Nidderdale National Landscape Management Plan 2025 - 2030

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Screening Report

August 2025

Introduction

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 requires that National Landscape Management Plans are produced and reviewed at regular intervals. The Nidderdale National Landscape Management Plan will set out how the designated area's natural beauty will be conserved and enhanced.

It is noted that the legal name for the designated areas remains 'Area of outstanding natural beauty' although, in conjunction with Government, the areas and their associated partnerships have been renamed as National Landscapes since 2022. The formal title of the Management Plan in line with the legal definition is 'Nidderdale National Landscape: An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan'. During this report the phrase Nidderdale National Landscape Management Plan refers to this.

A Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Screening Report is being undertaken in relation to the Management Plan which will determine whether this new Plan will need to be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment. There is also a requirement under UK legislation to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) on the Plan.

The Habitats Regulations Assessment is a test of the effect of the plan on the integrity of European nature conservation sites (referred to from this point on as 'European sites')[1].In this sense the objectives of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process initiated by this report are simply to test whether the Management Plan will have a significant effect on European Nature Conservation Sites and, if it does, if that effect can be reduced to levels that are below 'significant'.

This report sets out the methodology for undertaking the HRA, identifies European sites which will be considered as part of this assessment and determines whether there may be a likely significant effect (LSE) on these sites.

[1] In this report European Nature Conservation Sites, namely Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation, are considered alongside international Ramsar Wetland Sites, consistent with UK Government Policy (see section 3).

Description of Nidderdale National Landscape Management Plan

The primary objective of the National Landscape designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area (including flora, fauna, geological and landscape features). The draft Nidderdale National Landscape Management Plan 2025 – 2030 also recognises that account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and the economic and social needs of communities (with particular regard to sustainable development). The Management Plan also recognises the demand for recreational access, even though this is not part of the statutory purpose.

The National Landscape Management Plan influences development within the Plan area because relevant authorities, including local authorities, when exercising their functions including making planning decisions, have a duty to seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty[2].

The Management Plan contains a Vision and a set of Objectives which help formulate local authority policies and define key partner's functions in relation to the National Landscape. Since the transition to the new unitary authority, North Yorkshire Council is the constituent local authority. The Council has agreed that the National Landscape's Joint Advisory Committee should co-ordinate preparation of the Management Plan on its behalf.

The Management Plan aims to provide a framework for partnership working with all stakeholders who have an interest or involvement in the National Landscape's management. The Plan specifically provides a focus for:

- Setting out the components that make up the area's natural beauty
- Considering current pressures and issues that affect the National Landscape
- Establishing clear and practical objectives to guide integrated decision-making
- Describing mechanisms for the partnership to deliver the objectives and monitor the success of this delivery.

[2] The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 amended Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to introduce a revised duty on relevant authorities to seek to further the conservation and enhancement of protected landscapes.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Background to the Habitats Regulations Assessment, including the requirement to undertake an appropriate assessment

Prior to EU Exit, the United Kingdom was subject to Council Directive 92/43/EEC[3] on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora, which is often referred to as the Habitats Directive. The principal aim of the Directive is to promote biodiversity *'by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species listed in the Annexes to the Directive at a favourable conservation status'.*

The Habitats Directive aims to create *'a coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation'*. This network also includes Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds, designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Council Directive 2009/147/EC [4] (The Wild Birds Directive) and is termed the Natura 2000 Network.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive places a requirement on certain plans and projects to consider its effects on European sites:

"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"* (European Commission, 1992).

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (amended)

The Habitats Directive was transposed into UK law through The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017[5] (The Habitat Regulations) and, following EU Exit, was subsequently retained as UK legislation. Regulation 63 sets out the requirements for the undertaking of an appropriate assessment where a plan '*is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site or a European offshore marine Site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects)'.*

Regulation 8 provides clarity on what is meant by 'European Sites' which includes both terrestrial and marine SPAs, Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Sites of Community Importance (SCIs), potential SACs and potential SPAs.

Ramsar sites and other sites

Ramsar sites are of international (rather than just European) importance and are designated for wetlands. In practice, most Ramsar sites also receive protection as SPAs. The Government's National Planning Policy Framework[6] (NPPF) gives Ramsar sites and proposed Ramsar sites the same protection as European sites. There are no Ramsar sites within this area.

[3] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043
[4] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32009L0147
[5] http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents/made
[6] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

The NPPF also provides the same level of protection to potential SACs, potential SPAs and 'sites identified, or required*' as compensatory measures for adverse effects on European sites'* as fully designated European sites.

While the National Landscape Management Plan is not a planning document, and thus not regulated by the NPPF, the NPPF is taken as reflective of wider Government policy.

What is a 'European Site'?

According to the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), which is the public body that advises the UK Government on UK-wide and international nature conservation, European sites include:

Special Areas of Conservation – '*protected areas in the UK designated under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales (including the adjacent territorial sea). Under these Regulations, the UK Government and devolved administrations are required to establish a network of important high-quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the habitats and species identified in Annexes I and II, respectively, of European Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, known as the Habitats Directive.*'

Special Protection Areas – '*protected areas for birds in the UK classified under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales (including the adjacent territorial sea). SPAs, together with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), form the UK's national site network.*'

Ramsar Sites are also considered as European sites for the purposes of this assessment. These are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands that was established in Iran in 1971.

Sources:
JNCC. Special Areas of Conservation: https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/special-areas-of-conservation/
JNCC, Special Protection Areas: https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/special-protection-areas/
JNCC. Ramsar sites: https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/ramsar-sites/

A staged approach to HRA

The Habitats Regulations refer to the undertaking of an Appropriate Assessment (AA) in relation to plans and projects. However, in practice HRAs are a stepwise process, by which the requirement to undertake an AA is determined by screening whether the plan or project may result in a Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on a European site. If a LSE is determined then an AA of the effects of the plan or project on the integrity of European sites is required. If it is not possible to determine there would be no adverse effect in the integrity of the European site then further steps need to be followed, including considering alternatives to the proposal, and the requirement to identity the extent to which a plan should proceed because of 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest'(IROPI).

The AA is a discrete stage of a potentially multi-staged process and to avoid confusion the process as a whole is usually referred to as HRA. The HRA process has been divided into 4 discrete stages, as illustrated by Table 1 (below). This Screening Report documents the undertaking of Stages 1 and 2 of the HRA process.

Table 1: HRA: Key stages

Stage 1		**Progress**
Pre-screening	1) Establish the outline methodology for undertaking the Assessment. 2) Identify whether the plan is subject to HRA.	Undertaken in this screening report.
Stage 2		
Scoping and initial screening for LSE	1) Identify European sites in and around the plan area. 2) Identify the conservation objectives and threats to site integrity of European sites. 3) Identify potential effects of the Plan on European sites. 4) Examine other plans and programmes that could contribute to 'in combination' effects.	Undertaken in this screening report.
	If no likely significant effects are identified – report will document no LSE and consult Natural England on the findings. *If a LSE is identified or any significant uncertainty exists the precautionary principle applies - proceed to* ***Stage 3.***	
Stage 3		
Assessment under Regulation 63 of The Habitats Regulations: AA	Consider if the elements of the plan identified as having a LSE 'alone or in combination' with other plans and projects will cause direct and indirect effects on the integrity of European sites in light of their conservation objectives (the 'AA'). 1) Consider how any effects on the integrity of a site could be avoided by changes to Plan and the consideration of alternatives. 2) Develop mitigation measures (including timescale and protective measures). 3) Report outcomes of AA including mitigation measures; consult with Natural England (NE), the Environment Agency and wider (public) stakeholders as necessary.	No LSEs identified. NE to be consulted on the Screening Report. If agree with outcomes of the Screening Report then Stage 3 not required.

	If plan will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of European sites alone or in combination with other sites then the plan can proceed and no further HRA is required. *If effects or any uncertainty remains following the consideration of alternatives and development of mitigation measures proceed to* ***Stage 4.***	
Stage 4		
Procedures where significant effect on integrity of international site remains (Derogations)	If an adverse effect on site integrity is determined a plan or programme can only proceed provided a series of 'sequential tests' (Habitat Directive's article 6 (4) derogation requirements) are satisfied. These are: Test 1: There must be no feasible alternative solutions to the plan or project which are less damaging to European Sites; Test 2: There must be 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI) for the plan or project to proceed; Test 3: All necessary compensatory measures must be secured to ensure that the overall coherence of the network of European Sites is protected.	No LSEs identified. NE to be consulted on the Screening Report. If agree with outcomes of the Screening Report then Stage 4 not required.

Source – Pathway – Receptor approach

The underlying principle of the HRA is the '*source – pathway –receptor'* approach which will be followed to determine whether a there will be a LSE on any European sites.

A 'source-pathway-receptor' approach is often used in environmental risk management. It is a way of developing a conceptual understanding of how environmental harm can occur.

If environmental or any other form of hazard is to occur it must originate from somewhere. For instance a water pollution incident wouldn't occur unless there is a source or causal agent for that pollution (e.g. agricultural run off or an industrial facility). This is the **source.** Environmental hazards would not present any problems unless there is a **receptor** that would be vulnerable to damage if exposed to the hazard originating from the source. However, there must also be a **pathway** by which the hazard can reach the receptor. Where the European sites are considered vulnerable to certain impacts those impacts can only be considered possible where there is a source for that impact and a pathway to the receptor.

Consideration of recent case law

Particular regard has been taken to the May 2018 CJEU case of People over Wind and Sweetman v Coilte Teoranta case[7]. The judgement rules that mitigation to prevent harm to a European site should not be considered at LSE screening stage in order to determine no AA is required (.i.e. determine no LSE). Mitigation should only be applied at the AA stage in order to determine no adverse effect of site integrity. Therefore, no mitigation has been applied at this

[7]http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=&docid=200970&pageIndex=0&doclang=en&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=619449

stage for the purpose of the HRA. However, reference to other objectives and actions within the Management Plan is not considered as mitigation for the purposes of HRA but to ensure that relevant parts of the broader Management Plan are considered where relevant to individual objectives.

Stage 1 - Identification of whether the plan is subject to HRA

The Regulation 63 of The Habitat Regulations states that certain types should be subject to a HRA:

*"**63.**—(1) A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which—*

(a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and

(b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site, must make an appropriate assessment of the implications of the plan or project for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives"

The Habitat Regulations do not define what constitutes a plan, but the Nidderdale National Landscape Management Plan is considered to be a plan for the purpose of the HRA. The second consideration is whether or not the plan is 'directly connected with or necessary to the management of [a European Site]'. The Management Plan seeks to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the National Landscape as a whole, rather than being necessary to the management of nature conservation sites, and therefore is subject to HRA.

Therefore, it is concluded that the Nidderdale National Landscape Management Plan should be subject to further consideration under The Habitat Regulations, and should proceed to 'stage 2' to determine whether there is a like significant effect, either alone or in combination, on any designated European sites.

Stage 2: Scoping and initial screening for LSE

Identification of European sites in and around the plan area

The plan area of Nidderdale National Landscape is shown in Figure 1. This map also shows European Sites in the area. There are no Ramsar sites within this area. Other national and local designations (sites of special scientific interest – SSSI, and sites of importance for nature conservation – SINC) are included for information only.

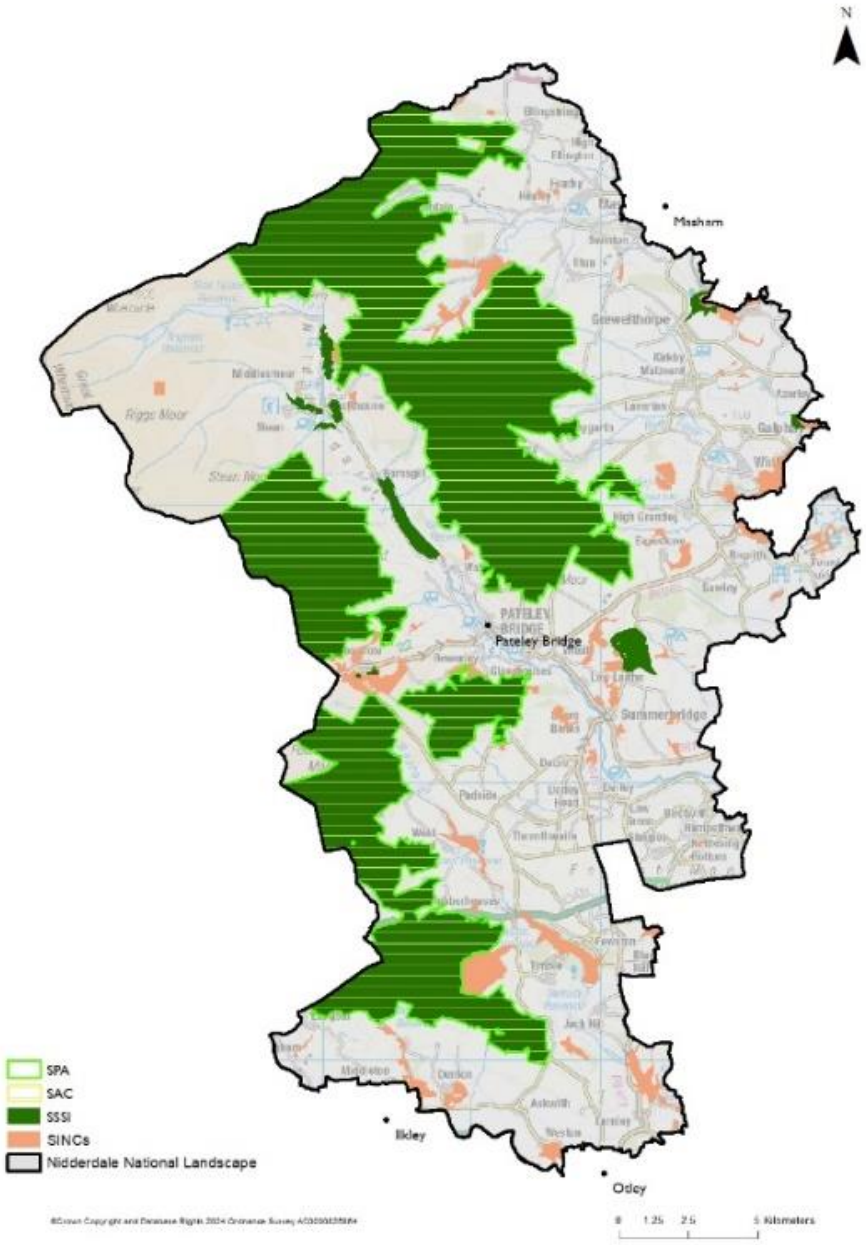

Figure 1: Designated sites within Nidderdale National Landscape.

As impacts from the Management Plan may occur beyond the administrative boundary of the National Landscape where there is a pathway between the source of impacts and a European site, a 15km buffer has been applied to the outer boundary of the Nidderdale National Landscape

area to identify European sites where there is a potential LSE for further consideration. This area (National Landscape plus the 15km buffer) is the Study Area. For certain impacts longer range pathways may exist, and these will be investigated on a case-by-case basis.

Table 2 lists the European sites within the plan area and buffer alongside their qualifying features. As already noted, there are no Ramsar sites within this area.

Table 2: European Sites situated within and around Nidderdale National Landscape.

Type	Name	Qualifying Features
SAC	North Pennine Moors	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection: • European dry heaths • Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands (Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands) • Blanket bogs • Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) (Hard-water springs depositing lime) • Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation (Plants in crevices on acid rocks) • Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles (Western acidic oak woodland) • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix (Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath) • Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae (Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals) • Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands (Montane acid grasslands) • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco - Brometalia) (Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone) • Alkaline fens (Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens) • Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) (Acidic scree) • Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation (Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks) Annex I habitats that are present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection: • Marsh saxifrage (Saxifraga hirculus)
SPA	North Pennine Moors	Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex: • Circus cyaneus – Hen Harrier - regularly supports 2.2% of the GB breeding population • Falco columbarius – Merlin - regularly supports 10.5% of the GB breeding population • Falco peregrinus – Peregrine falcon - regularly supports 1.3% of the GB breeding population • Pluvialis apricaria – European golden plover - regularly supports at least 6.2% of the GB breeding population Article 4.1 qualification: -Breeding

		• Circus cyaneus ; Hen harrier • Falco columbarius ; Merlin • Falco peregrinus ; Peregrine falcon • Pluvialis apricaria ; European golden plover Additional qualifying features identified by the 2001 UK SPA review: • Calidris alpine ; Dunlin • Numenius arquata ; Eurasian curlew
SAC	South Pennine Moors	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection: • European dry heaths • Blanket bogs • Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles Annex I habitats that are present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection: • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix (wet heathland with cross-leaved heath) • Transition mires and quaking bogs (very wet mires often identifiable by an unstable 'quaking surface')
SAC	South Pennine Moors Phase 2	Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex: • Asio flammeus – Short-eared owl - regularly supports at least 0.3% of the GB breeding population • Falco columbarius – Merlin - regularly supports at least 2.2% of the GB breeding population • Pluvialis apricaria – European golden plover - regularly supports 1.3% of the GB breeding population Article 4.1 qualification -Breeding • Asio flammeus ; Short-eared owl • Falco columbarius; Merlin • Pluvalius apricaria ; European golden plover Article 4.2 qualification -An internationally important assemblage of birds including (breeding): • Actitis hypoleucos ; Common sandpiper • Calidris alpina schinzill; Dunlin • Corduelis flavirostris ; Twite • Gallinago gallinago; Common snipe • Numenius arquata; Eurasian curlew • Oenathe oenanthe ; Northern wheatear • Saxicola rubertra; Whinchat • T ringa totanus; Common redshank • Turdus torquatus ; Ring Ouzel • Vanellus vanellus ; Northern Lapwing Additional qualifying features identified by the 2001 UK SPA Review: • Falco peregrinus ; Peregrine falcon (breeding) • Asio Flammeus ; Short-eared owl (breeding) • Calidris alpina schinzii ; Dunlin (breeding)

SAC	Craven Limestone Complex	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection: • Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. (Calcium-rich nutrient poor lakes, lochs and pools) • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco - Brometalia) (Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone) • Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) (Purple moor-grass meadows) • Active raised bogs • Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) (hard-water springs depositing lime) • Alkaline fens (Calcium rich spring water-fed fens) • Limestone pavements Annex II habitats that are a primary reason for selection: • White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes) • Bullhead (Cottus gobio) • Lady`s-slipper orchid (Cypripedium calceolus) Annex I habitats that are present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection: • Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae (Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals) • Tilio - Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines (Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes)
SAC	North Pennine Dales Meadows*	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection: • Mountain hay meadows Annex I habitats that are present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection: • Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) (Purple moor-grass meadows) •
SAC	Ox Close SAC (141 ha site in the Ure valley (Wensleydale), wholly within the Yorkshire Dales National Park to the north of Nidderdale National Landscape)	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection: • Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae (Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals) Annex I habitats that are present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection: • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco - Brometalia) (Dry grasslands on chalk or limestone) • Tilio - Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines (Mixed woodland on base-rich roils associated with rocky slopes) •

Identifying the conservation objectives and threats to the integrity of European sites

In determining the potential for LSEs of the Plan on the European sites identified in the study area, (and listed above in Table 2), the conservation objectives of the European sites and the possible threats to the integrity of the site has been considered. These have been listed in Appendix 1 for reference.

The key threats to site integrity is a summary of information provided in the vulnerabilities section of the JNCC Standard Data Forms for the each site as well as other data gathered including Supplementary Advice for sites where available. This provides a summary of the processes that may cause damage to a site and prevent conservation objectives being achieved, but the Screening Report has also considered other potential impacts to the European sites in addition to those listed.

Screening for LSE in Combination with other Plan and Programmes

The Nidderdale National Landscape Management Plan sets the strategic framework across the National Landscape for future land and development management. The Management Plan including the objectives will be screened for LSEs on European sites both alone and in combination with other plans and projects.

The Nidderdale National Landscape Management Plan is a strategic document and, in many cases, it will not exhibit specific direct impacts on individual European sites as it will not define specific interventions or occur at specific locations. However, there still exists the potential that these more strategic Management Plan objectives may potentially result in impacts to European sites.

Table 3 summarises the observations made by Tyldesley (2009)[8] and makes observations of potential relevance to a National Landscape Management Plan.

Table 3: Strategic-level impacts on European Sites (categories of impact and some source material for the mechanisms by which effects may occur are adapted from text in Tyldesley, D. 2009)

Category of impact that could arise from a strategic change	How such impacts might occur
Type of change	Theoretically a specific type of change might be proposed in a National Landscape Management Plan that may have a significant effect on one or more European sites regardless of the quantum of change or the location of that change. For instance, an objective that proposes that tourism should be focussed towards European sites rather than the National Landscape as a

[8] Tyldesley, D. 2009. The Habitats Regulations Assessment of Local Development Documents Revised Draft Guidance for Natural England.

	whole may have implications for European sites if they are sensitive to recreational pressure.
Quantity of change	In some cases a significant effect may occur as a result of the quantum of change that is likely to occur due to a specific objective. For instance, if a strategy would result in an increase in the quantity of farmers employing alternative management practices for farmland, designated habitats adjacent to farmland may be impacted by the change in management of large areas of land.
Location of change	There may be a strategic need to focus on, for example, traffic routing problems in a specific area. In such cases the necessary interventions may take place close to a European Site and exhibit direct effects or may indirectly steer other forms of development to a location so that they exhibit an effect. In the objectives of the Management Plan locations are not referred to, however this may become more of an issue at an 'actions' scale.
Blocking of other proposals or approaches	Future alternative approaches may be blocked by policies in a strategy. For instance a non-damaging policy approach may no longer be an option if the strategy commits an area to a specific approach that may in the longer term be damaging.
Justifying damaging development	Inclusion within a strategy may give justification to interventions that would have otherwise been considered on their merits alone. This may form part of a case to justify 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' that would allow the certain development or actions to go ahead under various regulatory controls, whereas were a project considered in its own right a different case may need to be made. It is therefore important to ensure that only interventions that are consistent with the Habitats Regulations' requirements are included in the Management Plan.
Combined/cumulative effects	Where on its own the Management Plan may not be likely to have significant effects, certain objectives or actions may work in combination with other plans and projects in such a way that a significant effect may occur.

In Combination Impacts: Consideration of other Plans and Projects in this Assessment

The Habitat Regulations requires that all LSE of plans and projects, whether they are alone or in combination with other plans and projects, be assessed for their impacts on European sites. The in-combination assessment means that plans and projects which may not result in a LSE when considered individually, could result in LSE when considered cumulatively with other plans and projects.

It is also important that in-combination assessment remains manageable and results in a meaningful assessment. Therefore, the focus of in-combination assessment will be on plans and projects for future direct land management or development as these plans are considered to be the key sources of potential impacts.

It is recognised that the Nidderdale National Landscape Management Plan will be implemented in the context of changing spatial patterns and housing growth, as directed by other local spatial strategies such as Local Plans. Many of the Plans reviewed during in-combination assessment will have been subject to a HRA. These HRA documents will be useful in ascertaining the extent to which those plans are expected to impact on European sites. Table 4 shows the plans that will be considered for in-combination impact in this assessment.

Table 4: Plans to be reviewed for possible in-combination effects where necessary

Name of Plan	**Plan Type**	**Geographical Scope**
Harrogate District Local Plan 2014-35	Land use plan	Former Harrogate Borough
Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan 2019-2024	Management plan	Yorkshire Dales National Park – adjoins Nidderdale National Landscape
Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan 2015-2030	Land use plan	Yorkshire Dales National Park – adjoins Nidderdale National Landscape
Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan 2025-30 Draft[9]	Management plan	Yorkshire Dales National Park – adjoins Nidderdale National Landscape
Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan 2025-40 Draft[10]	Land use plan	Yorkshire Dales National Park – adjoins Nidderdale National Landscape
North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy 2025 Draft[11]	Land use plan	North Yorkshire
Minerals and Waste Joint Plan 2016-2030	Land use plan	North Yorkshire, City of York and the North York Moors National Park
North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2016-2045	Transport plan	North Yorkshire

[9] https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/about/national-park-management-plan/partnership/the-new-management-plan-2025-2030/
[10] https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/planning-policy/local-plan-2025-40/
[11] https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/environment-and-neighbourhoods/conservation/local-nature-recovery-strategy

Recording the results of the LSE Screening Assessment

The Objectives will be screened for their LSE alone or in-combination effect on European sites. Potential effects from all objectives and actions will also be categorised as follows, following:

- No negative effect: these are elements of the plan that would have no negative effect on any European Site

- No significant negative effect: these are elements of the plan that could have an effect, but the likelihood is there would be no significant negative effect on a European site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects

- Likely significant effect alone: these elements of the plan will require an AA

- Likely significant effect in combination: a strategy categorised in this way will be subject to appropriate assessment unless the effect made by the strategy alone can be reduced to no significant negative effect or no negative effect

- Uncertain: this is where it is not possible to make a judgement on the likelihood of significant effects occurring. These impacts will require further investigation via an AA.

Table 5: Assessment of Likely Significant effects from the National Landscape Management Plan on European designated sites

Objective/Action	Possible impact of objective/action on European Site (sources/pathway)	Which European Sites could be affected (receptors)	Is the impact significant?	Other plans and projects which might act in combination	Risk of a significant in-combination effect	References / notes
CLIMATE CHANGE						
CC-1: Develop and implement a pathway to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the National Landscape to net zero before 2050	Objective includes support for measures that should if anything have positive outcomes for management of European Sites	All	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
CC-2: Work with farmers and landowners to safeguard and increase carbon stored in the landscape through positive land management including restoring 80% of peatland and creating 375 ha of new native tree cover	Objective includes support for measures that should if anything have positive outcomes for management of European Sites	All	No negative effect	North Yorkshire & York Local Nature Recovery Strategy	No negative effect	
CC-3: Develop and begin to deliver a landscape-scale climate adaptation plan for the National Landscape	Objective includes support for measures that should if anything have positive outcomes for management of European Sites	All	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	

CC-4: Work with farmers and landowners to improve soil health across the National Landscape to increase landscape resilience, including supporting 25% of farm holding to adopt nature-friendly regenerative farming practices	There are potential environmental benefits from the uptake of sustainable farming practices and the adoption of environmental stewardship schemes	All	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
CC-5: Raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on Nidderdale's rural communities and the actions they can take to increase resilience	Objective relates to improving knowledge; action will mainly be within towns and villages, although any action relating to European Sites should if anything have positive outcomes for their management	All	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
CC-6: Support the installation of small-scale renewable energy infrastructure where it is compatible with conserving and enhancing natural beauty and avoids cumulative impact on landscape character	Policy resists inappropriate development so lessening impacts from development	All	No negative effect	Harrogate District Local Plan	No negative effect	
NATURE RECOVERY						
NR-1: Ensure effective species recovery, so that the diversity and abundance of species within	Objective includes support for measures that should have positive outcomes for	All	No negative effect	North Yorkshire & York Local	No negative effect	

the National Landscape increases	management of European Sites			Nature Recovery Strategy		
NR-2: Work with landowners and moorland gamekeepers to enhance moorlands by restoring peatland for nature and climate, creating strategic new moorland mosaic habitat and working to get 80% of moorland SSSI on track to achieve good condition	This objective should be beneficial for European Sites through addressing a key local issue of moorland restoration.	All	No negative effect	North Yorkshire & York Local Nature Recovery Strategy	No negative effect	
NR-3: Work with farmers and landowners to support grassland conservation by restoring or enhancing 500 ha of priority grassland habitats and supporting farm holdings to participate in appropriate grassland agri-environment options	Objective includes support for measures that should if anything have positive outcomes for management of European Sites	All	No negative effect	North Yorkshire & York Local Nature Recovery Strategy	No negative effect	
NR-4: Work with farmers and landowners to increase new native tree cover, support 70% of existing woodland into good management and restore 100 ha of plantation on ancient woodland	Objective includes support for measures that should if anything have positive outcomes for management of European Sites	All	No negative effect	North Yorkshire & York Local Nature Recovery Strategy	No negative effect	

NR-5: Work with farmers and landowners to create or restore 150 wetland habitats, ensure 50% of existing wetland habitat is in good management and work to enhance the ecological status of the National Landscape's watercourses	Objective includes support for measures that should have positive outcomes for management of European Sites	All	No negative effect	North Yorkshire & York Local Nature Recovery Strategy	No negative effect	
NR-6: Continue work to safeguard birds of prey and prevent their illegal persecution in the National Landscape	This objective should be beneficial for European Sites through addressing a key local issue of prevention of illegal persecution of birds of prey.	All	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
LIVING & WORKING						
LW-1: Work with farmers and landowners to encourage farming practices in the National Landscape that support profitable farm businesses and improvements for the environment, with 70% of farm holdings participating in agri-environment schemes.	There are potential environmental benefits from the uptake of sustainable farming practices and the adoption of environmental stewardship schemes	All	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
LW-2: Work with tourism businesses to develop and promote a joined up, high	Significant increases in tourism might lead to possible negative effects	All	No significant negative	None	No negative effect	

quality tourism offer based around what is special about Nidderdale National Landscape so that the sector can retain at least the same number of jobs.	including impacts from disturbance, increased air pollution from vehicles etc. However, the objective does not seek to increase tourism or focus tourism on designated sites, therefore no LSE predicted on any designated sites.		effect as policy does not seek to increase tourism and, when read as part of the overall plan, mitigates possible impacts.			
LW-3: Create a more appropriate housing supply suited to local community housing needs, particularly for working families and younger people, with a focus on affordable housing.	Any change in the National Landscape would be restricted to settlements.	None	No negative effect	Harrogate District Local Plan	No negative effect	
LW-4: Support community organisations to help provide services to reflect Nidderdale's population demographic.	Objective relates to provision of community services only.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
LW-5: Improve public transport and active travel opportunities for visitors to travel to the area and for local residents to access the employment, education and services they need so they can	Objective relates to the provision of transport services only.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	

remain active and independent in their communities.						
LW-6: Provide support and advice for Nidderdale's rural businesses that supports a scale of development appropriate to the location and that is compatible with conserving and enhancing natural beauty.	Objective ensures that development is restricted so that conservation of natural beauty (which encompasses designated sites) remains prioritised.	All	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
UNDERSTANDING & ENJOYMENT						
UE-1: Work with farmers and landowners to maintain and improve the condition of public rights of way across the National Landscape	Rights of ways may encourage greater access to the countryside, and European sites. However, the linear nature of rights of way is likely to have the beneficial effect of containing people leading to reduced levels of disturbance and erosion.	All	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
UE-2: Reduce the impact of vehicular use of unsurfaced, unclassified roads where this is having an adverse impact on the National Landscape's natural and cultural heritage and its enjoyment by the public.	Effects are beneficial for European Sites.	All	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	

UE-3: Work with tourism businesses to enhance Nidderdale National Landscape's tourism offer and profile.	Objective relates to information gathering and improving knowledge only.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
UE-4: Develop links with community organisations to co-design engagement activities that enable new more diverse audiences to experience the National Landscape.	Objective relates to information gathering and improving knowledge only.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
UE-5: Work with farmers and landowners to increase Access for All provision so that as wide a range of people as possible can understand, access and enjoy the National Landscape.	Rights of ways may encourage greater access to the countryside, and European sites. However, the linear nature of rights of way is likely to have the beneficial effect of containing people leading to reduced levels of disturbance and erosion.	All	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
UE-6: Develop new partnerships with the health sector to provide more opportunities in the National Landscape for people to improve their physical and mental well-being.	Objective relates to information gathering and improving knowledge only.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
HERITAGE & HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT						

HE-1: Identify heritage assets at risk and work with landowners to support activities that improve their condition, including reducing the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk.	Any changes would be restricted to the structures themselves.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
HE-2: Increase understanding and appreciation of the National Landscape's cultural heritage and historic environment	Objective relates to improving knowledge only.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
HE-3: Support owners of historic properties and structures to conserve and enhance them, including appropriate climate retrofitting measures, and enable people to understand their significance.	Any changes would be restricted to the buildings themselves.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
HE-4: Develop programmes to train the next generation in how to look after an evolving built and natural landscape	Objective relates to improving knowledge only.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
LANDSCAPE						
LA-1: Work with farmers, landowners and water companies to improve natural river processes and water quality	Objective includes support for measures that should if anything have positive	All	No negative impact	None	No negative effect	

across the National Landscape, including actions in place to achieve good ecological status or potential on 70% of watercourses.	outcomes for management of European Sites					
LA-2: Develop planning policy that ensures all new development is appropriate in terms of scale, location and design quality in the context of Nidderdale National Landscape.	Objective seeks to inform planning policy to resist inappropriate development so lessening impacts from development	All	No negative impact	None	No negative effect	
LA-3: Oppose proposals for major development and ensure applications for other development are consistent with conserving and enhancing natural beauty, both in the National Landscape and its setting.	Objective resists inappropriate development so lessening impacts from development.	All	No negative effect	Harrogate Local Plan	No negative effect	
LA-4: Reduce levels of light pollution and increase awareness of Nidderdale's nationally significant dark night skies.	Objective seeks to reduce light pollution which will benefit European sites.	All	No negative effect	Harrogate Local Plan	No negative effect	
LA-5: Develop and deliver landscape-scale initiatives in partnership with farmers and	Objective includes support for measures that should if anything have positive	All	No negative impact	None	No negative effect	

landowners to conserve and enhance the National Landscape including catchment-level natural flood management, invasive species control, undergrounding overhead powerlines and a new Landscape Connections programme.	outcomes for management of European Sites					
LA-6: Promote and celebrate the special qualities of the National Landscape.	Objective relates to information gathering and improving knowledge only.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
Can the objectives be changed to avoid significant effects? Do residual effects remain?			**Not applicable as no LSE on any designated sites were identified**			
Is an Appropriate Assessment required?			**No**			

Conclusions

This assessment has concluded that there are no likely significant effects on any European designated sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. As such no further HRA (e.g. Appropriate Assessment) is required.

Consultation

The statutory body for the purposes of HRA screening is Natural England. This Screening Report should be considered in conjunction with the Draft Nidderdale National Landscape Management Plan and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report.

Further Information

Further information on this screening report can be obtained from:

Nidderdale National Landscape
The Old Workhouse
King Street
Pateley Bridge
Harrogate
HG3 5LE
NidderdaleNL@northyorks.gov.uk
01423 712950

Appendix 1:

Table 6: Conservation Objectives and Threats to Site Integrity

Name of Site, JNCC Site Code and Area	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
Craven Limestone Complex SAC JNCC site code(s): UK0014776 Size: 5,328.25 Ha	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection: • Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.; Calcium-rich nutrient poor lakes, lochs and pools • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco - Brometalia) • Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone • Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) • Purple moor-grass meadows • Active raised bogs • Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion); hard-water springs depositing lime • Alkaline fens; Calcium rich springwater-fed fens • Limestone pavements Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection: • White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish Austropotamobius pallipes	With regard to the natural habitats and / or species for which the site has been designated (see qualifying features); subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habits of qualifying species; • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; • The populations of qualifying species; • The distribution of qualifying species within the site.	Intensive grazing may cause physical loss or damage to habitat; Operations such as quarrying which, can cause loss and damage to habitats (such as through sedimentation, erosion, fragmentation and barrier effects), hydrological change, contamination of water; Drainage can cause hydrological change leading to drying and fragmentation of habitat; Runoff from agriculture or deposition - Intensive grazing may cause physical loss or damage to habitat;

Name of Site, JNCC Site Code and Area	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
	• Bullhead Cottus gobio • Lady`s-slipper orchid Cypripedium calceolus Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection: • Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae ; Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals Tilio • Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines; Mixed woodland on baserich soils associated with rocky slopes		
North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC Location Grid Reference: NY931256 JNCC site code(s): UK0014775 Size: 4.97 km^2 (497.09 Ha)	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection: • Mountain hay meadows Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection: • Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae); • Purple moor-grass meadows	With regard to the natural habitats and / or species for which the site has been designated (see qualifying features); subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habits of qualifying species; • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; • The populations of qualifying species; • The distribution of qualifying species within the site	Use of agrochemicals and intensive farming leading to physical loss and damage to habitats (including erosion, habitat fragmentation and nutrient enrichment); Loss of habitats to development footprints

Name of Site, JNCC Site Code and Area	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
North Pennine Moors SAC Location Grid Reference: SE137749 JNCC site code(s): UK 0030033 Size: 1,031 km^2 (103,109.42 Ha)	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection: • European dry heaths • Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands • Blanket bogs • Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion); Hardwater springs depositing lime • Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Plants in crevices on acid rocks • Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles; Western acidic oak woodland Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection: • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath • Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae; Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals • Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands; Montane acid grasslands • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco - Brometalia); Dry	With regard to the natural habitats and / or species for which the site has been designated (see qualifying features); subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habits of qualifying species; • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; • The populations of qualifying species; • The distribution of qualifying species within the site	Intensive grazing causing physical loss and damage (e.g. through erosion, habitat fragmentation and nutrient enrichment); Agrochemicals such as sheep dip causing contamination of groundwater; Agricultural / other operations affecting drainage – these could cause hydrological changes to water levels and flow rates, as well as cause habitats to dry out Poor muirburn management causing removal and fragmentation of habitat Industrial operations and transport causing acid and nitrogen deposition or physical loss of habitat; Poor Woodland management causing removal and smothering of ground flora and fragmentation of habitat; Recreational disturbance causing erosion and fragmentation, accidental fires.

Name of Site, JNCC Site Code and Area	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
	grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone • Alkaline fens; Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens • Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani); Acidic scree • Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection: • Marsh saxifrage Saxifraga hirculus		
South Pennine Moors SAC Location Grid Reference: SK144960 JNCC site code(s): UK003028 Size: 649.8 km^2 (64,983.13	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection: • European dry heaths • Blanket bogs • Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection: • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix ; wet heathland with cross-leaved heath • Transition mires and quaking bogs; very wet mires often identifiable by an unstable 'quaking surface'	With regard to the natural habitats and / or species for which the site has been designated (see Qualifying features); subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habits of qualifying species; • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; • The populations of qualifying species; • The distribution of qualifying species within the site	Recreational pressure causing trampling, erosion and fragmentation, accidental fires; Overgrazing causing physical loss and damage to habitats (e.g. erosion, habitat fragmentation and nutrient enrichment); Poor muirburn management on grouse moors causing physical loss and damage to habitat and accidental fires; Drainage may lead to hydrological change (changing water level and flow rate), and drying and fragmentation;

Name of Site, JNCC Site Code and Area	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
			Industry and transport may lead to atmospheric toxic and non-toxic pollution and deposition; Fly-tipping can cause physical loss of habitat through smothering, introduction of invasive species, nutrient enrichment and contamination
North Pennine Moors SPA Location Grid Reference: SE100590 JNCC site code(s): UK9006272 Size: 147,246.41 Ha	Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex 1: • Circus cyaneus – Hen Harrier - regularly supports 2.2% of the GB breeding population • Falco columbarius – Merlin regularly supports 10.5% of the GB breeding population • Falco peregrinus – Peregrine falcon - regularly supports 1.3% of the GB breeding population • Pluvialis apricaria – European golden plover - regularly supports at least 6.2% of the GB breeding population Article 4.1 qualification: -Breeding • Circus cyaneus ; Hen harrier • Falco columbarius ; Merlin • Falco peregrinus ; Peregrine falcon • Pluvialis apricaria ; European golden plover	With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified; Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: • The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features; • The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features; • The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely; • The populations of the qualifying features; • The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.	Intensive grazing causing physical loss and damage (e.g. through erosion, habitat fragmentation and nutrient enrichment); Agrochemicals such as sheep dip causing contamination of groundwater; Agricultural / other operations affecting drainage – these could cause hydrological changes to water levels and flow rates, as well as cause habitats to dry out Poor muirburn management causing removal and fragmentation of habitat Industrial operations and transport causing acid and nitrogen deposition or physical loss of habitat;

Name of Site, JNCC Site Code and Area	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
	Additional Qualifying features identified by the 2001 UK SPA review: • Calidris alpina ; Dunlin • Numenius arquata ; Eurasian curlew		Poor Woodland management causing removal and smothering of ground flora and fragmentation of habitat; Recreational disturbance causing erosion and fragmentation of habitat, accidental fires, and disturbance of nesting birds. Loss / improvement of in-bye (enclosed) land
South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA Location Grid Reference: SK144960 JNCC site code: UK003028 Size: 649.8 km^2 (64,983 Ha)	Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex 1: • Asio flammeus – Short eared owl - regularly supports at least 0.3% of the GB breeding population • Falco columbarius – Merlin - regularly supports at least 2.2% of the GB breeding population • Pluvialis apricaria – European golden plover - regularly supports 1.3% of the GB breeding population Article 4.1 qualification -Breeding • Asio flammeus ; Short-eared owl • Falco columbarius; Merlin • Pluvalius apricaria ; European golden plover	With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified; Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: • The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features; • The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features; • The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely; • The populations of the qualifying features; • The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.	Recreational disturbance causing erosion and fragmentation of habitat, accidental fires, and disturbance of nesting birds. Intensive grazing causing physical loss and damage (e.g. through erosion, habitat fragmentation and nutrient enrichment) Poor muirburn management on grouse moors causing removal and fragmentation of habitat accidental fires; Agricultural / other operations affecting drainage – these could cause hydrological changes to water levels and flow rates, as well as cause habitats to dry out

Name of Site, JNCC Site Code and Area	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
	Article 4.2 qualification -An internationally important assemblage of birds including (breeding): • Actitis hypoleucos ; Common sandpiper • Calidris alpina schinzill; Dunlin • Corduelis fl avirostris ; Twite • Gallinago gallinago; Common snipe • Numenius arquata; Eurasian curlew • Oenathe oenanthe ; Northern wheatear • Saxicola rubertra; Whinchat • Tringa totanus; Common redshank • Turdus torquatus ; Ring Ouzel • Vanellus vanellus ; Northern Lapwing Additional qualifying features identified by the 2001 UK SPA Review: • Falco peregrinus ; Peregrine falcon (breeding) • Asio Flammeus ; Short-eared owl (breeding) • Calidris alpina schinzii ; Dunlin (breeding)		Loss / improvement of in-bye (enclosed) land