



South Derbyshire District Council Local Plan Part 1 Review

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report

South Derbyshire District Council

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Basis of Report

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Executive Summary

This report presents the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the South Derbyshire Local Plan Part 1 Review in relation to Habitats Sites (e.g. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites). This HRA screening considers the following sites:

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

The Regulation 19 draft Local Plan Part 1 Review was subject to screening in February / March 2025 to determine whether a Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on a relevant Habitats Site could exist. This identified the potential for the draft Local Plan to result in LSEs on all of the Habitats Sites in relation to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual) and Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) or undesirable species in combination. The River Mease SAC may also be impacted by hydrological changes, pollution (aerial or waterborne) and turbidity and siltation through hydrological pathways which may arise from the Local Plan Part 1 Review alone or in-combination.

The next stage of the HRA, Appropriate Assessment (AA) must therefore be undertaken.



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

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



1.0 Introduction and Approach

1.1 Introduction

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

This report presents the South Derbyshire Local Plan Part 1 Review HRA Stage 1 Screening findings.

1.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment

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

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

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

In addition to the Habitats Regulations, UK Government policy (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Circular 06/2005) states that internationally important wetlands designated under the Convention on Wetlands 1971, called the Ramsar Convention (Ramsar sites) are afforded the same protection as SPAs and SACs for the purpose of considering development proposals that may affect them. The Government also affords the same level of protection to potential SPAs (pSPAs), possible SACs (pSACs) and proposed Ramsar sites and to sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on any of the above sites, through planning policy such as the National Planning Policy Framework¹.

Paragraphs 187 and 188 relate to European sites (referred to as Habitats Sites) and state:

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

a) potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;

¹ Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (2023) National Planning Policy Framework. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a11af7e8f5ec000f1f8c46/NPPF_December_2023.pdf [Accessed: 19/2/25].



b) listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and

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

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

The purpose of the HRA is to assess the significance of potential impacts of a plan on relevant Habitats Sites. The assessment should determine whether the plan would adversely affect the integrity of the site in terms of its nature conservation objectives. Where potential negative effects are identified, other options should be examined to avoid any potential for damaging effects.

HRA findings feed into the parallel Sustainability Appraisal (SA) which incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), an integral part of the plan preparation process.

1.3 South Derbyshire Local Plan

The new South Derbyshire Local Plan is the key document that sets out a strategy for future development in South Derbyshire up to 2041. The Local Plan sets out an ambitious vision and objectives, followed by a clear spatial strategy focusing on strategic allocations. These are followed by policies for managing development and infrastructure to meet the identified challenges facing the District until 2041 to help ensure the vision is met. Having a plan in place will ensure that development comes forward in a sustainable plan-led manner.

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

The Part 2 South Derbyshire Local Plan adopted in 2017 will be saved in its entirety. This means the Part 2 Plan will stay in use until the Local Plan is reviewed as a whole. Two new housing-led strategic sites (Infinity Garden Village STRA1 and Land South of Mickleover STRA2) have been added to the Local Plan located in the Derby urban fringe area, but wholly within South Derbyshire. In addition, two strategic scale employment locations at Former Drakelow Power Station (Former Drakelow Power Station STRA 3) and the East Midlands Intermodal Park Strategic Rail Freight Interchange/East Midlands Freeport (Policy INF3) has been added to the Local Plan (INF3 was previously safeguarded but has now been allocated). A long-term strategic housing growth area has also been designated for future growth (Policy FLG1). The policy is to be read in conjunction with Amber Valley Local Plan Policy SHGA1 to bring the Growth Area forward for development beyond the current Plan period.



2.0 Methodology

2.1 The HRA Process

HRA is a staged process as shown in Figure 2-1 which sets out the overall HRA process in accordance with Communities and Local Government draft guidance². Current best practice demonstrates that a blurring of the tasks in an iterative manner is the most effective method of assessing a plan as it develops.

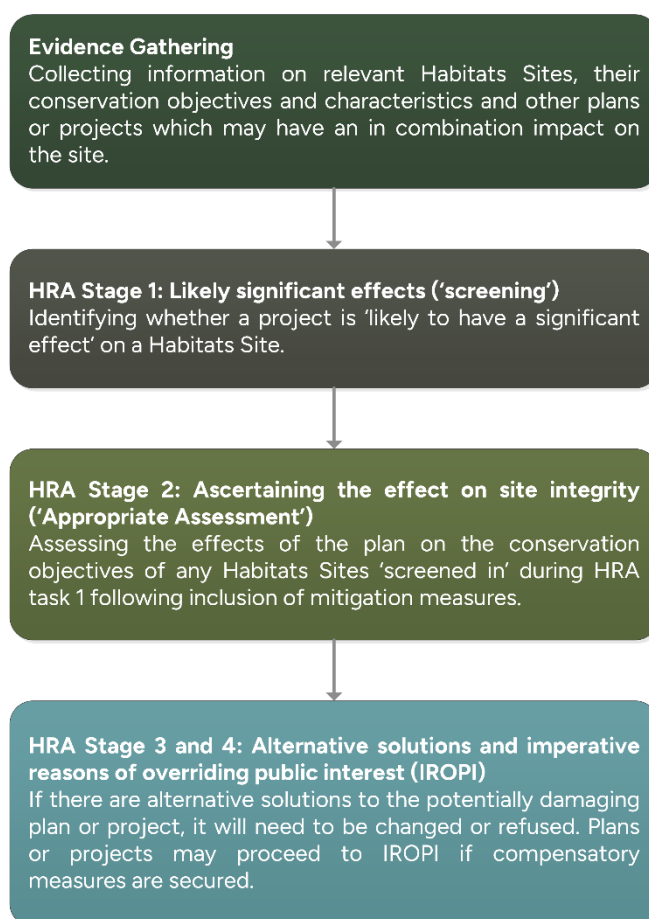


Figure 2-1: The HRA Process

The HRA process requires close working with Natural England to agree the process and outcomes and, if necessary, obtain information and agree mitigation proposals.

The following guidance has been referred to in undertaking the HRA to date:

- 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. Draft;
- Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Natural England, Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales (2023) Guidance Habitats regulations assessments: protecting a European site

² English Nature (2006) draft Guidance – The Assessment of Regional Spatial Strategies and Sub-regional strategies under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations



(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site>);

- Scottish Natural Heritage (January 2015) Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans Guidance For Plan-Making Bodies In Scotland Version 3.0 originally prepared by David Tyldesley and Associates;
- Government Guidance (July 2019) – Appropriate Assessment: Guidance on the use of Habitats Regulations (www.gov.uk/guidance/appropriate-assessment);
- Natural England (April 2019). Habitats Regulations Assessment. Natural England Standard; and
- European Commission (September 2021). Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

The purpose of screening is to identify whether a plan or project could result in Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) on any of the Habitat Sites, in terms of the conservation objectives for its qualifying interests.

During screening, the ‘Precautionary Principle’ needs to be applied: if an effect cannot be ruled out based on objective information, it has been reported as “likely” or not possible to rule out. Furthermore, a judgement³ by the Court of Justice of the European Union (People Over Wind) ruled that Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive⁴ must be interpreted as meaning that mitigation measures (referred to in the judgment as measures which are intended to avoid or reduce effects on Habitats Sites) should be assessed within the framework of an AA and that it is not permissible to take account of measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on a Habitats Site at the screening stage. The screening exercise must therefore consider elements of the plan without any proposed mitigation. Measures that reduce impacts on Habitats Sites etc. but form an integral part of the plan and would have been provided even if there were no LSE on Habitats Sites, can still be included at the screening stage⁵.

Screening needs to consider the plan on its own (in isolation) and in combination with other plans and projects. The plans considered in relation to in combination effects are:

- Amber Valley Borough Local Plan 2022-2040⁶;
- Derby City Core Strategy 2011-2028⁷;
- North West Leicestershire District Local Plan 2020-2040⁸;

³ <http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?docid=200970&doclang=EN>

⁴ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

⁵ Simpson, P. (2018) People Over Wind. Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook Journal. Issue 10. Page 25.

⁶ [docviewer.aspx](#)

⁷ [Core-Strategy_ADOPTED_DEC-2016_V3_WEB.pdf \(derby.gov.uk\)](#)

⁸ [Reg 18 \(Policies\) for consultation final.pdf \(nwleics.gov.uk\)](#)



- Erewash Borough Core Strategy 2011-2028^{9,10};
- East Staffordshire Borough Local Plan 2012-2031¹¹; and
- Derbyshire Dales District Local Plan 2013-2033¹².

The projects considered for cumulative effects are listed below:

- East Midlands Freeport¹³.

Screening of the Local Plan policies has used the following criteria which have been adapted from guidance¹⁴:

Table 2-1: Screening Criteria

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

⁹ 3 THE DELIVERY STRATEGY (erewash.gov.uk)

¹⁰ Policy Document (erewash.gov.uk)

¹¹ Local-Plan-2012-2031-FINAL.pdf (eaststaffsbc.gov.uk)

¹² <https://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/documents/dddc-adopted-local-plan-2017-2/download>

¹³ [East Midlands Airport and Gateway Industrial Cluster \(EMAGIC\) | East Midlands Freeport \(emfreeport.com\)](http://East Midlands Airport and Gateway Industrial Cluster (EMAGIC) | East Midlands Freeport (emfreeport.com))

¹⁴ Scottish Natural Heritage (January 2015) Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans Guidance For Plan-Making Bodies In Scotland Version 3.0 originally prepared by David Tyldesley and Associates



Screening Category	Description	Screening Outcome
L	Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination	Screen in after the in-combination test
K	Bespoke area, site or case-specific policies or proposals intended to avoid or reduce harmful effects on an international nature conservation site	Screen in

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

Where the AA has found that the Local Plan will have no effect at all on a Habitats Site alone, then an adverse effect in combination is ruled out and no further assessment is required. This approach is in accordance with established case law (Foster and Langton¹⁵).

2.1.1 What Has Been Screened?

The policies within the adopted Local Plan Part 1 (2016) have been reviewed by SDDC and amendments proposed in order to align with the most recent National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024), biodiversity net gain requirements and to reflect planning permissions granted and more update evidence for allocation sites. The amended policies along with some saved site allocations form the Draft Local Plan Part 1 Review (Regulation 18).

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

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

¹⁵ R (Foster and Langton) v Forest of Dean DC and Homes and Communities Agency [2015] EWHC 2648 (Admin) Cranston J



- Policy STRA1: Infinity Garden Village;
- Policy STRA2: Land South of Mickleover;
- Policy STRA3: Former Drakelow Power Station;
- FLG1: Future Location of Growth South of Mackworth;
- Policy S1: Sustainable Growth Strategy;
- Policy S4: Housing Strategy;
- Policy S5: Employment Land Strategy;
- Policy H22: Gypsies and Travellers and for Travelling Showpeople;
- Policy E1: Strategic Employment Land Allocation;
- Policy E3: Existing Employment Areas;
- Policy SD3: Sustainable Water Supply, Drainage and Sewerage Infrastructure;
- Policy SD4: Contaminated Land and Mining Legacy;
- Policy BNE1: Design Excellence;
- Policy BNE2: Heritage Assets;
- Policy BNE3: Biodiversity;
- Policy INF2: Sustainable Transport;
- Policy INF3: Strategic Rail freight Interchange/ Freeport;
- Policy INF7: Blue and Green Infrastructure;
- Policy INF8: The National Forest;
- Policy INF9: Open Space, Sport and Recreation; and
- Policy INF10: Tourism Development.

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

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

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

- Policy H2: Land north of William Nadin Way, Swadlincote;
- Policy H3: Land at Church Street, Church Gresley;



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

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

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



3.0 Evidence Gathering

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

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

These Habitat Sites are shown in Figure 3-1, only one of which is present within the South Derbyshire District Area: River Mease SAC, which runs along the southern boundary. Section 3.1 of this report sets out information on these sites including their location, reasons for designation, current condition, and pressures on their integrity.



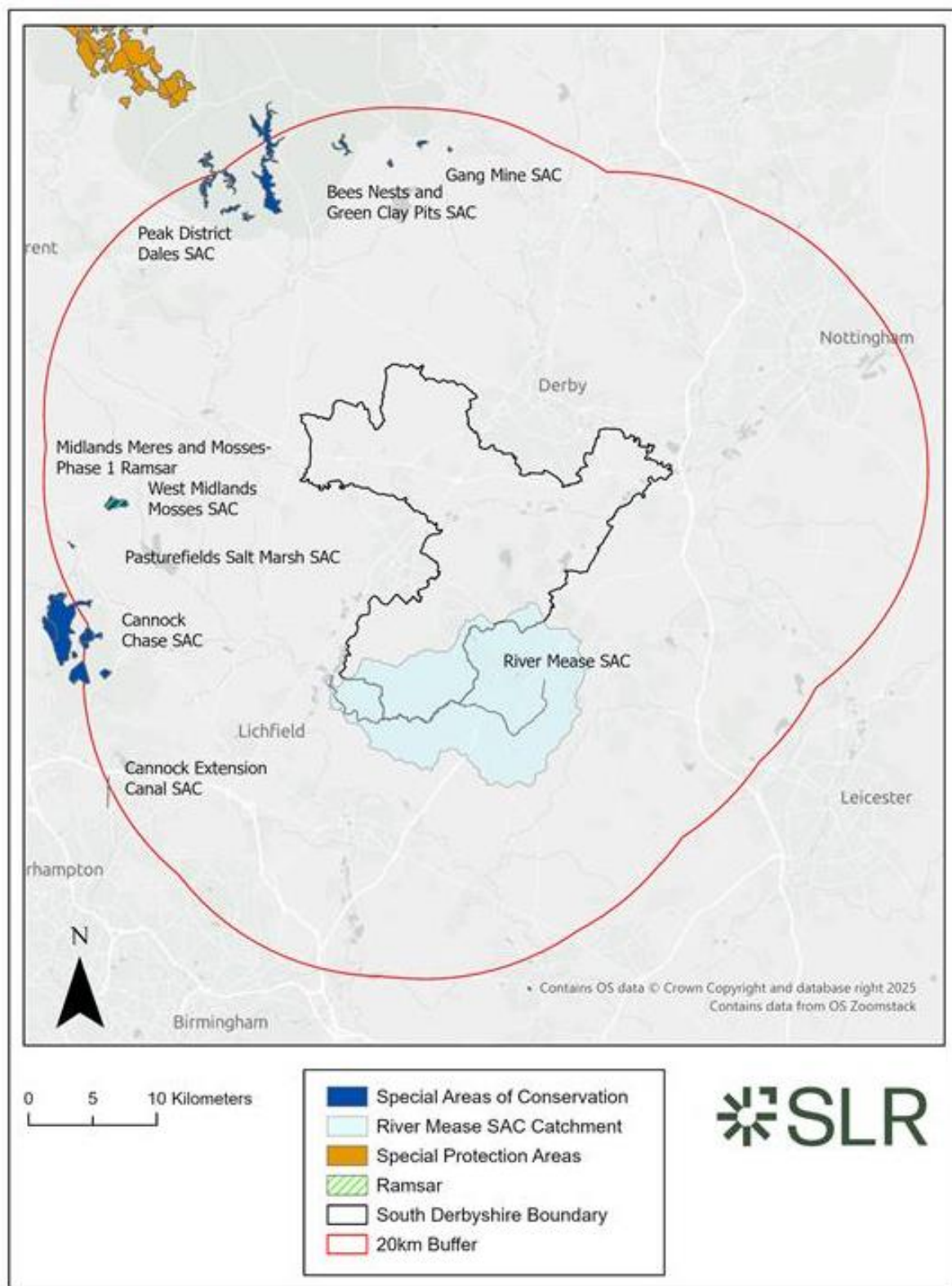


Figure 3-1: Habitats Sites within 20 km of the SDDC boundary.



3.1 Information about Habitats Sites

This section presents information about the relevant Habitats Sites.

Name	River Mease SAC (UK0030258) ¹⁶
Location in relation to plan area	Within the District / Plan Area, forming part of the southern boundary.
Reason(s) for designation:	
<p><u>Habitats:</u> H3260: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation; Rivers with floating vegetation often domination by water-crowfoot</p> <p><u>Species:</u> S1092: <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish S1149: <i>Cobitis taenia</i> Spined loach S1163: <i>Cottus gobio</i> Bullhead S1355: <i>Lutra lutra</i> Otter</p>	
SSSI component sites	River Mease SSSI
Conservation Objectives¹⁷	To restore and maintain
Key current and predicted issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently in unfavourable condition due to excessive phosphorus in the catchment, affecting dissolved oxygen levels and substrate condition and biota within the river. • Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions • Fire and fire suppression • Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)

¹⁶ English Nature (2005) Citation for River Mease SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5260114940395520> [Accessed: 20/2/25].

¹⁷ Natural England (2022) European Site Conservation Objectives: Supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features River Mease Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Site Code: UK0030258. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/TerrestrialAdvicePDFs/UK0030258.pdf> [Accessed: 20/2/25].



Name	West Midlands Mosses SAC (UK0013595) ¹⁸
Location in relation to plan area	14 km west
Reason(s) for designation:	
<u>Habitats:</u> H3160: Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds H7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs	
SSSI Component Sites	Chartley Moss is located within the SDDC boundary. Other SSSIs outside SDDC boundary: Abbots Moss; Clarepool Moss; and Wynbunbury Moss.
Conservation Objectives¹⁹	To restore and maintain
Key current and predicted issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial) • Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants • Biocenotic evolution, succession • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions • INNS

¹⁸ English Nature (2005) Citation for West Midlands Mosses SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4581355488804864> [Accessed: 20/2/25].

¹⁹ Natural England (2018) European Site Conservation Objectives: Supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features West Midlands Mosses Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Site Code: UK0013595. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/TerrestrialAdvicePDFs/UK0013595.pdf> [Accessed: 20/2/25].



Name	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar Site ²⁰
Location in relation to plan area	14 km west
Reason(s) for designation:	
<p>Criterion 1: The site comprises a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog.</p> <p>Criterion 2: Supports a number of rare species of plants associated with wetlands including five nationally scarce species together with an assemblage of rare wetland invertebrates (three endangered insects and five other British Red Data Book species of invertebrates).</p>	
SSSI Component Sites	<p>Chartley Moss is located within the SDDC boundary.</p> <p>Other SSSIs outside SDDC boundary: Bagmere; Berrington Pool, Shropshire; Betley Mere; Bomere, Shomere and Betton Pools; Brown Moss; Clarepool; Fenemere; Flaxmere; Hatch Mere; Marton Pool, Chirbury; Quoisley Meres; Tatton Meres; The Mere, Mere; White Mere; and Wybunbury Moss.</p>
Conservation Objectives	N/A for Ramsar sites, refer to West Midlands Mosses SAC
Key current and predicted issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eutrophication • INNS

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



Name	Peak District Dales SAC (UK0019859) ²¹
Location in relation to plan area	15 km north
Reason(s) for designation:	
<p><u>Habitats:</u></p> <p>H4030 European dry heaths</p> <p>H6130 Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i></p> <p>H6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (including “important orchid rich sites” priority feature)</p> <p>H7230 Alkaline fens</p> <p>H8120 Calcareous screes of the montane to alpine levels</p> <p>H8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmotic vegetation</p> <p>H9180 <i>Tilo-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes, and ravines</p> <p><u>Species:</u></p> <p>S1092 White-clawed crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></p> <p>S1096 Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i></p> <p>S1163 Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i></p>	
SSSI Component Sites	Ballidon Dale; Coombs Dale; Cressbrook Dale; Dove Valley and Biggin Dale; Hamps and Manifold Valleys; Lathkill Dale; Long Dale and Gratton Dale; Long Dale, Hartington; Matlock Woods; Monk’s Dale; The Wye Valley; Topley Pike and Deep Dale; and Via Gellia Woodlands.
Conservation Objectives²²	To restore and maintain
Key current and predicted issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions • Biocenotic evolution, succession • Grazing • Fertilisation • Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) • Air pollution • INNS

²¹ English Nature (2005) Citation for Peak District Dales SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6716670957584384> [Accessed: 20/2/25].

²² Natural England (2022) European Site Conservation Objectives: Supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features Peak District Dales Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Site Code: UK0019859. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/TerrestrialAdvicePDFs/UK0019859.pdf> [Accessed: 20/2/25].



Name	Bees Nests and Green Clay Pits SAC (UK0030087) ²³
Location in relation to plan area	15.5 km northwest
Reason(s) for designation:	
<u>Habitats:</u> H6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (including "important orchid rich sites" priority feature)	
<u>Species:</u> S1166 Great crested newt <i>Tristatus cristatus</i>	
SSSI Component Sites	Bee's Nest & Green Clay Pits
Conservation Objectives²⁴	To maintain or restore
Key current and predicted issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants • INNS • Water quality

Name	Gang Mine SAC (UK0012817) ²⁵
Location in relation to plan area	17 km north
Reason(s) for designation:	
<u>Habitats:</u> H6130 Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia caliminariae</i>	
SSSI Component Sites	Gang Mine
Conservation Objectives²⁶	To restore and maintain
Key current and predicted issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants • Undesirable species

²³ English Nature (2005) Citation for Bee's Nest and Green Clay Pits SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6009872961241088> [Accessed: 20/2/25].

²⁴ Natural England (2016) European Site Conservation Objectives: Supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features Bee's Nest & Green Clay Pits Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Site Code: UK0030087. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/TerrestrialAdvicePDFs/UK0030087.pdf> [Accessed: 20/2/25].

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

²⁶ Natural England (2016) European Site Conservation Objectives: Supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features Gang Mine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Site Code: UK0012817. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/TerrestrialAdvicePDFs/UK0012817.pdf> [Accessed: 20/2/25].



Name	Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC (UK0012789)²⁷
Location in relation to plan area	18 km to the west of the District
Reason(s) for designation:	
<u>Habitats:</u> H1340 Inland salt meadows	
SSSI Component Sites	Pasturefields Salt Marsh
Conservation Objectives²⁸	To restore and maintain
Key current and predicted issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality • Water quality and quantity • Undesirable species

²⁷ English Nature (2005) Citation for Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6469877841788928> [Accessed: 20/2/25].

²⁸ Natural England (2018) European Site Conservation Objectives: Supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features Pasturefields Salt Marsh Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Site Code: UK0012789. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/TerrestrialAdvicePDFs/UK0012789.pdf> [Accessed: 20/2/25].



Name	Cannock Chase SAC (UK0030107) ²⁹
Location in relation to plan area	18 km west
Reason(s) for designation:	
<p><u>Habitats:</u> H4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> H4030 European dry heaths</p>	
SSSI Component Sites	Cannock Chase
Conservation Objectives³⁰	To restore and maintain
Key current and predicted issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interspecific floral relations • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants • Grazing • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions • Undesirable species • Air pollution • Water quality

²⁹ English Nature (2005) Citation for Cannock Chase SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6230005797355520> [Accessed: 20/2/25].

³⁰ Natural England (2020) European Site Conservation Objectives: Supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Site Code: UK0030107. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/TerrestrialAdvicePDFs/UK0030107.pdf> [Accessed: 20/2/25].



Name	Cannock Extension Canal SAC (UK0012672) ³¹
Location in relation to plan area	20 km southwest
Reason(s) for designation:	
<u>Species:</u> S1831 Floating water plantain <i>Luronium natans</i>	
SSSI Component Sites	Cannock Canal Extension
Conservation Objectives³²	To restore and maintain
Key current and predicted issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INNS • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants • Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) • Grazing

³¹ English Nature (2005) Citation for Cannock Extension Canal SAC. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6613548121718784> [Accessed: 20/2/25].

³² Natural England (2018) European Site Conservation Objectives: Supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features Cannock Extension Canal Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Site Code: UK0012672. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/TerrestrialAdvicePDFs/UK0012672.pdf> [Accessed: 20/2/25].



4.0 Stage 1 Screening

4.1 Impacts and Pathways

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

Table 4-1: Potential Hazards

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



4.2 In-combination effects

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

- Amber Valley Borough Local Plan 2022-2040³³;
- Derby City Core Strategy 2011-2028;
- North West Leicestershire District Local Plan 2020-2040;
- Erewash Borough Core Strategy 2011-2028;
- East Staffordshire Borough Local Plan 2012-2031; and
- Derbyshire Dales District Local Plan 2013-2033.

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

4.3 Assessment Limitations

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

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

4.4 Consultation

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

³³ This Local Plan is currently undergoing examination. The latest publications are Inspectors' letter dated 7th January 2025 and the AVBC response dated 12th February 2025 found here: [Latest news about the Local Plan](#)



5.0 Screening Findings and Conclusions

5.1 Screening Findings

The Regulation 19 draft Local Plan Part 1 Review was subject to screening in February / March 2025. Each preferred policy was screened to identify pathways between the policies and the Habitat Sites, in isolation and/or in combination with other plans or projects.

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

The screening identified potential pathways in relation to:

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

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



Table 5-1: HRA Screening Findings

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



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In-combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy S3: Environmental performance (saved policy)	The policy promotes more sustainable buildings in line with the governmental drive through working with developers collaboratively to introduce new standards.	The policy aims to improve sustainability standards generally and as such has no specific impacts on Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration Screen out
Policy S4: Housing Strategy	The policy specifies numbers of houses to be built in the District and where in the plan more detailed info can be found.	The policy does not specify location of development but does provide numbers for housing development. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and hydrological connectivity resulting in hydrological changes, pollution (aerial or waterborne), turbidity and siltation.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone Screen in
Policy S5: Employment Land Strategy	The policy aims to set out support for industrial and business development that specifies some particular amounts and areas set aside for development.	Whilst the specific allocation of employment land is not immediately near the Habitats Sites, the increase in activity particularly through transport corridors could lead to increased pollution and affect sensitive sites such as the River Mease SAC.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone Screen in



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In-combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy S6: Sustainable Access	A general policy seeking to reduce the quantity and duration of transport particularly private road transport in favour of more sustainable options.	No specific measures or actions are set out and there is no foreseeable pathway to LSE on Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals Screen out
Policy S7: Retail (saved policy)	Swadlincote Town Centre is to be supported, enhanced and other retail provision enhanced.	No specific measures or actions are set out and there is no foreseeable pathway to LSE on Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination Screen out
Policy S8: Green Belt (saved policy)	The green belt is to be supported and maintained with improved access and connectivity.	Increased access within the green belt and built-up adjacent areas is unlikely to result in LSE on the River Mease SAC and other Habitats Sites are sufficiently distanced to remain unaffected.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	K - Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination Screen out



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In-combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Strategic Allocations				
Policy STRA1: Infinity Garden Village Mixed Use Allocation	Strategic allocation of land for housing and other development in Infinity Garden Village. Includes 2000 new homes, 70 ha of employment land, exploring a retirement village, gypsy and traveller pitches, plus new vehicular access.	The policy outlines the requirements for a large-scale strategic development site located on the southern boundary of Derby. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and pollution (aerial).	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone Screen in
Policy STRA2: Land South of Mickleover	Strategic allocation of land for housing and other development at Land South of Mickleover. 2500 new homes, 5-10 ha of employment land, exploring a retirement village, gypsy and traveller pitches, plus new vehicular access.	The policy outlines the requirements for a large-scale strategic development site located on the southern boundary of Derby. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and pollution (aerial)..	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone Screen in



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In-combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy STRA3: Former Drakelow Power Station	Strategic allocation of 68 ha of land for employment use. The policy ensures key biodiversity and ecological assets are safeguarded and nearby assets are not negatively impacted.	The policy outlines the requirements for a large employment site at the former Drakelow Power Station. There are no foreseeable pathways to LSE on Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	G - Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a site Screen out
Future Location for Growth				
Policy FLG1: Future Location for Growth South of Mackworth	The Growth Area in South Derbyshire and Amber Valley Borough will be developed through a strategic masterplan with neighbouring authorities to ensure necessary infrastructure and services. Up to 250 homes will be delivered within South Derbyshire.	The policy outlines the requirements for a potential location for large-scale growth near Mackworth to the north of the District. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and pollution.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone Screen in



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In-combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Housing				
Policy H1: Settlement Hierarchy	The Settlement Hierarchy determines development levels based on the services and facilities available in each settlement. Development will be scaled to match the settlement's size and role, with each planning application assessed individually through the Development Management process.	The policy outlines the settlement hierarchy for new development in the District. None of the settlements listed within the policy are within Habitats Sites, however some are in close proximity to a number of these sites. A LSE of disturbance through increased traffic and recreation could occur as a result of this policy.	Potential LSE due to other screened in policies for disturbance.	I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone Screen in
Policy H2: Land north of William Nadin Way, Swadlincote (saved policy)	Residential development on Land north of William Nadin Way, Swadlincote for around 600 dwellings.	The policy will result in a significant number of new dwellings near Swadlincote. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and pollution.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination Screen in
Policy H3: Land at Church Street, Church Gresley (saved policy)	Residential development on Land at Church Street/Church Gresley for around 306 dwellings.	The policy will result in a number of new dwellings in Church Gresley. Development at this site may lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and pollution.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites	L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination Screen in



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



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



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In-combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy H16: Primula Way, Sunny Hill (saved policy)	Residential development at Primula Way, Sunny Hill for around 500 dwellings.	The policy outlines the details of a residential allocation located to the south-east of Derby. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and pollution.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination Screen in
Policy H18: Hackwood Farm, Mickleover (saved policy)	Residential development on Land at Hackwood Farm, Mickleover for around 290 dwellings.	The policy outlines the details of a residential allocation located to the south of Derby. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and pollution.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination Screen in
Policy H19: Land West of Mickleover (saved policy)	Residential development on Land to the West of Mickleover will provide for around 1,650 dwellings.	The policy outlines the details of a residential allocation located to the south-west of Derby. The policy has potential to lead to LSEs on the Habitats Sites due to physical damage, disturbance (audio or visual), INNS or undesirable species and pollution.	Pathways have been identified and increased development outlined in other Local Plan policies, as well as plans and projects can lead to further impacts on Habitats Sites.	L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination Screen in



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In-combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy H20: Housing Balance & Custom/Self-build	This policy sets out the balance of housing required across the District in terms of both size and tenure. Specific requirements are also set out to detail the number of homes required to meet the specific needs of those with disabilities, housing with care and residential bed spaces. The mix of market and affordable homes expected to meet wheelchair adaptability criteria are also set out for major and mixed-use developments. Provision for bungalows within mixed developments, custom and self builds are also detailed.	A general policy with no specific measures that could impact upon Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	<p>A - General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p> <p>Screen out</p>



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



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



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



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



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



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In-combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy SD3: Sustainable Water Supply, Drainage and Sewerage Infrastructure	The Council will work with stakeholders to manage South Derbyshire’s water resources, wastewater treatment, and drainage infrastructure. This includes ensuring infrastructure for new developments, supporting water conservation, incorporating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), and protecting the River Mease’s water quality. New developments must connect to the mains sewer unless infeasible, and any non-mains drainage must not cause environmental harm. Developers must provide mitigation measures to avoid impacts on the River Mease SAC.	A general policy with no specific measures that could impact upon Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect international nature conservation sites from adverse effects Screen out



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In-combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy SD4: Contaminated Land and Mining Legacy	Planning permission for development on land which is known to comprise made ground or which is unstable, contaminated or potentially contaminated, will only be granted where the applicant has demonstrated through appropriate investigations, that the scheme will incorporate any necessary remediation measures to protect human health and/or the natural environment	A general policy with no specific measures that could impact upon Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration Screen out
Policy SD5: Minerals Safeguarding (saved policy)	The Council will consult the Minerals Planning Authority on planning applications within minerals safeguarding areas. Development proposals that might sterilise economically workable mineral deposits will not be permitted unless they meet the criteria in the Derbyshire Minerals Local Plan. The Local Plan aims to safeguard commercially viable mineral resources in South Derbyshire, particularly along the Trent Valley, and ensure new development does not prejudice future mineral extraction.	A general policy with no specific measures that could impact upon Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration Screen out



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



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In-combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Built & Natural Environment				
Policy BNE1: Design Excellence	All new developments should be well-designed, sustainable, and promote healthy lifestyles. Key principles include ensuring community safety, designing streets for walking and cycling, fostering diversity and social interaction, and being accessible to all. Developments should reflect local character, be visually attractive, and respect neighbouring uses. They should also support healthy living, efficient resource use, and follow guidelines for the National Forest where applicable. Proposals must consider the Council's Design SPD and may be reviewed by a formal design panel.	The policy supports sustainable design across the District and is not likely to impact any Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	<p>A - General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p> <p>Screen out</p>



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In-combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy BNE2: Heritage Assets	The Council supports development that conserves and enhances heritage assets, including conservation areas, listed buildings, and archaeological sites. Proposals must include a heritage assessment and avoid substantial harm unless justified by public benefits. Non-designated assets will be judged on a balanced basis. Archaeological assets should be protected, with preservation in situ preferred. If not possible, excavation and recording are required, with records made publicly available.	The policy supports the conservation of heritage assets and is not likely to have an impact on any Habitats Sites.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	<p>A - General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals</p> <p>Screen out</p>



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



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



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



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In-combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy INF2: Sustainable Transport	<p>Planning permission will be granted if the development minimises travel impact, prioritises walking, cycling, and public transport, and reduces car travel. The Council will negotiate developer contributions for necessary infrastructure. Significant transport-impact developments need a Transport Assessment and Travel Plan; less significant ones need a Transport Statement. The Council will enhance walking, cycling, and public transport networks with partners, and protect land for new stations and hubs. Developments must provide adequate service vehicle access, parking, and follow current standards for safety and mobility.</p>	<p>This is a general policy which supports development which minimises travel impact, therefore it is not likely to negatively impact Habitats Sites.</p>	<p>No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.</p>	<p>A - General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>Screen out</p>



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In-combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
<p>Policy INF3: East Midlands Intermodal Park Strategic Rail Freight Interchange/ East Midlands Freeport</p>	<p>Land is allocated for the East Midlands Intermodal Park at Egginton Common. The development must include a rail connection, facilities for 775-meter freight trains, and rail-accessible buildings. It should provide trunk road access, minimise local highway use by HGVs, and avoid negative impacts on amenity, safety, and the environment. The proposal should enhance the landscape, preserve heritage assets, and contribute to green infrastructure and biodiversity.</p>	<p>There are no pathways identified that would cause any LSEs on any Habitats Sites as a result of this policy.</p>	<p>No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.</p>	<p>A - General statement of policy/general aspiration</p> <p>Screen out</p>



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In-combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
<p>Policy INF4: Transport Infrastructure Improvement Schemes</p>	<p>The Council will collaborate with partners to deliver key transport schemes, including the South Derby Integrated Transport Link, A50 junction improvements, Walton-on-Trent Bypass, and Swarkestone Causeway Bypass. Financial contributions from developers may be required to mitigate transport impacts. Proposals that hinder these schemes will not be permitted. Scheme designs will minimise environmental impact, consider active travel routes, cater to pedestrians, cyclists, and those with impaired mobility, and mitigate flood risks. Indicative alignments for key projects will be protected from compromising developments.</p>	<p>Until details of the development which will occur as a result of infrastructure improvement schemes are released, it is not possible to determine whether this policy will impact Habitats Sites. Significant changes to infrastructure near to Habitats Sites may increase disturbance through increased traffic and recreation.</p>	<p>Potential LSE due to uncertainties surrounding potential development.</p>	<p>I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone</p> <p>Screen in</p>



Policy	Policy Summary	Assessment of LSE alone	In-combination assessment	Pre-screening category and outcome
Policy INF5: East Midlands Airport	Development affecting East Midlands Airport's safety or operations will not be permitted. Consultation with the airport is required for tall structures, interference with navigational aids, distracting lighting, aviation uses within 13km, bird-attracting proposals (such as landscaping, quarrying, waste disposal, reservoirs, land restoration, sewage works, nature reserves, and bird sanctuaries), wind turbines within 30km, and solar arrays causing glint and glare.	It is not likely that this policy will impact any Habitats Sites due to the nature of the policy and the distance between East Midlands Airport and the closest European site.	No LSE for the policy alone. Due to a lack of pathway no further in-combination assessment required.	A - General statement of policy/general aspiration Screen out
Policy INF6: Community Facilities	Development increasing demand for community facilities must either provide these facilities or contribute to new or improved ones. New community facilities will be supported if they meet local needs, are accessible by public transport and active travel, and offer multipurpose services. Alterations or expansions of existing facilities to enhance services will be supported. Existing community facilities will be protected unless there is no demand or an equivalent alternative is provided.	Development of community facilities to support tourism may impact Habitats Sites with LSEs through disturbance from traffic and recreation and through hydrological pathways dependent on their location.	Potential LSE due to other screened in policies for turbidity and siltation, hydrological changes, disturbance and waterborne pollution.	I – Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone Screen in



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



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



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



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



5.2 Screening Conclusions

As impact pathways have been identified in screening, the next step in the HRA process, AA, needs to be undertaken. This is because the South Derbyshire Local Plan Part 1 Review has the potential for impact pathways to undermine the Conservation Objectives of the Habitats Sites identified in Section 5.1 and therefore LSEs cannot be excluded.





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