>	<p>N2K Site is known to be vulnerable to transmission of pests and diseases</p> <p><i>And</i></p> <p>N2K Site is within 200m of an area likely to experience development (Category A or B Settlements in particular)</p>
<b>Disturbance from visitor pressure and recreation</b>	<p>N2K Site is open to visitors and known to be vulnerable to disturbance from visitor pressure e.g. trampling</p> <p><i>And</i></p> <p>N2K Site has good transport access from an area likely to experience development (Category A or B Settlements in particular)</p>
<b>Noise and light pollution</b>	<p>N2K Site is known to be vulnerable to noise and light pollution</p> <p><i>And</i></p> <p>N2K Site is within 200m of an area likely to experience development (Category A or B Settlements in particular)</p>

7.4. Information on the factors important to maintaining site integrity and pressures and trends (**Appendix 1**) and potential effects of policies of the Preferred Approaches Core Strategy (**Appendix 2**) were then brought together and the assumptions in **Table 7.1** applied. Maps were produced to assist the assessment in relation to air pollution, water pollution and water levels – see **Figures 7.1 and 7.2**. Further evidence was drawn upon where necessary, including the likely effect 'in-combination' with other plans and programmes.

- 7.5. The resulting findings of the Appropriate Assessment are presented by N2K Site in **Chapter 8**.



## 8. APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

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- 8.1. This chapter sets out the results of the Appropriate Assessment by N2K Site, both within and outside the National Park boundary. The findings of HRA Screening of the Refined Options document have been referred back to in the first instance and considered again in the context of the Preferred Approaches. Where the Appropriate Assessment has concluded that adverse effects on site integrity will occur in-combination with other plans and programmes or where uncertainty remains, avoidance and mitigation measures are recommended. The conclusions include actions where further information needs to be obtained before a final assessment can be made. This includes further discussion with Natural England.

### **SITES WITHIN THE PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY**

#### **Peak District Dales SAC**

##### ***Findings of HRA Screening***

- 8.2. Likely significant effects in relation to:
- Dust and water abstraction from quarrying.
  - Drainage, lowering groundwater levels through waste water and sewage discharge as a result of new housing and air pollution as a result of traffic impacts associated with new housing and the pattern of development.
  - Air pollution and water quality as a result of options that increase traffic movements. Recreational pressure from car parking (erosion, disturbance etc) provision. Direct habitat loss, fire risk, pollution (air/water), disturbance and spread of invasive species as a result of new rail schemes.
  - Options that encourage the development of new tourist facilities could result in adverse effects on drainage, lowering groundwater levels, diffuse pollution affecting water quality, disturbance and increased traffic movements, increased recreational pressure (erosion, disturbance), spread of invasive species, and transmission of diseases.
  - Options that encourage the development of waste management facilities adversely affecting water quality through run-off.

##### ***Potential Effects of Preferred Approaches***

- 8.3. The Peak District Dales SAC is designated as a result of a range of grasslands, heath and forest habitats and primary (White Clawed Crayfish) and non-primary (Brook Lamprey, Bullhead) species. Appropriate grazing regimes, management of non-native species and fisheries management are all important to maintaining the site's integrity but are largely outside the scope of what the Core Strategy can deliver. The site is particularly vulnerable to changes in drainage and air quality, including dust from minerals extraction.

- 8.4. The SAC is in close proximity to a number of 'Category A' settlements that could accept larger amounts of development, including Bakewell, Great Longstone, Youlgrave, Tideswell as Baslow, with Bakewell classified as a regionally significant small town. Policies GSP4b 'Settlement Strategy' and HC2 - HC5 are particularly relevant, as well as an indicative area for further development of recreation, environmental education and interpretation facilities to the west of Bakewell (Policy VE1b). Even so, it is assumed that the scale of development is likely to be very limited as development is restricted to affordable housing where there is proven need and therefore any effects on drainage are likely to be insignificant.
- 8.5. Any increase in traffic resulting from new development has greater potential to result in adverse effects on air quality as a result of the atmospheric ozone concentration at this site already being close to critical levels and nitrogen deposition substantially exceeding critical loads. Parts of the SAC are in very close proximity to the strategic road network (within 200m), including the A6020, A623 and A5012. Increases in traffic (although likely to be relatively minor due to the restricted scale of development) could potentially result from any policy that allows for development, including new housing, employment, renewable energy development, waste, education, recreation and community facilities, shopping, tourist accommodation and car parking.
- 8.6. Water levels and water quality are unlikely to be affected by development as although the River Wye runs through the SAC, the direction of flow is towards Bakewell. Drainage could be affected where development is likely to take place in close proximity to the SAC. However, Policy CCI provides a good degree of mitigation through the promotion of Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes.
- 8.7. Policies MIN5 and MIN6 allow for the continuation of fluorspar and building and roof stone extraction. The policy stipulates that fluorspar extraction should be via underground mining only which should help to mitigate dust, although dust and emissions are still likely as a result of above ground operations and transportation and building and roof stone extraction (albeit on a small scale). Part of the SAC has an existing permission for limestone and mineral extraction.
- 8.8. Visitor pressures such as trampling and disturbance are not recorded as a particular pressure at the site and it is therefore considered that adverse effects are unlikely as a result of the Preferred Approaches which permit recreational activities under restricted circumstances only.

#### ***In-Combination Effects***

- 8.9. It would be useful to consider development policies for Buxton, Matlock and Derby City within the relevant Core Strategies and their likely contribution to air pollution in-combination with the Preferred Approaches.

#### ***Overall Conclusion***

- 8.10. It is likely that adverse effects on the integrity of the Peak Dales SAC can be avoided or mitigated, subject to further strengthening of certain policies of the Core Strategy (see avoidance and mitigation below). Further advice should be sought from Natural England in relation to the current effect of atmospheric pollution at the SAC, the

likely severity of air quality impacts from new development and the need for mitigation measures.

- 8.11. Further information is required on the extent to which limestone and mineral extraction is permitted and will continue at the SAC, as well as the proposed afteruse. Beyond this, it is considered that the limited scale of new extraction and the Environmental Permitting system will avoid and mitigate adverse effects of minerals extraction on the integrity of the SAC.

#### ***Potential for Avoidance and Mitigation***

- Major development is highly unlikely, but Policy GSP2 could be strengthened by requiring consideration of the effect of major development proposals on N2K Sites as a policy criterion.
- Policies T1a and T1b encourage a reduction in the amount of road traffic and therefore provide a degree of mitigation in relation to air quality. There may be a need to further strengthen transport policies by requiring detailed assessments of the effects of development on air quality at N2K Sites where additional transport is likely to be generated along particular routes.
- Policy CCI could be strengthened by requiring SUDs at any development scheme in close proximity (i.e. within 200m) of the SAC.

### **South Pennine Moors SAC**

#### ***Findings of HRA Screening***

- 8.12. Likely significant effects in relation to:

- This site lies between many settlements of varying sizes and all of the options may lead to increased development near the site with a significant impact on the heaths, mires and bogs on the site by lowering the water table and affecting water quality. Depending on the location of the development, traffic impacts could increase surrounding the site, significantly increasing air pollution and atmospheric deposition. Increased development surrounding the site may also result in an increase in visitor numbers which may have a detrimental impact on the mires and bogs through trampling and other recreational activities such as fire setting. These potential effects could also result from options which encourage the development of new tourist facilities, such as holiday accommodation.
- Given that the site covers such a large area of the National Park, options to promote cross park rail travel may cause disturbance and fragmentation of the site. Options relating to the Tintwistle relief road are of particular concern given the proximity of the site to the proposed road. Increased traffic may cause a significant increase in air pollution and atmospheric deposition adversely affecting the heaths, mires and bogs on site.
- Renewable energy could have impacts on the site given its intrinsic sensitivities. Contamination of watercourses during construction of access roads, borrow pits and turbine foundations and subsequent hydrological change could negatively affect the site even if the wind or hydroelectric energy development falls outside the site itself.

8.13. Uncertain effects in relation to:

- Option 3.1 has the potential to adversely affect this site if old mineral permissions are consolidated near the site, through a deterioration of water quality through contaminated runoff and atmospheric pollution.
- This SAC is vulnerable to inappropriate grazing management, and options which seek to take a flexible approach could result in a change in grazing patterns, with potential for significant negative effects on this SAC.

***Potential Effects of Preferred Approaches***

- 8.14. The South Pennine Moors SAC is designated as a result of a range of a range of primary habitats (heath, blanket bogs and old sessile oak woods) and non-primary habitats (Northern Atlantic wet heaths and transition mires and quaking bogs). Appropriate management and grazing regimes are important to maintaining the site's integrity but are largely outside the scope of what the Core Strategy can deliver. This site is particularly vulnerable to human activity, fragmentation, high levels of air pollution and heavy metal deposition in the past, and current high levels of air pollution (particularly nitrogen and acid pollution).
- 8.15. The SAC is in proximity to a number of 'Category A' settlements that could accept larger amounts of development, notably Hope, Hayfield and Baslow. Tintwhistle, another 'Category A' settlement, sits partially inside the SAC's boundary. Policies GSP4b 'Settlement Strategy' and HC2 – HC5 are particularly relevant. Even so, it is assumed that the scale of development is likely to be very limited as development is restricted to affordable housing where there is proven need. Fragmentation effects resulting from new development are unlikely to be significant.
- 8.16. With regards potential impacts from human activity, there are numerous indicative sites/areas highlighted for further development of recreation, environmental education and interpretation facilities within the SAC (as highlighted in the Core Strategy Key Diagram, Draft Recreation Strategy and Working with people and Communities Strategy). Therefore, depending on the nature of such development, there is the potential for adverse effects to arise from policy VE1b (which promotes proposals for this kind of development) including fragmentation, disturbance and air pollution.
- 8.17. Any increase in traffic resulting from such new development has greater potential to result in decreases in air quality (particularly in the context of already high levels of air pollution). A and B roads, including the A628 and A57, traverse the SAC at various locations. It should be noted that the southeastern strip of the SAC is particularly vulnerable due to its narrower shape, the numerous roads that traverse the area, and its proximity to numerous settlements of various sizes (including Sheffield, and the 'Category A' settlement of Baslow). Increases in traffic (although likely to be relatively minor due to the restricted scale of development) could potentially result from any policy that allows for development, including new housing (policy GSP4b and HC2 – HC5), employment (policies E1 – E3), renewable energy development (policy CC3), waste (CC6a and CC7), education, recreation and community facilities (VE1b and HC8), shopping (HC9), tourist accommodation (E4 and E5) and car parking (T4).

- 8.18. It should be noted that previous options to ‘safeguard land for a Tintwistle relief road’ have been removed.
- 8.19. This site is not noted as being particularly vulnerable to changes in the water table or water quality<sup>13</sup>; as such, whilst this was a possible effect sited at the previous stage of appraisal, it is not detailed here as a possible significant effect.

#### ***In-Combination Effects***

- 8.20. Transport policies of the Preferred Approaches document in combination with development planned within Sheffield, Manchester, Barnsley and neighbouring local authorities, may result in increased traffic flows through the site and associated air pollution.

#### ***Overall Conclusion***

- 8.21. It is likely that adverse effects on the integrity of the South Pennine Moors SAC can be avoided or mitigated, subject to further strengthening of certain policies of the Core Strategy (see avoidance and mitigation below). Further advice should be sought from Natural England in relation to the current effect of atmospheric pollution and disturbance at the SAC, the likely severity of air quality impacts and disturbance from new development and the need for mitigation measures.

#### ***Potential for Avoidance and Mitigation***

- Major development is highly unlikely, but Policy GSP2 could be strengthened by requiring consideration of the effect of major development proposals on N2K Sites as a policy criterion.
- Policies T1a and T1b encourage a reduction in the amount of road traffic and therefore provide a degree of mitigation in relation to air quality. There may be a need to further strengthen transport policies by requiring detailed assessments of the effects of development on air quality at N2K Sites where additional transport is likely to be generated along particular routes.
- Whilst policy VE1b includes ‘impact on wildlife’ as a policy criterion, specific reference to N2K sites would re-emphasise the need to consider and limit visitor-related pressure.

### **Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase I) SPA**

#### ***Findings of HRA Screening***

- 8.22. Likely significant effects in relation to:
- Options that might result in the overall increase in housing development within the National Park could have a significant impact on the heaths, mires and bogs on the site by lowering the water table and affecting water quality (particularly in the southeastern strip of this SPA, which lies in proximity to many settlements of varying sizes). Depending on the location of the development, traffic impacts could increase both local and visitor traffic surrounding the site significantly

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<sup>13</sup> East Midlands RSS Partial Review Habitats Regulations Assessment Pre-Screening Report (October 2008)

increasing air pollution and atmospheric deposition. Increased development surrounding the site may result in an increase in visitor numbers which may have a detrimental impact on the mires and bogs through trampling and other recreational activities.

- Damage to habitats may also arise through fragmentation, erosion and disturbance to birds (particularly ground nesting birds) from increased visitor pressure.
- Some Options have the potential to damage habitats through severance, erosion, accidental fires and disturbance through increased visitor pressure and noise pollution, with significant detrimental impacts on important bird species using the site, especially during the breeding season of the moorland birds using the site.
- Renewable energy could have impacts on the site given its intrinsic sensitivities and the likelihood of disturbance. Contamination of watercourses during construction of access roads, borrow pits and turbine foundations and subsequent hydrological change could also cause disturbance to bird populations using the site even if the wind energy or hydroelectric development falls outside the site itself. Bird migrations may also be negatively affected with movements between feeding and roosting areas outside the SPA or movements between the site and other N2K sites being adversely affected.

8.23. Uncertain effects in relation to:

- Some options have the potential to adversely affect ground nesting and breeding birds through disturbance from noise and light pollution associated with any mineral workings.
- This SPA is vulnerable to inappropriate grazing management, and options which seek to take a flexible approach could result in a change in grazing patterns, with potential for significant negative effects on this SPA.

***Potential effects of Preferred Approaches***

- 8.24. The Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA is designated for supporting bird populations of European importance of the following species: Short-eared Owl; Merlin; and Golden Plover. There are management practices which are important in maintaining the site's integrity, which include maintenance of the extent of suitable habitat mosaic. It should be noted that these management practices are largely outside the scope of what the Core Strategy can deliver. The site is vulnerable to the following factors, which challenge the integrity of the site: severe pressure from human activity; high levels of air pollution and heavy metal deposition in the past, which have degraded the blanket peats and their vegetation; and current air pollution, particularly with regards high levels of nitrogen and acid pollution. The site is also vulnerable to nutrient enrichment, especially from atmospheric pollution, although clear felling in areas adjacent to the site has minimised adverse effects. It should be noted that acid deposition and nitrogen deposition substantially exceed

critical loads, ammonia levels currently exceed critical level and that ozone is approaching critical level<sup>14</sup>.

- 8.25. The SPA is in proximity to a number of 'Category A' settlements that could accept larger amounts of development, notably Hope, Hayfield and Baslow. Tintwhistle, another 'Category A' settlement, sits partially inside the SAC's boundary. Concurrently, A and B roads traverse the SAC at various locations, including the A628 and A57. Any increase in traffic resulting from new development, although likely to be relatively minor due to the restricted scale of development, has the potential to adversely affect the site as a result of the existing acid deposition and nitrogen deposition substantially exceeding critical loads, ammonia levels currently exceeding critical levels and ozone approaching critical levels<sup>15</sup>. Policies that allow for development include: new housing (policy GSP4b and HC2 – HC5); employment (policies EI – E3); renewable energy development (policy CC3); waste (CC6a and CC7); education, recreation and community facilities (VE1b and HC8); shopping (HC9); tourist accommodation (E4 and E5); and car parking (T4). It should be noted that the southeastern strip of the SPA is particularly vulnerable due to its narrower shape, the numerous roads that traverse the area, and its proximity to numerous settlements of various sizes (including Sheffield, and the 'Category A' settlement of Baslow).
- 8.26. This site is not noted as being particularly vulnerable to changes in the water table or water quality<sup>16</sup>; as such, whilst this was a possible effect sited at the previous stage of appraisal, it is not detailed here as a possible significant effect.
- 8.27. Contamination of watercourses during construction of renewable energy projects, and subsequent hydrological change, were sited as likely significant effects at the previous stage of appraisal. However, it is considered that such effects are very unlikely due to the conditions that would be placed on a planning application to reduce the likelihood of such contamination occurring. For example: the Environment Agency would be a statutory consultee on any renewable energy proposals; the planning authority would require that mitigation measures (e.g. sediment traps) are integral to any application; and the planning authority would secure this through a condition should consent be given.
- 8.28. With regards potential impacts from human activity, there are numerous indicative sites/areas highlighted for further development of recreation, environmental education and interpretation facilities within the SPA (as highlighted in the Core Strategy Key Diagram, Draft Recreation Strategy and Working with people and Communities Strategy). Therefore, depending on the nature of such development, there is the potential for adverse effects to arise from Policy VE1b (which promotes proposals for this kind of development) in relation to fragmentation, disturbance and air pollution.

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<sup>14</sup> Mott MacDonald (2008) HRA of the East Midlands RSS Partial Review - Air Quality Technical Report – Stage I Pre-Screening.

<sup>15</sup> Mott MacDonald (2008) HRA of the East Midlands RSS Partial Review - Air Quality Technical Report – Stage I Pre-Screening.

<sup>16</sup> East Midlands RSS Partial Review Habitats Regulations Assessment Pre-Screening Report (October 2008)

### ***In-Combination Effects***

- 8.29. Transport policies of the Preferred Approaches document in combination with development planned within Sheffield, Manchester, Barnsley and neighbouring local authorities, may result in increased traffic flows through the site and associated air pollution.

### ***Overall Conclusion***

- 8.30. It is likely that adverse effects on the integrity of the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase I) SPA can be avoided or mitigated, subject to further strengthening of certain policies of the Core Strategy (see avoidance and mitigation below). Further advice should be sought from Natural England in relation to the current effect of disturbance and atmospheric pollution at the SAC, the likely severity of disturbance and air quality impacts from new development and the need for mitigation measures. Further information is required regarding the location and scale of visitor accommodation and facility provision (policy E4 and E5) as this will enable a more accurate assessment of possible effects of such development on this designated site.

### ***Potential for Avoidance and Mitigation***

- Major development is highly unlikely, but Policy GSP2 could be strengthened by requiring consideration of the effect of major development proposals on N2K Sites as a policy criterion.
- Policies T1a and T1b encourage a reduction in the amount of road traffic and therefore provide a degree of mitigation in relation to air quality. There may be a need to further strengthen transport policies by requiring detailed assessments of the effects of development on air quality at N2K Sites where additional transport is likely to be generated along particular routes.
- Whilst policy VE1b sites 'impact on wildlife' as a policy criterion, specific reference to N2K sites would re-emphasise the need to consider and limit visitor-related pressure.

## **SITES OUTSIDE OF THE PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY**

### **Midland Meres and Mosses – Phase I Ramsar**

#### ***Findings of HRA Screening***

- 8.31. Likely significant effects in relation to:
- Options which propose that waste management activities should take place outside the National Park may have a significant effect on this site. The water quality and chemistry of the site are important and would be sensitive to runoff from waste facilities which may be more likely to be situated near this site if waste from within the National Park has to be treated outside its boundaries.
- 8.32. Uncertain effects in relation to:

- Options that do not allow for the safeguarding or allocation of new sites within the National Park may result in pressure to restart extraction on sites outside the National Park. If minerals sites are adjacent to this Ramsar then adverse effects may occur.
- Options that increase traffic movements and especially Option 6.3 that seeks to restrict HGV access through the National Park may lead to an increase in traffic, resulting in contaminated runoff, noise and air pollution outside the National Park boundary. If this increase in traffic occurs in close proximity to this site it could be significantly affected.

### ***Potential effects of Preferred Approaches***

- 8.33. The Midland Meres and Mosses (Phase I) Ramsar is designated as it contains a diverse range of habitats, from open water to raised bog, that support a number of rare species of plants associated with wetland, including five nationally scarce species together with an assemblage of rare wetland invertebrates. Maintenance of habitat extent and suitable conditions for characteristic species are important for the integrity of this site, as is management of scrub encroachment and natural succession.
- 8.34. The site is sensitive to changes in hydrology and maintenance of natural regimes, with characteristic water quality and chemistry being important factors. The site is also vulnerable to disturbance from recreational activities and has experienced nutrient enrichment from atmospheric pollution, with levels of pollutants approaching or already exceeding critical levels.
- 8.35. This is an outlying site, more than 10Km from the National Park Boundary, so will not experience any adverse effects through being in close proximity to development e.g. contaminated runoff, pressures from recreation. In addition, there are no clear hydrological links to any areas likely to experience further development as a result of the Core Strategy, and as such, development resulting from the Core Strategy is unlikely to negatively impact the hydrology of the Ramsar site. Settlement size is very small within the South West Peak and it is not envisaged that traffic movements will increase to any large extent in close proximity to the site (which is greater than 200m from the nearest 'B' Road).

### ***In-Combination Effects***

- 8.36. As with all outlying sites, it would be useful to clarify the minerals and waste capacity requirements of the National Park and whether surrounding areas will need to contribute to meeting these as a result of preferred approaches of the Core Strategy that restrict development within the National Park.

### ***Overall Conclusion***

- 8.37. Subject to further consideration of in-combination effects, it is concluded that the Core Strategy will not result in any adverse effects on the integrity of the Midland Meres and Moses Ramsar.

### ***Potential for Avoidance and Mitigation***

- 8.38. No avoidance and mitigation measures required.

## **Rochdale Canal SAC**

### ***Findings of HRA Screening***

- 8.39. Likely significant effects in relation to:
- Options which propose that waste management activities should take place outside the National Park may have a significant effect on this site. The aquatic plants and emergent vegetation may be sensitive to runoff from waste facilities which may be more likely to be situated near this site if waste from within the National Park has to be treated outside its boundaries.
- 8.40. Uncertain effects in relation to:
- Options that do not allow for the safeguarding or allocation of new sites within the National Park may result in pressure to restart extraction on sites outside the National Park. If minerals sites are adjacent to this SAC then adverse effects may occur.

### ***Potential effects of Preferred Approaches***

- 8.41. The site is designated for its submerged and emerging vegetation, including Floating Water-plantain. There is currently a lack of information on the factors required to support site integrity and current trends and pressures.
- 8.42. The site is around 10Km from the National Park boundary at its closest point. There is potential for effects on air quality resulting from transport in and out of the National Park as a result of policies that allow for further housing, employment, services and visitor accommodation e.g. further development at Tintwistle (Policy GSP4b) and Policy T7 which directs traffic towards the strategic road network. This may or may not affect the aquatic plants and emerging vegetation, depending on its vulnerabilities.

### ***In-Combination Effects***

- 8.43. As with all outlying sites, it would be useful to clarify the minerals and waste capacity requirements of the National Park and whether surrounding areas will need to contribute to meeting these as a result of preferred approaches of the Core Strategy that restrict development within the National Park.

### ***Overall Conclusion***

- 8.44. Further information on the factors required to support site integrity and current trends and pressures needs to be sought from Natural England before a final assessment can be made.

### ***Potential for Avoidance and Mitigation***

- 8.45. To be completed following final assessment.

## **Bees Nest and Green Clay Pits SAC**

### ***Findings of HRA Screening***

8.46. Likely significant effects in relation to:

- Increased traffic, air pollution, water abstraction, contaminated run off, tipping, disturbance and recreational pressure resulting from options which may result in new housing around the south eastern border of the National Park.
- Options that propose that waste management activities should be located outside the National Park may impact this site with regards runoff from waste facilities and loss of land itself.

8.47. Uncertain effects in relation to:

- A growth in settlements that are towards the south eastern boundary of the National Park may have an impact on this site by increasing traffic, air pollution, water abstraction, contaminated run off, tipping, increasing the number of visitors to this site causing disturbance and recreational pressure, with potential for significant negative impacts on both the grasslands and newt population. This will be dependent on the proximity of any new settlements to the site.
- Options which encourage the development of new tourist facilities and seek to increase holiday accommodation may result in an increase in the number of visitors to the area as a whole, including sites outside the National Park boundary. Increased visitor numbers could potentially have a significant effect on this site. In addition, options which allow change of use on existing sites, with the possible loss of employment sites to housing, could result in the displacement of industrial development outside the National Park and close to the SAC, and increasing disturbance on the site. However, as the site is outside the National Park it is uncertain how much of an effect these options will have, as it will be dependent on the location of any new developments in relation to the site.

### ***Potential effects of Preferred Approaches***

8.48. The Bees Nest and Green Clay Pits SAC is designated as a result of a range of non-primary habitats (grasslands and scrublands) and a primary species (Great Crested Newts). With regards the grassland, appropriate grazing regimes or rotational cutting are important to maintaining the site's integrity, particularly in the context of inappropriate grazing that has led to reduced quality of grassland habitat. With regards the Great Crested Newt, maintenance of habitat diversity, and, in cases, control or elimination of fish and invasive/alien aquatic plants are important to maintaining the species' integrity. However, these management practices are largely outside the scope of what the Core Strategy can deliver. The site is particularly vulnerable to unauthorised excavation and tipping, air pollution (atmospheric ozone concentration is close to critical level and that nitrogen deposition exceeds critical load<sup>17</sup>), and applications for re-instatement of extraction, which would threaten to destroy pond habitat.

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<sup>17</sup> Mott MacDonald (2008) HRA of the East Midlands RSS Partial Review - Air Quality Technical Report – Stage I Pre-Screening.

- 8.49. Any increase in traffic resulting from new development (housing, employment, services, and visitor accommodation) has the potential to adversely affect the site as a result of the atmospheric ozone concentration at this site already being close to critical levels and nitrogen deposition exceeding critical loads. However, the site does not sit within 200m of a major road, and thus, adverse effects are considered to be unlikely.
- 8.50. Minerals policies MIN1 to MIN4 restrict further minerals extraction within the National Park which may affect extraction in the surrounding area, depending on demand.
- 8.51. With regards waste management facilities, the Preferred Approaches only allow for very small-scale community-run facilities (policy CC6a) within the National Park boundary. Policy CC7 (Dealing with construction and demolition waste) states that options for off-site management of such waste should be demonstrated where there is the need (i.e. where on-site management is likely to have a negative impact). There is no detail provided in either of these policies regarding the location of management facilities, or whether further facilities will be required outside the National Park's boundaries to manage the area's waste. Further detail would be required to inform a complete assessment of the potential impact of waste management facilities on this designated site.

#### ***In-Combination Effects***

- 8.52. As with all outlying sites, it would be useful to clarify the minerals and waste capacity requirements of the National Park and whether surrounding areas will need to contribute to meeting these as a result of preferred approaches of the Core Strategy that restrict development within the National Park.

#### ***Overall Conclusion***

- 8.53. There is a need for further information on whether minerals extraction is likely to be reinstated at this site as a result of restrictive policies for minerals extraction within the National Park. This needs to be clarified with Derbyshire Dales District Council and Natural England. Aside from this, and subject to further consideration of in-combination effects, it is concluded that the Core Strategy will not result in any adverse effects on the integrity of the Bees Nest and Green Clay Pits SAC. As the SAC site is outside the Plan area, the Plan itself will not result in development, and associated changes, occurring in proximity to the site.

#### ***Potential for Avoidance and Mitigation***

- 8.54. Should the effects of minerals extraction remain a concern following further discussions, policy safeguards may be appropriate within the Peak District National Park and the Derbyshire Dales Core Strategies in order to avoid or mitigate adverse effects.

#### **Denby Grange Colliery Ponds SAC**

##### ***Findings of HRA Screening***

- 8.55. Likely significant effects in relation to:

- Options which propose that waste management activities should take place outside the National Park may have a significant effect on this site. The Newt population would be sensitive to runoff from waste facilities around the site as well as to the loss of land itself as a result of development which may be more likely to be situated near this site if waste from within the National Park has to be treated outside its boundaries.

8.56. Uncertain effects in relation to:

- Options that do not allow for the safeguarding or allocation of new sites within the National Park may result in pressure to restart extraction on sites outside the National Park. If minerals sites are adjacent to this SAC then adverse effects may be seen.
- Options to build new homes (as opposed to using more enhancement sites and conversions), and options that might result in the overall increase in housing development within the National Park, have the potential to increase traffic, air pollution, disturbance and recreational pressure which is likely to have a significant effect on the site's newt population. However due to the distance of the site from the National Park the extent to which this will be significant is unknown and will be dependent on the location on any new housing.
- Options that increase traffic movements and that seek to restrict HGV access through the National Park may lead to an increase in traffic resulting in contaminated runoff, noise and air pollution outside the National Park boundary. If this increase in traffic occurs in close proximity to this site the newt population could be significantly affected.

***Potential effects of Preferred Approaches***

- 8.57. The Denby Grange Colliery Ponds SAC is designated as a result of supporting Great Crested Newt. Certain management practices are important in maintaining the integrity of the site, including ensuring water quality is maintained in the context of agricultural and industrial runoff. However, agricultural and industry management practices are largely outside the scope of what the Core Strategy can deliver. The site is particularly vulnerable to toxic contamination, physical damage (erosion, habitat fragmentation) and hydrological change (water level and flow rate).
- 8.58. This is an outlying site, approximately 15Km from the National Park Boundary, so will not experience any adverse effects through being in close proximity to development e.g. contaminated runoff, and pressures from recreation, e.g. habitat fragmentation. In addition, there are no clear hydrological links to any areas likely to experience further development as a result of the Core Strategy, and as such, development resulting from the Core Strategy is unlikely to impact the hydrology of the site. Whilst the site is approximately 200m from A and B roads, it is not considered that traffic movements will increase to any large extent in close proximity to the site as a result of the Core Strategy.

***In-Combination Effects***

- 8.59. As with all outlying sites, it would be useful to clarify the minerals and waste capacity requirements of the National Park and whether surrounding areas will need to

contribute to meeting these as a result of preferred approaches of the Core Strategy that restrict development within the National Park.

### **Overall Conclusion**

- 8.60. Subject to further consideration of in-combination effects, it is concluded that the Core Strategy will not result in any adverse effects on the integrity of the Denby Grange Colliery Ponds SAC.

### **Potential for Avoidance and Mitigation**

- 8.61. No avoidance and mitigation measures required.

### **Gang Mine SAC**

#### **Findings of HRA Screening**

- 8.62. Likely significant effects in relation to:
- Options that do not allow for the safeguarding or allocation of new sites within the National Park may result in pressure to restart extraction on sites outside the National Park. Gang mine is adjacent to an active quarry which deposits limestone dust on to the site. It was not known at the time what the effect of this dust is on the flora of the site.
  - Options which propose that waste management activities should take place outside the National Park may have a significant effect on this site as the grassland is sensitive to nutrient enrichment and runoff from waste facilities.
- 8.63. Uncertain effects in relation to:
- Options that might result in the overall increase in housing development within the National Park have the potential to increase traffic movements and recreational pressures surrounding the Park which could have an effect on the site. However due to the distance of the site from the National Park the extent to which this will be significant is unknown and will be dependent on the location on any new housing.
  - A growth in settlements that are towards the western boundary of the National Park may have an impact on this site by increasing recreational pressures. However, due to the distance of the site from the National Park the extent to which this will be significant is unknown and will be dependent on the location on any new settlement.
  - Options that increase traffic movements and especially option 6.3 that seeks to restrict HGV access through the National Park may lead to an increase in traffic around the site as it lies just outside the National Park boundary. This may result in increased contaminated runoff and air pollution which could significantly affect the grassland habitat on this site.
  - Option 4.2 which encourages the development of new tourist facilities and options under Issues 5 & 6, which seek to increase holiday accommodation, may result in an increase in the number of visitors and a subsequent increase in traffic to the area as a whole including sites outside the National Park boundary.

Increased air pollution from traffic could potentially have a significant effect on this site. Option 2.3, which allows change of use on existing sites, with the possible loss of employment sites to housing, could result in the displacement of industrial development outside the National Park and close to the SAC, and increasing disturbance on the site. However, due to the distance of the site from the National Park there is uncertainty about whether this will impact on the site and will be dependent on the location of any facilities or accommodation developed.

### ***Potential effects of Preferred Approaches***

- 8.64. The Gang Mine SAC is designated as a result of its primary Calaminarian grassland. There are management practices which are important in maintaining the site's integrity, which include maintenance of suitable habitat and sporadic management (e.g. light grazing); however, these management practices are largely outside the scope of what the Core Strategy can deliver. The site is particularly vulnerable to air pollution, although no data is available providing baseline information on air pollution levels and loads. In addition, the site is potentially vulnerable to dust production from adjacent quarry workings.
- 8.65. Any increase in traffic resulting from new development (housing, employment services, and visitor accommodation) has the potential to adversely affect the site as a result of increased air pollution. Although the balance of development opportunities within the National Park is towards the south east, Gang Mine SAC is not in close proximity (within 200m) to the strategic road network or any watercourse. Adverse effects from new development are therefore considered to be unlikely.
- 8.66. Minerals policies MIN1 – MIN4 restrict the extent to which new extraction can take place within the National Park. This has potential to increase the amount of extraction taking place outside the Park, including the adjacent quarry. Waste policy CC6a states that site allocations for waste facilities will not be permitted within the National Park, however due to the location of the SAC it is considered unlikely that any new waste facilities developed as a result of restrictive policies within the Park will be in close proximity.

### ***In-Combination Effects***

- 8.67. It would be useful to clarify the minerals, waste and renewable energy capacity requirements of the National Park and whether surrounding areas will need to contribute to meeting these as a result of preferred approaches of the Core Strategy that restrict development within the National Park.

### ***Overall Conclusion***

- 8.68. The majority of potential effects of the Preferred Approaches will not have an adverse effect on the SAC, mainly as a result of its location. However, uncertainty remains in relation to the likelihood of minerals extraction adjacent to the site and the effects of dust. This needs to be clarified with Derbyshire Dales District Council and Natural England.

### ***Potential for Avoidance and Mitigation***

- Should the effects of minerals extraction remain a concern following further discussions, policy safeguards may be appropriate within the Peak District National Park and the Derbyshire Dales Core Strategies in order to avoid or mitigate adverse effects.

### **South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA**

#### ***Findings of HRA Screening***

8.69. Likely significant effects in relation to:

- Increased traffic movements and recreational pressures surrounding the Park. Within the Park, potential for damage to habitats through fragmentation, erosion and disturbance to birds (noting that nesting birds are particularly vulnerable). Both effects may result from increased visitor pressure resulting from options which promote new forms of development.
- Options that increase traffic movements, especially Option 6.3 that seeks to restrict HGV access through the National Park, may lead to an increase in runoff, noise and air pollution outside the National Park boundary. If this increase in traffic occurs in close proximity to this site the important bird populations that use this site, especially during the breeding season, could be significantly affected.
- Option 4.2 which encourages the development of new tourist facilities and options under Issues 5 & 6, which seek to increase holiday accommodation, may result in an increase in the number of visitors to the area as a whole including sites outside the National Park boundary. The potential for damage to habitats through fragmentation, erosion, accidental fires and disturbance to birds from increased visitor pressure as a result of these options is high and ground nesting birds are particularly vulnerable.
- Options which propose that waste management activities should take place outside the National Park may have a significant effect on this site. Waste management activities may also attract large number of gulls which disturb the feeding and nesting of important bird species on the site and even act as predators. Any renewables development in the northern area of the National Park may also have the potential to have significant effects on the SPA outside the National Park.

8.70. Uncertain effects in relation to:

- Options that do not allow for the safeguarding or allocation of new sites within the National Park may result in pressure to restart extraction on sites outside the National Park. If extraction was to occur near to this site it has the potential to adversely affect ground nesting and breeding birds through disturbance from noise & light pollution associated with mineral workings.

#### ***Potential effects of Preferred Approaches***

8.71. The South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA is designated for supporting bird populations of European importance of the following species: Short-eared Owl; Merlin; and Golden Plover. The site is also noted for containing an internationally important

assemblage of birds. There are management practices which are important in maintaining the site's integrity, which include appropriate grazing and burning regimes and maintenance of the extent of suitable habitat mosaic. It should be noted that these management practices are largely outside the scope of what the Core Strategy can deliver. However, the Core Strategy has more of an influence on the following factors, which challenge integrity of the site: severe pressure from human activity; high levels of air pollution and heavy metal deposition in the past, which have degraded the blanket peats and their vegetation; and current air pollution, particularly with regards high levels of nitrogen and acid pollution.

- 8.72. The location of the site between Huddersfield and Manchester and 'A' Roads running through it make this site particularly vulnerable to air pollution from traffic. Any increase in traffic resulting from new development (housing, employment, services, and visitor accommodation) within or outside the National Park has the potential to adversely affect the site as a result of the atmospheric ozone concentration at this site already being close to critical levels and nitrogen deposition exceeding critical loads.
- 8.73. Core Strategy policies that direct development towards Tintwistle (e.g. Policy GSP4b, HC8, E2) may generate additional traffic from the plan area, although the routing of 'A' roads suggests this is unlikely. Policy T7 directs traffic towards the strategic road network within the National Park which may result in increased traffic flows around the edge of the Park between Manchester and Huddersfield.
- 8.74. Policy VE1b allows for recreation, environmental education and interpretation facilities close to the National Park boundary. Policy E1 allows for farm diversification, Policy E4 allows the change of use of buildings to holiday accommodation and Policy E5 allows for small camping and caravan sites under certain circumstances. Such facilities on the northern edge of the Dark Peak could lead to an increase in visitor numbers to the site resulting in increased traffic movements and disturbance to protected bird populations. However, these policies do restrict the scale development and include policy safeguards e.g. Policy VE1b states that they should be located in the least sensitive locations, with criteria to include the effect on wildlife.

#### ***In-Combination Effects***

- 8.75. Transport policies of the Preferred Approaches document in combination with development planned within Tameside, Rochdale, Kirklees and Calderdale may result in increased traffic flows through the site and associated air pollution.
- 8.76. It would be useful to clarify the minerals, waste and renewable energy capacity requirements of the National Park and whether surrounding areas will need to contribute to meeting these as a result of preferred approaches of the Core Strategy that restrict development within the National Park.

#### ***Overall Conclusion***

- 8.77. Uncertainty remains in relation to air pollution from any increase in traffic resulting from development outside the National Park and recreation, environmental education and interpretation facilities inside the Park. There is also uncertainty in

relation to visitor pressures e.g. disturbance recreation, environmental education and interpretation facilities.

***Potential for Avoidance and Mitigation***

- Policies T1a and T1b encourage a reduction in the amount of road traffic and therefore provide a degree of mitigation in relation to air quality. There may be a need to further strengthen transport policies by requiring detailed assessments of the effects of development on air quality at N2K Sites where additional transport is likely to be generated along particular routes.
- There is a need for a strengthening of policy to protect N2K sites, through a separate policy and specific safeguards within policies where uncertainty remains, in particular policies VE1b, E1, E4 and E5. For example, whilst Policy VE1b sites 'impact on wildlife' as a policy criterion, specific reference to N2K sites would re-emphasise the need to consider and limit visitor-related pressure in certain locations.

## 9. CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

### CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1. **Table 9.1** summarises the draft findings of the Appropriate Assessment of the Preferred Approaches Core Strategy. Further work is needed to undertake a targeted assessment of in-combination effects, and in cases where there is uncertainty surrounding adverse effects on site integrity, further discussions are required with the Peak District National Park Authority, Natural England and selected adjacent authorities.
- 9.2. Overall, it can be seen that uncertain effects remain in relation to six of the nine N2K Sites, in relation to air quality and disturbance. Further discussions will help to clarify the avoidance and mitigation measures that are practical and achievable in each case, which will help to refine the content of the Core Strategy at the next stage.

**Table 9.1: Draft Findings of Appropriate Assessment of Preferred Approaches Core Strategy**

Natura 2000 Site	Adverse Effects on Site Integrity?		
	Yes	Uncertain	No
Peak District Dales SAC		Air quality	
South Pennine Moors SAC		Air quality; disturbance due to human activity	
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA		Air quality; disturbance due to human activity	
Midland Meres & Mosses - Phase I Ramsar			
Rochdale Canal SAC			
Bees Nest & Green Clay Pits SAC		Air quality as a result of mineral extraction	
Denby Grange Colliery Ponds SAC			
Gang Mine SAC		Air quality as a result of mineral extraction	
South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA		Air quality	

## **APPENDIX I**

N2K Site Qualifying Features, Vulnerabilities and Conservation Objectives

## APPENDIX I: N2K SITES QUALIFYING FEATURES

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### LIST OF N2K SITES INCLUDED IN THE ASSESSMENT

<b>Natura 2000 Site Name</b>	<b>Site Category</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Sites within the Peak District National Park Boundary</b>		
Peak District Dales	SAC	Within
South Pennine Moors	SAC	Largely within
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)	SPA	Largely within
<b>Sites outside Peak District National Park Boundary (within 15km)</b>		
Midland Meres & Mosses - Phase 1	Ramsar	Within 15km
Rochdale Canal	SAC	Within 15km
Bees Nest & Green Clay Pits	SAC	Within 15km
Denby Grange Colliery Ponds	SAC	Within 15km
Gang Mine	SAC	Within 15km
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	SPA	Largely within 15km

The information on N2K Sites on the following pages has been taken from East Midlands RSS Partial Review Habitats Regulations Assessment Pre-Screening Report (October 2008)

Qualifying features	Summary of standards and factors required to maintain site integrity	Existing trends and pressures, with reference to NE condition assessment
<b>Sites Within the Peak District National Park Boundary</b>		
<b>Peak District Dales SAC</b>		
<p><b>ANNEX I</b></p> <p><b>Primary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6210: Semi- natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates.</li> <li>9180: Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines * Priority feature.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non-primary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4030: European Dry Heaths.</li> <li>6130: Calaminarian grasslands.</li> <li>7230: Alkaline Fens.</li> <li>8120: Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels.</li> <li>8210: Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation.</li> </ul> <p><b>ANNEX II</b></p> <p><b>Primary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1092: White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non Primary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1096: Brook lamprey.</li> <li>1163: Bullhead.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Grasslands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sward structure and composition provide a valuable indication of habitat quality. Maintaining appropriate grazing or rotational cutting may be used to retain the presence of positive indicator species and prevent domination by rank grasses and scrub, though some scrub can be ecologically beneficial.</li> </ul> <p><b>Calaminarian Grasslands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance of suitable habitat with characteristic species assemblages, and substrate enriched with heavy metals, areas of bare ground with characteristically short sward structure and suitably low levels of dead plant matter.</li> <li>Sporadic management such as occasional light grazing may be beneficial.</li> </ul> <p><b>Woodlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate woodland management is required in particular to maintain natural processes and a diverse woodland structure, tree regeneration potential and a diverse age structure, control invasive species, and support characteristic species and habitat types.</li> </ul> <p><b>Heaths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Without management heathland becomes progressively dominated by bracken, gorse and/or scrub and trees. Appropriate heathland management is therefore required to maintain the extent of the heaths, the structural diversity including undisturbed bare ground, age structure and vegetation mosaic. Grazing can play an important role in this management. The control of inappropriate and invasive species is required.</li> </ul>	<p>The Peak District Dales are currently suffering from inappropriate grazing regimes and invasion of scrub. Some areas have improved through the countryside stewardship scheme whilst successful management has also been achieved through Natural England's Wildlife Enhancement Scheme. The inaccessibility of wooded slopes has resulted in a lack of management and subsequent invasion of non-native species. Development within the area has the potential to adversely affect drainage. Fisheries management is also required to avoid negative impacts upon the site's aquatic species of interest. The impact of dust from quarrying needs assessment. Analysis of APIS data shows that atmospheric ozone concentration is close to critical level and that nitrogen deposition substantially exceeds critical load.<sup>18</sup></p>

<sup>18</sup> Mott MacDonald (2008) HRA of the East Midlands RSS Partial Review - Air Quality Technical Report – Stage I Pre-Screening.

Qualifying features	Summary of standards and factors required to maintain site integrity	Existing trends and pressures, with reference to NE condition assessment
	<p><b>Alkaline Fens</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate management, usually in the form of light grazing, is required to maintain sward structure and composition.</li> <li>• The control of inappropriate and invasive species.</li> <li>• Hydrology, water quality and air quality must be maintained. Although groundwater levels need to be high, standing water may be detrimental for alkaline fen communities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Calcareous rocky habitats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance of the extent of habitat with characteristic pioneer calcicole and basiphilous species.</li> <li>• Maintenance of natural processes such as erosion.</li> </ul> <p><b>Crayfish</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance of extent of habitat and water quality.</li> <li>• The absence of introduced species and crayfish plague is especially important and can be introduced by human activity, therefore maintaining visitor awareness initiatives, sympathetic management of fishery practices and regular monitoring is important.</li> </ul> <p><b>Fish</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River's natural structure and form should be maintained to support a natural flow regime that will help ensure the provision of resting pools for fish, conserve the quality of the riverbed as fish spawning habitat, and avoid the creation of artificial barriers to the passage of migratory fish.</li> <li>• Any exploitation of fish populations or other native animals or plants should be at a sustainable level, without manipulation of the river's natural capacity to support them or augmentation by excessive stocking.</li> </ul>	
<b>South Pennine Moors SAC</b>		
<b>ANNEX I</b>	<p><b>Heaths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate heathland management is required to maintain the</li> </ul>	Much of the Peak District Moors are currently facing severe pressure from human activity, and inappropriate

Qualifying features	Summary of standards and factors required to maintain site integrity	Existing trends and pressures, with reference to NE condition assessment
<p><b>Primary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4030 European dry heaths.</li> <li>• 7130 Blanket bogs * Priority feature</li> <li>• 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles.</li> </ul> <p><b>Non Primary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>.</li> <li>• 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs.</li> </ul>	<p>extent of the heaths, the structural diversity including undisturbed dwarf shrub, varied age structure and vegetational mosaic. Grazing plays an important role in this management. The control of inappropriate and invasive species is required. Specific grouse moor management contributes to the maintenance of habitat mosaic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining hydrological conditions as wet heaths require wet soils during winter with a dry surface in summer. Also importance of water quality, including lack of eutrophication and maintenance of oligotrophic character.</li> <li>• Air pollution and atmospheric deposition is likely to be an important cause of eutrophication for wet and dry heaths.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mires &amp; Bogs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance of habitat extent and species composition are important for this habitat, with some areas requiring management of scrub encroachment in addition to minimising the levels of trampling and damage from recreational activities including fire-setting.</li> <li>• Mires and Bogs are sensitive to changes in hydrology and maintenance of natural regimes, water quality, and avoidance of water table lowering are important factors.</li> <li>• Areas that have suffered previous damaging activities require enhancement including re-vegetation of bare peat, increased vegetational diversity in response to past heavy sheep grazing and a reduction of erosion through gullying.</li> </ul> <p><b>Woodlands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate woodland management is required in particular to maintain natural processes and create a diverse woodland structure, allow tree regeneration potential, control invasive species, and support characteristic species and habitat types.</li> <li>• To increase the extent of native character woodland without detriment to other key habitats.</li> </ul>	<p>management regimes. Fragmentation is also a concern for the remaining small-scale areas of woodland. High levels of air pollution and heavy metal deposition in the past have degraded the blanket peats and their vegetation and this shows in the peat record and the lack of bryophytes. Air pollution, particularly high levels of nitrogen and acid pollution, continue to be a challenge to maintaining and enhancing condition. Some areas have improved through the North Peak Environmentally Sensitive Area scheme whilst successful management has also been achieved through Natural England's Wildlife Enhancement Scheme, use of the Government Capital Modernisation Fund and through Heritage Lottery Fund support for the Moors for the Future partnership project.</p>
<p><b>Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase I) SPA</b></p>		

Qualifying features	Summary of standards and factors required to maintain site integrity	Existing trends and pressures, with reference to NE condition assessment
<p>This site qualifies under <b>Article 4.1</b> of the Directive (79/409/EEC):</p> <p>Breeding;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short-eared owl</li> <li>• Merlin</li> <li>• Golden Plover</li> </ul> <p>This site qualifies under <b>Article 4.2</b> of the Directive (79/409/EEC):</p> <p>An internationally important assemblage of birds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires maintenance of the extent of suitable habitat mosaic including areas of tall mature heath and grass sward suitable for nesting short-eared owl and merlin whilst maintaining shorter, recently grazed and burnt areas suitable for nesting golden plover.</li> <li>• Maintaining low levels of disturbance and predation are especially important for ground nesting birds and management of human access should direct disturbance away from sensitive areas. (particularly recreational disturbance - Major urban and industrial centres near to the Peak District Moors provide significant visitor pressure and 524KM<sup>2</sup> of the moorlands are open to public access)<sup>19</sup>. Predator control may be required.</li> <li>• Avoidance of fires (Many habitats are sub-optimal in vegetation terms) as a consequence of wildfire burns)</li> <li>• Maintenance of the extent of habitats suitable for providing adequate food supply such as small mammals, nesting birds and invertebrates.</li> <li>• Avoidance of air pollution (Many habitats are sub-optimal (in vegetation terms) as a consequence of historic air pollution)</li> <li>• Appropriate grazing regimes are required to maintain the extent of the moorland and heaths, the structural diversity including undisturbed dwarf shrub, varied age structure and vegetational mosaic. Grazing plays an important role in this management. The control of inappropriate and invasive species is required.</li> <li>• Maintaining hydrological conditions as wet heaths require wet soils during winter with a dry surface in summer. Also importance of water quality, including lack of eutrophication and maintenance of oligotrophic character.</li> <li>• Air pollution and atmospheric deposition is likely to be an important cause of eutrophication for wet and dry heaths.</li> <li>• Mires and Bogs are sensitive to changes in hydrology and maintenance of natural regimes, water quality, and avoidance of water table lowering are important factors.</li> </ul>	<p>Much of the Peak District Moors are currently facing severe pressure from human activity, and inappropriate management regimes. High levels of air pollution and heavy metal deposition in the past have degraded the blanket peats and their vegetation and this shows in the peat record and the lack of bryophytes. Air pollution, particularly high levels of nitrogen and acid pollution, continue to be a challenge to maintaining and enhancing condition. Some areas have improved through the North Peak Environmentally Sensitive Area scheme whilst successful management has also been achieved through Natural England's Wildlife Enhancement Scheme, use of the Government Capital Modernisation Fund and through Heritage Lottery Fund support for the Moors for the Future partnership project.</p>

<sup>19</sup> JNCC data form (05/05/06) <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/pdf/SPA/UK9007021.pdf>

Qualifying features	Summary of standards and factors required to maintain site integrity	Existing trends and pressures, with reference to NE condition assessment
<b>Sites outside the Peak District National Park Boundary (within 15km)</b>		
<b>Midland Meres &amp; Mosses - Phase I Ramsar</b>		
<p><b>Ramsar criterion 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The site comprises a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ramsar criterion 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qualifies because it supports a number of rare species of plants associated with wetlands including five nationally scarce species together with an assemblage or rare wetland invertebrates (three endangered insects and five other British Red Data Book species of invertebrates).</li> </ul>	<p><b>All habitats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance of habitat extent and suitable conditions for characteristic species are important for these habitats.</li> <li>Management of scrub encroachment and natural succession required to reduce nutrient enrichment.</li> <li>Levels of disturbance such as trampling and damage from recreational activities should be maintained at appropriate levels.</li> <li>These habitats are sensitive to changes in hydrology and maintenance of natural regimes, and characteristic water quality and chemistry are important factors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The site is currently being managed by Natural England to control scrub invasion and natural succession and a management agreement and Countryside Stewardship reduce the risk of agricultural run-off.</li> <li>Existing pressure from nutrient enrichment continues, especially from atmospheric pollution although clear felling in areas adjacent to the site has minimised adverse affects. Analysis of APIS data shows that acid deposition and nitrogen deposition substantially exceed critical loads, that ammonia exceeds critical level and that ozone is approaching critical level.<sup>20</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Rochdale Canal SAC</b>		
<p><b>ANNEX II</b></p> <p><b>Primary</b></p> <p><b>1831 Floating water-plantain</b></p> <p><b><i>Luronium natans</i></b></p>	<p>This partially restored section of the Rochdale Canal extends approximately 20 km from Littleborough to Failsworth, passing through urban and industrialised parts of Rochdale and Oldham and the intervening areas of agricultural land (mostly pasture). The canal contains important habitats for submerged aquatic plants and emergent vegetation, including extensive colonies of <i>Luronium natans</i>. The canal is to be subject to a major restoration scheme to open it up for full navigation from Manchester to Yorkshire, including the SSSI pSAC section. English Nature is working together with partners to ensure the restoration is sensitively done in order to preserve the interest of the site. However, there are concerns about future boat movements as the possible impacts are not fully known at this stage.</p>	

<sup>20</sup> Mott MacDonald (2008) HRA of the East Midlands RSS Partial Review - Air Quality Technical Report – Stage I Pre-Screening.

Qualifying features	Summary of standards and factors required to maintain site integrity	Existing trends and pressures, with reference to NE condition assessment
<b>Bees Nest &amp; Green Clay Pits SAC</b>		
<p><b>ANNEX I</b> <b>Non Primary</b> 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates.</p> <p><b>ANNEX II</b> <b>Primary</b> 1166 Great crested newt.</p>	<p><b>Grassland</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sward structure and composition provide a valuable indication of habitat quality. Maintaining appropriate grazing or rotational cutting may be used to retain the presence of positive indicator species and prevent domination by rank grasses and scrub, though some scrub can be ecologically beneficial.</li> </ul> <p><b>Great Crested Newt</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance of habitat diversity including unshaded, medium sized ponds, and a variety of terrestrial habitat such as woodland, scrub and grassland, fallen branches, and piles of logs and stones to provide suitable resting, foraging and hibernation areas.</li> <li>Control or elimination of fish and invasive/alien aquatic plants may be required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unauthorised excavation and tipping.</li> <li>Several applications for re-instatement of extraction, which would threaten to destroy pond habitat.</li> <li>Inappropriate grazing has led to reduced quality of grassland habitat.</li> <li>Ponds required enhancement and management for great crested newt.</li> <li>Analysis of APIS data shows that atmospheric ozone concentration is close to critical level and that nitrogen deposition exceeds critical load.<sup>21</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Denby Grange Colliery Ponds SAC   8.5 ha</b>		
great crested newt	<p><b>Operations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction of predatory fish</li> <li>Overstocking (heavy poaching around ponds)</li> <li>Agricultural and industrial runoff/discharge (water quality)</li> <li>Water abstraction</li> </ul>	<p><b>Potential ecological impacts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biological disturbance</li> <li>Physical damage (erosion, habitat fragmentation, siltation)</li> <li>Non-toxic contamination (nutrient enrichment), physical damage (siltation, fragmentation of habitat), toxic contamination</li> <li>Physical damage (fragmentation of habitat), hydrological change (water level and flow rate)</li> </ul>
<b>Gang Mine SAC</b>		
<p><b>ANNEX I</b> <b>Primary</b> 6130: Calaminarian grasslands.</p>	<p>Grassland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance of suitable habitat, including available substrate enriched with heavy metals, areas of bare ground with characteristically short sward structure and suitably low levels of dead plant matter.</li> <li>Maintenance of habitat suitable for characteristic species such as</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The site is currently managed as a nature reserve although it is vulnerable to natural succession should management cease.</li> <li>It is unclear whether dust production from adjacent quarry workings is significantly affecting the site.</li> <li>No APIS data was available for the site to provide</li> </ul>

<sup>21</sup> Mott MacDonald (2008) HRA of the East Midlands RSS Partial Review - Air Quality Technical Report – Stage I Pre-Screening.

Qualifying features	Summary of standards and factors required to maintain site integrity	Existing trends and pressures, with reference to NE condition assessment
	<p>spring sandwort and alpine penny cress with an absence or suitably low levels of invasive species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sporadic management such as occasional light grazing may be beneficial.</li> </ul>	<p>baseline information on air pollution levels and loads but designated habitat is sensitive to air pollution and nutrient enrichment.</p>
<b>South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA</b>		
<p>This site qualifies under <b>Article 4.1</b> of the Directive (79/409/EEC):</p> <p>Breeding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short-eared owl</li> <li>• Merlin</li> <li>• Golden Plover</li> </ul> <p>This site qualifies under <b>Article 4.2</b> of the Directive (79/409/EEC):</p> <p>An internationally important assemblage of birds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance of the extent of suitable habitat mosaic including areas of tall mature heath and grass sward suitable for nesting short-eared owl and merlin whilst maintaining shorter, recently grazed and burnt areas suitable for nesting golden plover.</li> <li>• Maintenance of appropriate grazing and burning regimes, and avoidance of overgrazing by sheep is a key pressure on the site.</li> <li>• Maintenance of bird feeding areas outside the site (avoidance of agricultural intensification), maintaining the extent of habitats suitable for providing adequate food supply such as small mammals, nesting birds and invertebrates.</li> <li>• Maintaining low levels of disturbance and predation are especially important for ground nesting birds and management of human access should direct disturbance away from sensitive areas. Predator control may be required (particularly recreational disturbance - the SPA is flanked two sides by large industrial urban areas, which means that large numbers of people use the area for recreational activities.</li> <li>• Appropriate grazing regimes are required to maintain the extent of the moorland and heaths, the structural diversity including undisturbed dwarf shrub, varied age structure and vegetational mosaic. Grazing plays an important role in this management. The control of inappropriate and invasive species is required.</li> <li>• Maintaining hydrological conditions as wet heaths require wet soils during winter with a dry surface in summer. Also importance of water quality, including lack of eutrophication and maintenance of oligotrophic character.</li> <li>• Air pollution and atmospheric deposition is likely to be an important cause of eutrophication for wet and dry heaths.</li> <li>• Mires and Bogs are sensitive to changes in hydrology and maintenance of natural regimes, water quality, and avoidance of water table lowering are important factors.</li> </ul>	<p>Much of the Peak District Moors are currently facing severe pressure from human activity and inappropriate management regimes. High levels of air pollution and heavy metal deposition in the past have degraded the blanket peats and their vegetation and this shows in the peat record and the lack of bryophytes. Air pollution, particularly high levels of nitrogen and acid pollution, continue to be a challenge to maintaining and enhancing condition. Some areas have improved through the North Peak Environmentally Sensitive Area scheme whilst successful management has also been achieved through Natural England's Wildlife Enhancement Scheme, use of the Government Capital Modernisation Fund and through Heritage Lottery Fund support for the Moors for the Future partnership project.</p>





## **APPENDIX 2**

Potential Effects of Preferred Approaches Policies on Natura 2000 Sites



## APPENDIX 2: POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF PREFERRED APPROACHES POLICIES ON N2K SITES

For policies of the Preferred Approaches Core Strategy that are considered to have potential for effects on Natura 2000 Sites (see **Table 5.1** of main report), this table describes what these effects might be. This is not to say that these effects will occur, but to provide further information on the assumptions that have been made in undertaking the Appropriate Assessment, with the intention of making the assessment process as transparent as possible.

Policy	Potential effects on N2K Sites
GSP2: Major development within the National Park	<p>'Major development' could result in a wide range of effects, including direct damage, fragmentation of habitats and disturbance and indirect effects such as changes in hydrology as a result of water abstraction, effects on water quality and air quality. The policy does have a number of safeguarding criteria, however, including consideration of the extent to which valued characteristics/special qualities of the National Park are affected.</p>
GSP4b: Settlement Strategy	<p>Policy accepts development in principle for affordable houses, new community facilities, small scale retail and business premises, and community level renewable energy schemes on a limited scale that does not warrant site allocations. Larger developments (those of 3 or more affordable houses) are acceptable in principle in Bakewell, Baslow, Bradwell, Great Longstone, Hartington, Hayfield Hope, Tideswell, Tintwistle, Waterhouses and Youlgrave. Smaller scale development (1 or 2 new affordable houses only) will be acceptable in a range of other settlements.</p> <p>The policy allows for a range of development types and so potential effects are wide ranging, from direct damage, fragmentation of habitats and disturbance and indirect effects such as changes in hydrology as a result of water abstraction, effects on water quality and air quality. The policy stresses that the need for development is extremely limited and the scale of development should be consistent with Preferred Approach HC2.</p>
VE1b: Recreation, environmental education and interpretation development	<p>The policy permits proposals for recreation, environmental education and interpretation facilities with a preference for enhancement of appropriate existing facilities and the reuse of existing traditional buildings, rather than construction of new buildings.</p> <p>The policy could potentially result in damage and disturbance to habitats and species as a result of increased visitor pressure and deterioration in air quality if road-based traffic is increased as a result of increased visits to new or expanded facilities. The policy does include a number of safeguards, including the location of proposals in appropriate sites in relation to environmental capacity and consideration of the impact of proposals on wildlife.</p>

Policy	Potential effects on N2K Sites
<p>CC3: Renewable Energy Developments</p>	<p>The policy does not define different types of renewable technologies that are likely to be acceptable, beyond mentioning wind turbines. It is therefore assumed that renewables could include a full range of technologies but only on a small scale and in appropriate locations. This might include on-shore wind, biomass, energy from waste, hydroelectricity and farm slurry.</p> <p>The policy has a presumption against large and medium scale wind turbines. Single wind turbines may be acceptable in appropriate locations in the following areas, subject to a number of policy safeguards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White Peak and Derwent Valley – single wind turbines</li> <li>• South West Peak (Outside the South West Peak Open Moors and Moorland Hills and Ridges and the Natural Zone)</li> </ul> <p>Wind turbines have the potential to lead to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat loss and species disturbance as a result of the installation of the wind turbines and associated infrastructure – i.e. access roads.</li> <li>• Impacts on birds - the most common concern is the risk of ‘bird strike’ – although this should be minimal with small scale, well designed and appropriate located developments.</li> </ul> <p>Planting of energy plants for biomass has the potential to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring about changes to habitats through changes of land use.</li> <li>• Reduce air quality as a result of emissions from the transportation of biomass.</li> </ul> <p>Energy from waste has the potential to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce air quality through emissions from waste incineration and transportation of waste.</li> </ul> <p>Farm slurry has the potential to result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dust and emissions affecting air quality.</li> <li>• The release of nitrates and other chemicals affecting water quality.</li> <li>• A reduction in air quality as a result of movements of slurry.</li> </ul> <p>Hydroelectricity can affect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water levels and flow.</li> <li>• Water quality.</li> </ul>
<p>CC6a: Management of domestic, industrial and commercial waste</p>	<p>New and expanded large-scale facilities will not be permitted. The policy states that local and very small scale community run waste facilities may be permitted under certain circumstances. Potential effects are therefore likely to be localised in relation to disturbance and air quality. The effect on air quality as a result of the transport of waste is a further consideration, and is dependent on the frequency and duration of movements to waste transfer stations within or outside the National Park.</p>

Policy	Potential effects on N2K Sites
CC6b: Agricultural waste generated within the National Park	This policy provides potential for disposal of farm waste under controlled conditions and its use as a renewable energy source, through single or centralised facilities under particular circumstances, including environmental safeguards. Disposal and use of farm slurry has the potential to result in dust and emissions affecting air quality, the release of nitrates and other chemicals affecting water quality and a reduction in air quality as a result of movements of slurry.
CC7: Dealing with construction and demolition waste	This policy seeks to encourage the management and reuse of construction and demolition waste on-site to minimise the negative impacts of off-site management. Where significant environmental risk may arise to sensitive receptors from on-site management, an appropriate off-site option would be supported. Potential on-site and off-site effects include: disturbance to species and habitats (although additional disturbance where on-site management occurs is likely to be minimal given the construction and demolition setting), air quality (resulting from the transport of waste, which is dependent on the frequency and duration of movements, use of machinery etc.), and where applicable, changes in hydrology as a result of water abstraction.
HC2: The scale of housing delivery in the National Park	This policy allows for new housing where there is proven need and/or conservation and enhancement of the National Park can be secured. Estimates of the number of homes to be provided will be contained in this policy. Potential effects of new housing include direct damage and fragmentation of habitats, disturbance to habitats and species as a result of increased visitor pressure, changes in hydrology as a result of water abstraction, effects on water quality as a result of run-off and sewage treatment and air quality as a result of transport associated with an increased population.
HC3: Achieving affordable housing for local needs	Affordable housing provided through new development and changes of use has the potential to result in direct damage and fragmentation of habitats, disturbance to habitats and species as a result of increased visitor pressure, changes in hydrology as a result of water abstraction, effects on water quality as a result of run-off and sewage treatment and air quality as a result of transport associated with an increased population.
HC4a: Size, type and tenure of newly provided housing for different groups in the community	This policy allows for caravan sites for gypsies, travellers and show people, under exceptional circumstances. The potential effects are similar to those for housing, including direct damage and fragmentation of habitats, disturbance to habitats and species as a result of increased visitor pressure, changes in hydrology as a result of water abstraction, effects on water quality as a result of run-off and sewage treatment and air quality as a result of transport associated with an increased population.
HC4b: Housing for key workers, including those employed in agriculture, forestry or other rural enterprises	This policy provides for new homes for key workers in agriculture, forestry or other rural enterprises and where there is no longer a need for these in the future for their use as holiday accommodation or affordable housing. Potential effects include direct damage and fragmentation of habitats, disturbance to habitats and species as a result of increased visitor pressure, changes in hydrology as a result of water abstraction, effects on water quality as a result of run-off and sewage treatment and air quality as a result of transport associated with an increased population.
HC5: Increasing the proportion of affordable	This policy aims to secure the provision of affordable housing where this will contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the National Park. Although the policy has potential to result in improvements to biodiversity, potential adverse effects cannot necessarily be ruled out

Policy	Potential effects on N2K Sites
housing on enhancement schemes including changes of use to existing buildings	and include direct damage and fragmentation of habitats, disturbance to habitats and species as a result of increased visitor pressure, changes in hydrology as a result of water abstraction, effects on water quality as a result of run-off and sewage treatment and air quality as a result of transport associated with an increased population.
HC8: Community services and facilities	This policy encourages the improvement and provision of community facilities within settlements referred to in the settlement strategy (Policy GSP4b), including changes of use and replacement buildings, subject to a number of safeguards. Potential effects are likely to be similar to those from housing, but are dependent on the nature of the facility and whether it results in new development or change of use/replacement. Potential effects therefore include direct damage and fragmentation of habitats, disturbance to habitats and species as a result of increased visitor pressure, changes in hydrology as a result of water abstraction, effects on water quality as a result of run-off and sewage treatment and air quality as a result of transport associated with use of community facilities.
HC9: Shopping	This policy allows for small scale shopping facilities only, within Bakewell Central Shopping Area and within or on the edge of identified shopping centres. Small scale facilities may be permitted in the open countryside under certain circumstances e.g. farm diversification. Potential effects could include direct damage and fragmentation of habitats, disturbance to habitats and species as a result of increased visitor pressure, changes in hydrology as a result of water abstraction, effects on water quality as a result of run-off and sewage treatment and air quality as a result of transport associated with use of shopping facilities.
E1: Businesses in the countryside	The policy permits the reuse of modern agricultural buildings in some circumstances, as well as the provision of small buildings to support business diversification, where siting and design can achieve enhancement with regards the existing buildings. The potential effects of this policy are wide ranging, from direct damage, fragmentation of habitats and species/habitat disturbance, to indirect effects, such as changes in hydrology as a result of water abstraction, effects on water quality and air quality. The policy does include site criteria which seek to limit the potential impact of such development on wildlife and landscape and traffic on local roads.
E2: Employment in towns and villages	This policy permits small scale employment development across the designated settlements set out in Policy GSP4b, with preference for reuse of existing traditional buildings and previously developed sites. The potential effects of this policy are wide ranging, from direct damage, fragmentation of habitats and species/habitat disturbance, to indirect effects, such as changes in hydrology as a result of water abstraction, effects on water quality and air quality. The policy does include site criteria, which include impact on landscape character and the surrounding area.
E3: Identifying and safeguarding employment sites	This policy permits development of additional employment sites in designated settlements. The potential effects include direct damage and fragmentation of habitats, disturbance to habitats and species as a result of increased visitor pressure, changes in hydrology as a result of water abstraction, effects on water quality as a result of run-off and sewage treatment and air quality as a result of transport associated with an increased population. The policy does include site criteria, which include reducing vehicle trip generation and impact on landscape character.
E4: Hotels, bed and	This policy permits the change of use of traditional buildings to serviced or self-catering holiday accommodation, and extensions of existing

Policy	Potential effects on N2K Sites
breakfast and self-catering holiday accommodation	holiday accommodation. Policy also permits some new build serviced holiday accommodation in Bakewell. The potential effects include direct damage and fragmentation of habitats, disturbance to habitats and species as a result of increased visitor pressure, changes in hydrology as a result of water abstraction, effects on water quality as a result of run-off and sewage treatment and air quality as a result of transport associated with an increased population. The policy does include site criteria, which include impact on landscape character.
E5: Caravans and camping	This policy permits small touring and backpack camping and caravan sites, the provision of improved facilities on existing sites, and permanent dwellings for site warden's accommodation. Potential effects are similar in nature to Policy E4 and include direct damage and fragmentation of habitats, disturbance to habitats and species as a result of increased visitor pressure, changes in hydrology as a result of water abstraction, effects on water quality as a result of run-off and sewage treatment and air quality as a result of transport associated with an increased population. The policy does include site criteria, which include impact on landscape character.
MIN5: Fluorspar	This policy encourages the continuation of the extraction of fluorspar ore by underground mining and the retention and continued operation of tailing lagoons. The potential effects of this policy are both direct, through disturbance to habitat and species, and indirect, through alterations to the water table, and air and noise pollution resulting from extraction activities (including use of machinery) and vehicular activities.
MIN6: Small-scale building and roofing stone	This policy permits small scale proposals for the working of building and roofing stone. The potential effects are similar to those for MIN5: both direct, through disturbance to habitat and species, and indirect, through alterations to the water table, and air and noise pollution resulting from extraction activities (including use of machinery) and vehicular activities.
T3: Managing the demand for new roads	This policy permits new road schemes and developments where they provide access to new business or residential development, or in exceptional circumstances. The potential effects of this policy include direct damage and fragmentation of habitats, disturbance to habitats and species as a result of works, and impacts to air quality resulting from vehicular use during road construction and upon completion. The policy does include site criteria, which include the use of environmental criteria in the planning of the road system.
T4: Providing sustainable access to essential services, and park and ride to visitor areas	This policy permits park and ride schemes for main visitor areas. The potential effects of this policy include direct damage and fragmentation of habitats, disturbance to habitats and species as a result of works and use of such schemes, and impacts to air quality resulting from vehicular use during construction and upon completion. The policy does include site criteria, which include ensuring that park and ride schemes provide a net environmental benefit to the National Park.
T5: Managing the demand for rail, and using former railway routes for non-motorised users	This policy permits heavy rail, light rail or guided bus developments. The potential effects of this policy include direct damage and fragmentation of habitats, disturbance to habitats and species as a result of works and use of such developments, and from a potential increase in visitor pressure due to increased accessibility, and impacts to air quality resulting from vehicular use during construction and upon completion. The policy does include site criteria, which include that any detrimental effects that such schemes would have on the National Park would have to be outweighed by significant benefits, including a demonstrable lasting removal of road traffic from parallel routes.

Policy	Potential effects on N2K Sites
T6: Routes for walking, cycling and horse riding, and waterways	This policy permits the enhancement of the Rights of Way network, the provision of alternative routes where a development affects a Right of Way, and redirection of inland waterways. This policy may result in an increase in visitor numbers and/or an expansion of the area that visitors walk/ride/cycle due to greater accessibility. The potential effects of this policy are direct damage to habitats, and disturbance to habitats and species. Where inland waterways have to be redirected, this has the potential to impact the habitats and species of that waterway.
T7: Directing traffic onto the most appropriate routes	This policy permits additional traffic management schemes, and transport infrastructure that is required to deliver such schemes. The potential effects of this policy include direct damage and fragmentation of habitats, disturbance to habitats and species as a result of works, and impacts to air quality resulting from vehicular use. This policy does include site criteria, which include adherence to the highest standards of environmental design, and ensuring schemes do not transfer negative traffic to equally environmentally sensitive areas.
T9: Managing the demand for car and coach parks	This policy permits the development of car and coach parking facilities. The potential effects of this policy include direct damage and fragmentation of habitats, disturbance to habitats and species as a result of works and a potential increase in visitor numbers due to parking facilities, and impacts to air quality resulting from vehicular use (both during construction and resulting from increased visitor pressure). This policy does include site criteria, which include ensuring new facilities are sensitive to landscape character.
T10: Managing the demand for freight transport and the provision of lorry parking	This policy permits rail freight facilities for quarries and industrial sites, lorry parking and encourages routing strategies for Large Goods Vehicles. The potential effects of this policy include direct damage to habitats, disturbance to habitats and species as a result of works and vehicle use, and impacts to air quality resulting from vehicular use. This policy does include site criteria, which include ensuring such facilities do not have an unacceptable adverse effect on the landscape, and routing Large Goods Vehicles to avoid negative environmental impacts.
T11: Managing the demand for air travel against its impact on the valued characteristics of the National Park	This policy permits developments related to helicopter or other powered flights. The potential effects of this policy include direct damage to habitats, disturbance to habitats and species as a result of noise, and impacts to air quality resulting from helicopter-use and other powered flights. The policy does include site criteria, which state that where land being used regularly for helicopter or other powered flights is harming the valued characteristics of the area and causing traffic congestion, an Article 4 Direction will be sought to bring the use under planning control.
T12: Utilities Infrastructure	This policy permits utilities infrastructure, including telecommunications infrastructure. The potential effects of this policy include direct damage to habitats, habitat fragmentation, disturbance to habitats and species, and impacts to air quality resulting from construction works. The policy does include site criteria, which include ensuring pipelines do not have any negative impacts in environmentally sensitive areas.