# Annex 2

## habitats regulations assessment pre-screening report

## A2.1 Introduction

A2.1.1 Derbyshire County Council is required to produce a Local Transport Plan (LTP) under the Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008. With the second LTP period coming to a close in March 2011, a new LTP generally referred to as LTP3, is required to be produced and ready to be implemented from April 2011. As part of the new Plan's development, the Authority is required under the European Directive 92/43/ECC to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment to assess the potential for significant impacts from of the Plan on habitats and species of European importance.

## A2.2 Requirements of the Habitats Directive

A2.2.1 The Habitats Directive[1] provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. This is being done through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000. Natura 2000 sites are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC).

1.2.1 An Appropriate Assessment of Plans that could affect one, or more SACs and SPAs is required by Regulation 48 of the Habitats Regulations 1994 implementing Article 6(3) of the European Habitats Directive:-

> *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, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions in paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.*

1.2.2 Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive goes on to discuss alternative solutions, the test of "imperative reasons of overriding public interest" and compensatory measures:-

> *If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.*

## A2.3 Habitats Regulations Assessment Methodology

A2.3.1 The European guidance on Appropriate Assessment (AA) recommends a process of up to four stages:-

1. **Screening** – determining whether the plan alone, or in-combination, is likely to have a significant impact on a European Site. Where potential significant impacts are likely, the Plan's options can be refined to prevent these. If there are no significant impacts then an appropriate assessment is not required and the Plan can proceed.
2. **Appropriate Assessment** – determining whether in view of the site's conservation objectives, the plan and projects, would have an adverse effect (or risk of this) on the integrity of the site(s) – if it doesn't then the plan can proceed.
3. **Assessment of alternative solutions** – Alternative solutions are considered where the plan is assessed as having an adverse effect, and where measures cannot be applied to remove the adverse effect. There should be an examination of alternatives considered.
4. **Consideration in the absence of alternative solutions** - Where no alternatives remain and where adverse impacts remain it, consideration should be made to whether there are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest for the plan to proceed.

[1] Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora

## A2.4 Screening process

### Introduction

A2.4.1 The Derbyshire Local Transport Plan (LTP) is not directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of the European sites and therefore, the LTP is required to be assessed under the Habitats Directive.

A2.4.2 In practice, the screening stage of the 'Habitats Regulations Assessment', can only take place when a draft of the Derbyshire LTP3 has been produced. However, we want to incorporate the Plan's development closely with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations Assessment to ensure any potential significant impacts are mitigated through the inclusion of policies or mitigation measures within the draft Plan. Therefore this document makes an initial assessment of the issues most likely to arise, which need to be considered to whether they are likely to have a significant impact on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

A2.4.3 European Commission (2001) guidance recommends that the formal screening stage should comprise:-

1. description of the plan and other plans and projects that 'in combination' have the potential to have significant effects on a European site(s);
2. identify the potential effects on the European site(s); and
3. assessing the significance of any effects on the European sites

Therefore we have followed this process for the pre-screening report.

### Derbyshire Local Transport Plan

A2.4.4 This pre-screening report relates to the development of the Third Derbyshire Local Transport Plan (LTP). Unlike the first two LTPs, this third Plan has no time horizon constraint specified by the Department for Transport. Therefore, we are currently working to the Plan's longer term strategy looking ahead towards 2026. This time horizon has not yet been formally adopted, but this will help align the LTP period to that of the Local Development Frameworks (land use plans) currently being developed by the Peak District National Park, District and Borough Councils and local councils surrounding Derbyshire.

A2.4.5 In developing our Third LTP we will be building upon our existing Plan. The LTP's purpose can be summarised as defining local transport priorities and setting policies and programmes of initiatives to deliver them. Initiatives relate to undertaking engineering measures; and influencing hearts and minds and land-use planning. As an introduction to the strategic aims of the LTP, the second Derbyshire LTP strategies give a good overview:-

- Efficient maintenance and management (of local transport infrastructure)
- Improving accessibility and healthier travel choices
- Safer roads and communities
- Reduced congestion and a strong local economy
- Better air quality and environment

A2.4.6 As with each new LTP, its policy coverage evolves over time. For this Third LTP, we are being asked to consider its contribution to five national transport goals and taking these as over-arching priorities[2]. These goals are similar to our LTP2 strategies:-

- Supporting economic growth
- Tackle climate change
- Promote equality of opportunity
- Contribute to better safety, security and health
- Improve quality of life

A2.4.7 In undertaking our pre-screening assessment we will be basing it upon knowledge of the impact of previous LTPs and to how it may change to incorporate the new goals. It is clear that these goals are wide-ranging. However, as a reminder, this pre-screening and any further work on Habitats Regulations Assessment will be undertaken on the Plan's particular impact and not how the wider-world is influencing transport. That is for others to consider as they undertake Habitats Regualtions

[2] Department for Transport LTP3 Final Guidance, July 2009

Assessments on their own Plans. However, we will consider any particular issues where there may be in-combination significant effects.

## European Sites to be Screened through Derbyshire LTP3 Development

A2.4.8 To select the European sites to be screened, we have decided to include all sites within the coverage of the plan, i.e. the County of Derbyshire, excluding Derby City. Because the plan could have an influence across our boundary, we have also decided to specify a generous buffer zone (15km) including Derby City to act as a precautionary measure; European sites within this buffer zone will also be assessed. We will be undertaking this assessment as an iterative process and therefore the buffer zone, and European sites included within the assessment may change through recommendations from Environmental Agencies, during consultation or as potential significant impacts are known.

A2.4.9 The identified European sites located within the county boundary or within the 15km buffer zone, and the reasons for designation, are listed within Table A2.1 below. The areas covered by the SACs are shown in Map 1 and the SPA in Map 2.

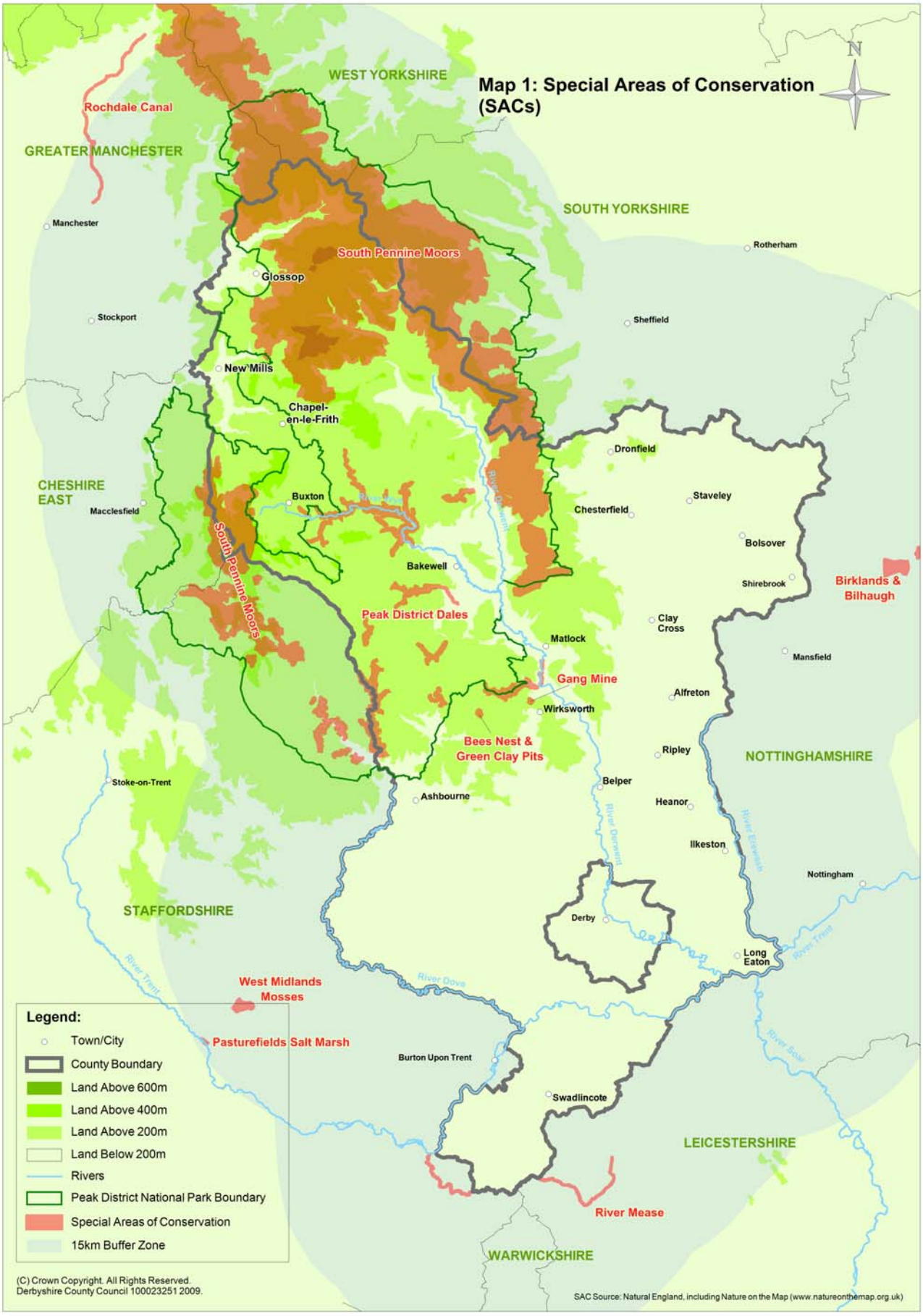
**Table A2.1 European Sites that will be assessed through the development of the 3rd Derbyshire Local Transport Plan.**

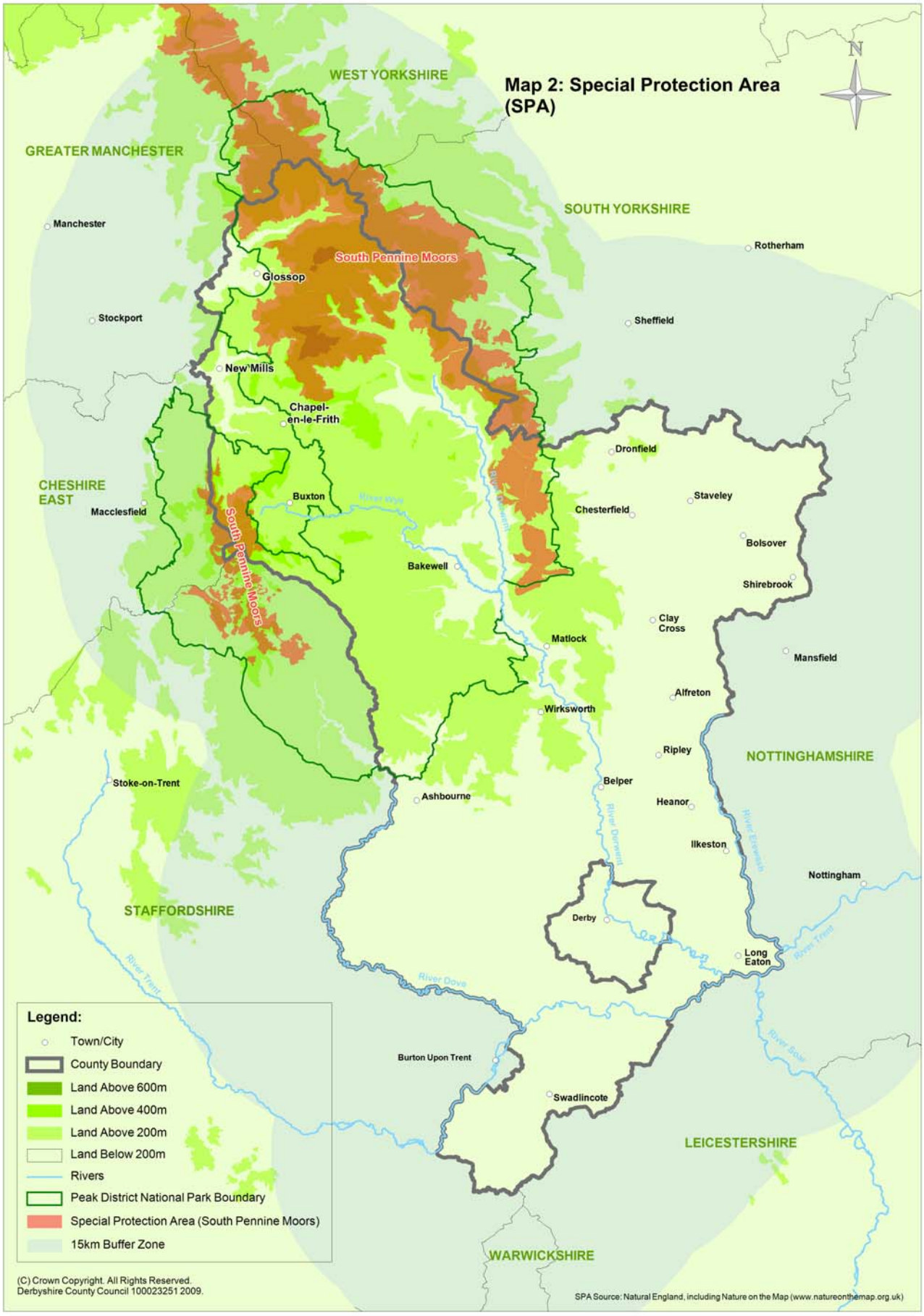
| Site Name | Distance from Derbyshire County Boundary | Summary of Reasons for Designation |
|---|---|---|
| Bees Nest & Green Clay Pits SAC | Within Derbyshire | Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. This site is also considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom for great crested newts. |
| Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC | 6.9km from Derbyshire boundary in Nottinghamshire | Selected for old acidophilous oak woods, noted for its rich invertebrate fauna. |
| Gang Mine SAC | Within Derbyshire | Is an example of Calaminarian grasslands in an anthropogenic context in northern England. Natural limestone outcrops supporting species typical of calaminarian grasslands are rare and small. This has been chosen to provide an example of the habitat type on sedimentary rocks. |
| Pasture Fields Salt Marsh SAC | 14.1km from Derbyshire boundary in Staffordshire | This is the only known site in the UK of a natural salt spring with inland saltmarsh vegetation. |
| Peak District Dales SAC | Within Derbyshire | Site has been selected for number of habitats and species. Habitats are mainly related to calcareous areas – semi natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates; Tillio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines; European dry heaths; Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae; Alkaline fens; Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels; Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation. Species are related to those living in the River Dove – White-clawed Crayfish; Brook Lamprey; and Bulhead. |
| River Mease SAC | Within Derbyshire extending into buffer zone | Habitat is a watercourse of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitanis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation. Species are Spined Loach for which the river is one of only four known outstanding localities in the UK; Bullhead; White-clawed Crayfish; and Otter. |

| Site Name | Distance from Derbyshire County Boundary | Summary of Reasons for Designation |
|---|---|---|
| Rochdale Canal SAC | 11.5km from Derbyshire boundary in Greater Manchester | Has been selected for supporting a significant population of floating water-plantain in a botanically diverse water plant community. |
| South Pennine Moors SAC | Within Derbyshire extending into buffer zone | Has been selected for a number of habitat types – European dry heaths; Blanket Bogs which are a priority feature and is the most south-easterly occurrence in Europe; Old Sessile woods with Ilex and Blechnum around the fringes of upland heath and bogs; Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix; and Transition mires and quaking bogs. |
| South Pennine Moors SPA[1] | Within Derbyshire extending into buffer zone | Site is of importance for several upland breeding species, including birds of prey and waders.<br>During the breeding season the site is of importance for Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon and Dunlin. |
| West Midlands Mosses SAC | 8.7km from Derbyshire boundary in Staffordshire | Contains three pools which are examples of natural dystrophic lakes and ponds in the lowlands of England and Wales. Also Transition mires and quaking bogs. |

Source: www.natureonthemap.org.uk
www.jncc.gov.uk (Joint Nature Conservation Committee)

**Notes:**
**1.** The South Pennine Moors SPA encompasses both the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) and its subsequent extension South Pennine Moors Phase 2.


Map 1: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
N
WEST YORKSHIRE
Rochdale Canal
GREATER MANCHESTER
SOUTH YORKSHIRE
Manchester
Rotherham
South Pennine Moors
Glossop
Stockport
Sheffield
New Mills
Chapel-en-le-Frith
Dronfield
CHESHIRE EAST
Buxton
Staveley
Macclesfield
Chesterfield
Bolsover
South Pennine Moors
Bakewell
Shirebrook
Birklands & Bilhaugh
Peak District Dales
Clay Cross
Matlock
Mansfield
Gang Mine
Alfreton
Wirksworth
Bees Nest & Green Clay Pits
Ripley
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Stoke-on-Trent
Belper
Ashbourne
Heanor
Ilkeston
Nottingham
STAFFORDSHIRE
Derby
Long Eaton
West Midlands Mosses
Pasturefields Salt Marsh
Burton Upon Trent
Swadlincote
LEICESTERSHIRE
River Mease
WARWICKSHIRE
Legend:
Town/City
County Boundary
Land Above 600m
Land Above 400m
Land Above 200m
Land Below 200m
Rivers
Peak District National Park Boundary
Special Areas of Conservation
15km Buffer Zone
(C) Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved.
Derbyshire County Council 100023251 2009.
SAC Source: Natural England, including Nature on the Map (www.natureonthemap.org.uk)


Map 2: Special Protection Area (SPA)
N
WEST YORKSHIRE
GREATER MANCHESTER
SOUTH YORKSHIRE
CHESHIRE EAST
STAFFORDSHIRE
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
LEICESTERSHIRE
WARWICKSHIRE
Manchester
Rotherham
Sheffield
Stockport
Glossop
South Pennine Moors
New Mills
Chapel-en-le-Frith
Dronfield
Staveley
Chesterfield
Bolsover
Shirebrook
Buxton
Macclesfield
Bakewell
Clay Cross
Matlock
Mansfield
Alfreton
Wirksworth
Ripley
Belper
Heanor
Ilkeston
Nottingham
Stoke-on-Trent
Ashbourne
Derby
Long Eaton
Burton Upon Trent
Swadlincote
River Trent
River Dove
River Derwent
River Erewash
River Soar
Legend:
Town/City
County Boundary
Land Above 600m
Land Above 400m
Land Above 200m
Land Below 200m
Rivers
Peak District National Park Boundary
Special Protection Area (South Pennine Moors)
15km Buffer Zone
(C) Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved.
Derbyshire County Council 100023251 2009.
SPA Source: Natural England, including Nature on the Map (www.natureonthemap.org.uk)

## A2.5 Initial Pre-screening results

### Introduction

A2.5.1 Within Table A2.2 below we have briefly examined each of the Special Conservation Areas (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA) within Derbyshire and our nominated buffer-zone. For each SAC/SPA, the table lists the key environmental conditions required to maintain support site integrity. To avoid duplicating work we have taken these from existing Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRAs) relating to land-use plans; sources are listed at the end of the table. Against these we have made an initial assessment to whether our plan is likely to pose a significant effect by using information on site vulnerability, again contained in existing HRAs.

### Pre-Screening Results

A2.5.2 The results of our initial pre-screening assessment has identified three potential impacts from the Derbyshire LTP3. At this stage, Natural England has suggested that we should not look to screen these out until we have reached a stage in the development of the Plan and the Habitats Regulations Assessment, where there is evidence or a clear justification that enables their removal. This process will provide a more robust way of assessing potential effects by taking a precautionary approach until it can be demonstrated otherwise and steps undertaken to record this in the HRA.

A2.5.3 Therefore we are currently progressing the Plan taking into the account the potential significant effects as described below. These will be incorporated into the key challenges that we have identified as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Derbyshire LTP3. We will continue to assess the Plan's development whereby these potential effects will hopefully be screened out as the options are developed and refined.

#### The three potential significant effects

***Disturbance Due to Visitor and Tourism Pressure -*** A number of European sites have issues regarding a potential for disturbance from an increase in visitors. This generally relates to an increase in recreational activities within the sites by walkers and cyclists.

***Air Quality -*** A number of the sites are already exceeding critical loads related to air quality. It is not clear at this stage to whether the poor air quality relates to transport pollution and therefore we are unable to say at this stage to whether European sites are vulnerable from changes in transport levels. Therefore we cannot at this stage to screen out air pollution as a potential significant effect.

***Water Quality -*** A number of the European sites are vulnerable to decreases in water quality. Although there is little information to whether any of the European sites are currently subject to pollution from highway drainage, it is possible that highway drainage could have the potential to contribute to this.

## Table A2.2 Initial Pre-Screening Table for Derbyshire LTP3

| Site Name | Qualifying Features* | Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity | Possible impacts arising from Derbyshire LTP3 | Is there a risk of significant effect? | Possible impacts from other trends, plans etc | Is there a risk of significant 'in combination' effects? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bees Nest & Green Clay Pits SAC | Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates *(Festuco-Brometalia)*<br><br>Great Crested Newts (Triturus *cristatus*) occur in a number of ponds on site | • 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.<br><br>• Maintenance of habitat diversity including unshaded, medium sized ponds, and a variety of terrestrial habitat and suitable resting, foraging and hibernation areas.<br>• Control or elimination of fish and invasive/ alien aquatic plants may be required | Although nitrogen deposition already exceeds critical load for dominant habitat site, the Plan is unlikely to contain policies to significantly increase traffic flows along what is a minor road adjacent to the site and therefore air quality is unlikely to be significantly affected.<br><br>None | No<br><br>No | Unlikely to be any transport proposals in this area that could be undertaken to support any development. Therefore unlikely to be any in combination effects. | No |
| Birklands & Bilhaugh SAC | Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains | • Appropriate woodland management to maintain the extent and characteristics of the habitat. | Site is vulnerable to an increase in recreation. However, should improved rights of way/ greenways be linked to/ from Derbyshire it would be via more regularised routes which would protect vulnerable areas. | Yes | Nottinghamshire County Council LTP plans likely to be compatible with Derbyshire LTP and therefore unlikely. | No |
| Gang Mine SAC | Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae | • Maintenance of suitable habitat including available substrate enriched with heavy metals, bare ground, short sward structure and low levels of dead plant matter.<br>• Maintenance of habitat suitable for characteristic species such as spring sandwort and alpine penny cress with an absence of suitably low levels of invasive species.<br>• Sporadic management such as occasional light grazing may be beneficial. | Site is vulnerable to an increase in recreation. A network of rights of way cross the site, but it is located in a fairly remote area, and therefore unlikely to be subject to a significant increase in visitors.<br><br>Site is sensitive to nutrient enrichment to which increased road traffic could make worse, however LTP is unlikely to contain policies to significantly increase road traffic and therefore the site is unlikely to be significantly affected. | Yes | None | No |

| Site Name | Qualifying Features* | Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity | Possible impacts arising from Derbyshire LTP3 | Is there a risk of significant effect? | Possible impacts from other trends, plans etc | Is there a risk of significant 'in combination' effects? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pasture Fields Salt MarshSAC | Inland Salt Meadows | • Inland saltmarsh dependent upon traditional agricultural management, with livestock grazing and no, or minimal use, of agricultural chemicals.<br>• Dependent upon the brine source being maintained and, whilst the hydrology of the site is not fully understood, it would be likely to be vulnerable to any abstractions of water from the underground aquifer. | None. Site integrity has no relation to transport issues. | No | None | No |
| Peak District Dales SAC | Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)<br><br>Tillio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines<br><br>European dry heaths | • Sward structure and composition provide a valuable indication of habitat quality<br>• 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<br><br>• Appropriate woodland management is required in particular to maintain natural processes and a diverse woodland structure, tree generation potential and a diverse age structure, control of invasive species and support characteristic species and habitat types.<br><br>• Without management heathland becomes progressively dominated by bracken, gorse and/or scrub and trees. Appropriate management is therefore required to maintain the extent of heaths, structural diversity including undisturbed bare ground, age, structure and vegetation mosaic. Grazing can | This is a complex SAC intersecting a large number of SSSIs. 6% of these have a condition assessment of Unfavourable No Change or Unfavourable Declining, although the reasons are unrelated to transport – inappropriate grazing, weed control or scrub control and poor water quality due to high phosphate levels.<br><br>Some sites are vulnerable to increased visitor pressure which the Plan may contribute to increasing tourism by improving rights of way and building new greenways however these will be expected to protect sensitive locations.<br><br>Water quality is an issue, and although highway drainage could affect the sites, the plan is unlikely to contain any policies which would worsen the situation.<br><br>Although nitrogen deposition, of which increased traffic can contribute, the Plan is unlikely to contain policies to significantly increase traffic flows and therefore air quality is unlikely to be significantly affected. | Yes | Not expected. Unlikely that significant development will take place in rural areas and therefore the LTP is unlikely to contain policies or measures which would, in combination increase traffic levels and therefore reduce air quality. | No |

| Site Name | Qualifying Features* | Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity | Possible impacts arising from Derbyshire LTP3 | Is there a risk of significant effect? | Possible impacts from other trends, plans etc | Is there a risk of significant 'in combination' effects? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Peak District Dales SAC (continued) | | play an important role in management. Control of invasive species required. | | | | |
| | Calaminarian grasslands of the violetalia calaminariae | • 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<br>• Sporadic management such as occasional light grazing | | | | |
| | Alkaline fens | • Appropriate management, usually in the form of light grazing, is required to maintain sward structure and composition.<br>• Control of inappropriate and invasive species.<br>• 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. | | | | |
| | Calcareous and clacshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii)/ Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation | • Maintenance of the extent of habitat with characteristic pioneer calciole and basiphilous species<br>• Maintenance of natural processes such as erosion | | | | |

| Site Name | Qualifying Features* | Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity | Possible impacts arising from Derbyshire LTP3 | Is there a risk of significant effect? | Possible impacts from other trends, plans etc | Is there a risk of significant 'in combination' effects? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Peak District Dales SAC (continued) | White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes) | • Maintenance of extent of habitat and water quality<br>• 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. | | | | |
| | Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri)/ Bullhead (Cottus gobio) | • 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<br>• Any exploitation of fish populations or other native animals or plants should be at a sustainable level, without manipulation of the rivers capacity to support them or augmentation by excessive stocking. | | | | |

| Site Name | Qualifying Features* | Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity | Possible impacts arising from Derbyshire LTP3 | Is there a risk of significant effect? | Possible impacts from other trends, plans etc | Is there a risk of significant 'in combination' effects? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| River Mease SAC | General | • Maintenance of water quality and availability requires management to minimise pollution inputs and appropriate water abstraction.<br>• The river's natural structure and form should be maintained to support a natural flow regime, including the avoidance of constriction of the river or blockage of its floodplain. | None. Water quality is an issue, to which highway drainage/ highway flood prevention could contribute. However, should the Plan propose measures in this area, they would be an improvement on the current situation and therefore should not affect water quality in this location. | Yes | Unlikely any transport proposals relating to water quality would be undertaken in conjunction with other Plans. | No |
| | Watercourses of plain to montane levels with the Ramunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation | • Natural flow regime required for maintenance of natural erosion and sedimentation processes and hence channel morphology.<br>• Riparian areas and the wider catchment need to be managed sensitively to avoid excessive run off of soil particles and nutrients into the river.<br>• The structure and composition of bankside and aquatic vegetation should be maintained. | | | | |
| | Spined loach (Cobitis taenia)/ Bullhead (Cottus gobio)/ White-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes) | • Maintenance of suitable habitat and appropriate management will help to ensure the provision of habitat suitable for spawning and shelter, including gravel dominated substrate with areas of sand and silt , patchy vegetation cover provided by submerged and marginal macrophyte assemblages, slack water, resting pools for fish, a presence of submerged woody debris, and the absence of artificial barriers.<br>• Any exploitation of fish populations or other native animals or plants should be at a sustainable level, without manipulation of the rivers capacity to | | | | |

| Site Name | Qualifying Features* | Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity | Possible impacts arising from Derbyshire LTP3 | Is there a risk of significant effect? | Possible impacts from other trends, plans etc | Is there a risk of significant 'in combination' effects? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| River Mease SAC (Continued) | Otter (Lutra Lutra) | support them or augmentation by excessive stocking.<br>• The absence of introduced/ alien species is important.<br>• Maintenance of terrestrial habitat with cover; shelter and holt sites provided by dense scrub and mature trees along river banks.<br>• Maintenance of suitably low levels of disturbance. | | | | |
| Rochdale Canal SAC | Floating water plantain (Luronium natans) | • Maintenance of open situations with a moderate degree of disturbance where growth of emergent vegetation is held in check.<br>• Maintenance of water levels | None. Site integrity has no relation to transport issues. | No | None | No |
| South Pennine Moors SAC | European Dry Heaths | • Appropriate heathland management is required to maintain the 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.<br>• 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.<br>• Air pollution and atmospheric deposition is likely to be an important cause of eutrophication for wet and dry heaths. | Some sites are vulnerable to increased visitor pressure which the Plan may contribute to increasing tourism by improving rights of way and building new greenways however these will be expected to protect sensitive locations. | Yes | Unlikely to be any transport proposals in this area that could be undertaken to support any development. However, the HRA of the RSS states that the SP Moors SAC is under multiple development-related pressures relating to the Housing Market Areas, which may create adverse effects e.g. increases in traffic | No Development options are being addressed through the East Midlands Regional Plan Partial Review Process |

| Site Name | Qualifying Features* | Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity | Possible impacts arising from Derbyshire LTP3 | Is there a risk of significant effect? | Possible impacts from other trends, plans etc | Is there a risk of significant 'in combination' effects? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South Pennine Moors SAC (Continued) | Blanket Bogs/ Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix/ Transition mires and quaking bogs | • 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.<br>• 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.<br>• Areas that have suffered previous damaging activities require enhancement including revegetation of bare peat, increased vegetational diversity in response to past heavy sheep grazing and a reduction of erosion through gullying. | | | | |
| | Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles | • 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.<br>• To increase the extent of native character woodland without detriment to other key habitats. | | | | |

| Site Name | Qualifying Features* | Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity | Possible impacts arising from Derbyshire LTP3 | Is there a risk of significant effect? | Possible impacts from other trends, plans etc | Is there a risk of significant 'in combination' effects? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South Pennine Moors SPA | Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria)<br><br>Merlin (Falco columbarius)<br><br>Peregrine (Falco peregrinus)<br><br>Short Eared Owl (Asio flammeus)<br><br>Dunlin (Calidris alpina schinzii) | • 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.<br>• 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.<br>• Maintenance of the extent of habitats suitable for providing adequate food supply such as small mammals, nesting birds and invertebrates. | Some sites are vulnerable to increased visitor pressure which the Plan may contribute to increasing tourism by improving rights of way and building new greenways however these will be expected to protect sensitive locations and regularising routes we would expect to lead to less disturbance in any case. | Yes | Unlikely to be any transport proposals in this area that could be undertaken to support any development. Therefore unlikely to be any in combination effects. | No |
| West Midlands Mosses SAC | Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds<br><br>Transition mires and quaking bogs | • Maintenance of habitat extent and suitable conditions for characteristic species are important for these habitats.<br>• Management of scrub encroachment and natural succession required to reduce nutrient enrichment.<br>• Levels of disturbance such as trampling and damage from recreational activities should be maintained at appropriate levels.<br>• These habitats are sensitive to changes in hydrology and maintenance of natural regimes, and characteristic water quality and chemistry are important factors. | The site is vulnerable to increased visitor pressure but given its location, it is very unlikely that the Plan will contribute to increasing disturbance from tourism or recreational activities. | Yes | Unlikely that any development would be supported by measures through the Derbyshire LTP. | No |

## Notes

Qualifying Features:-
*Bold text denotes primary reason for selection of site. Normal text denotes a qualifying feature, but not the primary reason

## Sources of Information

Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity:-
Environmental conditions have been taken from the East Midlands RSS Partial Review Habitats Regulations Assessment Pre-Screening Report October 2008, except:
Pasture Fields Saltmarsh SAC - Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Local Development Framework: Information to Inform the Appropriate Assessment of the Core Strategy May 2008
Rochdale SAC – taken from Screening Opinion of the Impact of the Rochdale MBC Biodiversity and Development Supplementary Planning Document on the Rochdale SAC 2007