

**Hartington Town Quarter Parish  
Neighbourhood Development Plan**

**2024-2039**

**Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening  
Report**

# 1. Introduction & Legislative Background

## Neighbourhood Planning Regulations

1.1 This report is the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report in support of the Hartington Neighbourhood Development Plan (HNDP). The purpose of the report is to determine whether significant adverse effects on relevant European sites which form part of the national site network, are likely as a result of HNDP, in accordance with:

- Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Para 8(2)(f) which requires HNDP to not breach and be otherwise compatible with EU obligations.
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (Various Amendments) (England and Wales) Regulations 2018, whereby the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations are amended to create a new 'basic condition' that the making of a neighbourhood plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

## Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

1.2 A qualifying body which submits a proposal for a neighbourhood development plan must provide such information, as the competent authority, reasonably required for the purposes of the assessment under regulation 105 or to enable it to determine whether that assessment is required.

1.3 Regulation 105 states that where a land use plan

- (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 the site,

the plan-making authority for that plan must, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives.

1.4 The plan-making authority must for the purposes of the assessment consult the appropriate nature conservation body and have regard to any representations made by that body within such reasonable time as the authority specifies.

1.5 Following the amendments to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 made by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, sites designated as a European Sites no longer form part of the EU's Natura 2000 ecological network. The 2019 Regulations have created a national site network of European sites, on land and at sea, including both the inshore and offshore marine areas in the UK. The national site network includes:

- i. existing Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). SACs designated under the Habitats Directive and target particular habitats (Annex 1) and/or species (Annex II) identified as being of European importance.
- ii. existing Special Protection Areas (SPAs). SPAs classified under the European Council Directive on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC; 'Birds Directive) for the

- protection of wild birds and their habitats
- iii. New SAC's and SPA's

## **National site network**

- 1.6 Any references to Natura 2000 in the 2017 Regulations and in guidance now refers to the new national site network.
- 1.7 Maintaining a coherent network of protected sites with overarching conservation objectives is still required in order to:
- fulfil the commitment made by government to maintain environmental protections
  - continue to meet our international legal obligations, such as the Bern Convention, the Oslo and Paris Conventions (OSPAR), Bonn and Ramsar Conventions
- 1.8 Designated Wetlands of International Importance (known as Ramsar sites) do not form part of the national site network. Many Ramsar sites overlap with SACs and SPAs and may be designated for the same or different species and habitats.
- 1.9 All Ramsar sites remain protected in the same way as SACs and SPAs.
- 1.10 The Government also expects candidate SACs (cSACs) & potential SPAs (pSPAs), to be included within the HRA.
- 1.11 There are 4 European Sites forming part of the national site network within a 15 km radius of the HNBP area shown in Appendix 1:
- South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation
  - Peak District Moors Special Protection Area and
  - Peak District Dales Special Area of Conservation and
  - Bee`s Nest and Green Clay Pits Special Area of Conservation
- 1.12 The Government also expects candidate SACs (cSACs) & potential SPAs (pSPAs), to be included within the HRA.

## **Scope of Report**

- 1.13 This HRA report is a 'screening report' designed to determine whether or not significant effects (and 'in combination' effects) on the above sites are likely as a result of HNBP, and whether or not an Appropriate Assessment is required. Natural England were consulted as part of this process in the 2018 Regulation 14 Consultation and expressed no concerns (10/10/2018). They did not respond to the further Regulation 14 Consultation in 2021.

## 2. Description of relevant European Sites

### South Pennine Moors Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

2.1 The South Pennine Moors SAC is designated for:

- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.
- European dry heaths for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.
- Blanket bogs for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.
- Transition mires and quaking bogs for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.
- Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

2.2 The South Pennine Moors SAC is vulnerable due to grazing and burning regimes, visitor access, & atmospheric pollution, which have led to large areas of eroded and de-vegetated peat. Much of the area is subject to intensive landscape scale conservation and regeneration delivered via numerous projects and partnerships of public, private and 3rd Sector organisations, including the national park authority.

### Peak District Moors Special Protection Area (SPA)

2.3 The Peak District Moors SPA is designated for (it's 'qualifying features') its importance for several upland breeding species including Falco columbarius, Merlin (Breeding); Pluvialis apricaria, European golden plover (Breeding); Asio flammeus, Short-eared owl (Breeding).

2.4 The conservation objectives for the site, currently being delivered via numerous projects and partnerships of public, private and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector organisations, including the national park authority, are to maintaining 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 population of each of the qualifying features
- the distribution of the qualifying features within the site

### Peak District Dales Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

2.5 The Peak District Dales SAC is designated for:

- European dry heaths
- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates
- Alkaline fens
- Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine
- Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic
- Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines
- Austropotamobius pallipes

- *Lampetra planeri*
- *Cottus gobio*

2.6 The main threats are inappropriate grazing management, water quality and low flows, and introduced disease. The ideal management for the grassland habitats for nature conservation purposes - light grazing throughout most of the year, with a break in grazing during the spring and early summer - tends to conflict with today's agricultural regimes. The result is neglect and invasion by scrub or overgrazing and the loss of the important vegetation communities. The woodland habitats are under significant threat from Ash Dieback and are likely to undergo major changes over the next decade and more. Work is underway to increase species diversity and improve the resilience of these woodlands in the long term. Crayfish Plague is a massive threat to the native White-clawed Crayfish and already have eliminated it from the River Wye. Water quality, both from sewage treatment works and diffuse agricultural pollution is a threat with phosphate levels exceeded in the Wye, and low flow affects some rivers such as sections of the Lathkill.

2.7 The conservation objectives for the site are currently being delivered via numerous projects and partnerships of public, private and 3rd Sector organisations, including the national park authority.

### **Bee`s Nest and Green Clay Pits Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**

2.8 The Bee`s Nest and Green Clay Pits is designated for:

- Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)
- Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana
- Dry grassland, Steppes Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland
- Inland rocks, Scree, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice
- Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites)
- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (\* important orchid sites)
- Great crested newt

2.9 The site encompasses a series of silica sand pits supporting a complex mosaic of acidic and calcareous grassland, with small areas of heathland communities. There are also areas of open water, flushes and communities of disturbed ground. Great crested newts *Triturus cristatus* occur in a number of ponds on site, which vary in size, profile and vegetation cover.

### 3. Determination of the likeliness of significant environmental effects of Hartington neighbourhood development plan

3.1 In the tables below HNPD policies are assessed for their likeliness of negative significant effects on European Sites within a 15km radius of the plan area. HNPD must be in general conformity with strategic planning policy, so this assessment is made in the context of the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) undertaken for PDNPA Core Strategy, specifically the 'summary of appropriate assessment findings' (Table 1), and 'discussion of potential impacts' (Table 2). In combination effects are also considered.

3.2 The Core Strategy HRA Assessment is available here:

[https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0022/46138/ldf-a004-habitatsassessmentappraisal.pdf](https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0022/46138/ldf-a004-habitatsassessmentappraisal.pdf)

3.3 The HRA for the PDNPA core strategy concluded:

- 15 of the total of 35 policies in the Core Strategy are unlikely to have a significant effect on European sites, as they relate to broad strategic objectives, qualitative criteria and/or aim to protect and enhance the environment.
- More detailed assessment (Appropriate Assessment) was undertaken in relation to the remaining 20 policies and the emerging findings were discussed with Natural England.
- Of the remaining 20 policies that were subject to full Appropriate Assessment, six have been judged as unlikely to have any adverse effect on the integrity of European sites.

3.4 The HRA to inform the assessment of the second part of the Local Plan: the Development Management Policies, is here [https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/72360/DMP-Habitat-Regulations-Appraisal.pdf](https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/72360/DMP-Habitat-Regulations-Appraisal.pdf)

This concluded that:

*'The DMP Document has been subject to screening under the Habitats Regulations. All 67 policies have been considered in respect of the potential for likely significant effects upon any European site from the document, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. All 67 policies were screened out from the need for further assessment as they would have no likely significant effect either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.'*

**Table 1: Assessment of the HNBP policies and their likelihood of significant negative effects on European sites within a 15 km radius**

Policy	Summary of policy	Corresponding Policy from Core Strategy (other Local plan document policies have been included for clarity)	Summary of Core Strategy HRA (likelihood of significant negative effect)	Likelihood of negative significant effects of the HNBP policy/proposal on European sites within 15km radius of plan area.
E1 and E2 Protection and Enhancement of Hartington's landscape and ecology.	To respect the landscape's sensitivity, include appropriate landscaping, provide green infrastructure. Encourage a local Landscape Character Assessment.	Core Strategy GSP2 Development Management Policy DMC3	GSP2 has significant effect directly or indirectly as allows for major development within the National Park. However, there are safeguarding criteria including consideration of the valued characteristics/special qualities of the National Park.	Not at all likely.  Policy E1 Development proposals must be designed to deliver net gain in ecology and biodiversity within the parish ensuring local impacts are mitigated locally.  Policy E2 Development proposals must not fragment or disrupt habitat networks. This will support designated sites.
C1 Address the implications of climate change	To address the causes and impacts of climate change of future developments.	CC1	This policy states that the principles of sustainable development should guide all stages of the design. In addition, development would not result from this policy by itself. As such, this policy is not identified as having the potential for effects on N2K sites.	Not at all likely.  The policy sets out specific requirements of developments on site for renewable energy, EV charging, grey water recycling, local material use. These measures are unlikely to have an impact beyond the site boundary on the protected interests, other than a wide societal benefit of addressing climate change which is in the interests of ecology.
DB1 Development Boundary	To define the settlement boundary.	Core Strategy GSP2,DS1, HC2 Development Management Policy DMP1	Could directly or indirectly as allows for major development within the National Park. However, there are safeguarding criteria including consideration of the valued characteristics/special qualities of the National Park.	Not at all Likely. The Development Boundary includes no areas for major development. New development that is consistent with that permitted by the strategic development policy and PDNPA's Part 2 Local Plan "Development Management Policies", will be supported within the development boundary.  Outside this boundary only new farm buildings, other buildings necessary to sustain the viability of farms and conversions of existing buildings will be supported provided that they are consistent with the PDNPA's strategic development policy and Local Plan and Development Management Policies.

Policy	Summary of policy	Corresponding Policy from Core Strategy (other Local plan document policies have been included for clarity)	Summary of Core Strategy HRA (likelihood of significant negative effect)	Likelihood of negative significant effects of the HNPD policy/proposal on European sites within 15km radius of plan area.
DB2 Development Boundary	To define the development that is acceptable outside the settlement boundary.	Core Strategy GSP2, DS1, HC2 Development Management Policy DMP1	Could directly or indirectly as allows for major development within the National Park. However, there are safeguarding criteria including consideration of the valued characteristics/special qualities of the National Park.	Not at all Likely. New development that is consistent with that permitted by the strategic development policy and PDNPA's Part 2 Local Plan "Development Management Policies", will be supported within the development boundary.  Outside this boundary only new farm buildings, other buildings necessary to sustain the viability of farms and conversions of existing buildings will be supported provided that they are consistent with the PDNPA's strategic development policy and Local Plan and Development Management Policies.
H1, and H2 Provision of Affordable Housing	Supports the provision of affordable housing of a range and number to address local need. To comply with local lettings plan.	Core Strategy DS1, HC1, HC2, HC3, HC4 Development Management Policy DMH1 Supplementary Planning Guidance 'meeting the local need for affordable housing'	DS1: Adverse effect on site integrity uncertain HC1: Unlikely as it refers to broad strategic objectives. HC2, HC3, HC4 have significant effect directly or indirectly as allows for major development within the National Park. However, there are safeguarding criteria including consideration of the valued characteristics/special qualities of the National Park.	Not likely.  The policy sets out type and appearance of housing that is acceptable as a broad strategy, within the existing housing delivery policies in terms of location and need.



Policy	Summary of policy	Corresponding Policy from Core Strategy (other Local plan document policies have been included for clarity)	Summary of Core Strategy HRA (likeliness of significant negative effect)	Likeliness of negative significant effects of the HNP policy/proposal on European sites within 15km radius of plan area.
H3	Requires that conversion of heritage assets will be required to be primary residences	Core Strategy DS1, HC1, HC2, HC3, HC4 Development Management Policy DMH1	DS1: Adverse effect on site integrity uncertain HC1: Unlikely as it refers to broad strategic objectives. HC2, HC3, HC4 have significant effects directly or indirectly as allows for major development within the National Park. However, there are safeguarding criteria including consideration of the valued characteristics/special qualities of the National Park.	Not likely.  Conversions are acceptable in principle. The policy requires permanent residential occupation which is unlikely to have any greater effect on protected sites than holiday use.
ED1	Change of use of the public toilet facilities in Mill Lane will not be supported.	Development management policy DMS2 and HS4.	HS4 direct potential effects on sites  DMS2 Screened out	Not likely.  No plans for expansion of facilities. Policy only aims to maintain current provision
ED2	- Business uses are directed to existing buildings. If a new building is proposed for a business use, an assessment of the availability and suitability of existing buildings in the Development Boundary must first be undertaken.	Core Strategy policy E1	E1: Adverse effect on site integrity uncertain	The policy directs development into the Development Boundary and reduces risks around sites on the edge of the village being developed.  Other policies exist in relation to nature conservation and sequential decision making would give greater weight to these interests in the planning balance.

Policy	Summary of policy	Corresponding Policy from Core Strategy (other Local plan document policies have been included for clarity)	Summary of Core Strategy HRA (likelihood of significant negative effect)	Likelihood of negative significant effects of the HNDR policy/proposal on European sites within 15km radius of plan area.
ED3	Development of any new camping and caravan sites will not be supported. The extension or improvement of facilities at existing sites will not be supported unless the development offers landscape, ecological and amenity improvements.	Core Strategy policies RT3 and GPS2	RT3: Uncertain  GPS2 Uncertain	Not Likely.  The policy limits the development of new sites and the extension of existing sites unless ecological, landscape and amenity improvements are delivered.
ED4	To ensure the viability of existing retail services in Hartington, new shopping, and catering facilities on existing camping and/or caravan sites will not be supported.	Core strategy policy DS1 and Hc4	Adverse effect on site integrity uncertain	Not likely.  Reduces development in the HNDR area and directs facilities into the settlement away from protected sites.
T1, T2	Requirements for sustainable and active travel to be demonstrated and require provision of cycle parking.  Support of a link between the Tissington Trail and the village for cyclists	Core Strategy policy T1	T1: Unlikely to have significant effect	Unlikely.  Small scale effects likely and not likely to affect protected sites

Policy	Summary of policy	Corresponding Policy from Core Strategy (other Local plan document policies have been included for clarity)	Summary of Core Strategy HRA (likelihood of significant negative effect)	Likelihood of negative significant effects of the HNP policy/proposal on European sites within 15km radius of plan area.
T3, T4, T5	Policies seek to avoid loss of public parking, ensure domestic off street parking is protected and that commercial development is supported by travel plans.	Core Strategy policy T1, DM Policy DMS2, DMT8	T1: Unlikely to have significant effect  DMS2: Screened out (no likely significant effect)  DMT8: Screened out (no likely significant effect)	Unlikely.  Small scale effects likely and not likely to affect protected sites
S1, S2, S3	Adoption of Local Green Spaces, and provision of graveyard extension in LGS3 and playground and outdoor communal space within LGS2 and LGS6 as exceptions	Core Strategy Policies GSP3, and L1	L1: Unlikely to have significant effect	Unlikely.  Small scale effects likely and not likely to affect protected sites
S4	Support for community facilities to diversify into flexible working space where the community use is maintained.	Core Strategy policy HC4	HC4: Unlikely	Unlikely.  Small scale effects likely and not likely to affect protected sites

<b>Table 2 Analysis of HNBP in relation to issues of concern raised in HRA of Core Strategy</b>		
<b>Core Strategy Issue of concern</b>	<b>Extract from HRA of core strategy highlighting issues of concern where there is direct link between core strategy and HNBP.</b>	<b>Is core strategy issue also of concern in Hartington Neighbourhood Development Plan?</b>
Impact on drainage	“Other policies allowing for development may have some potential to affect drainage including Policy DS1 Development Strategy, Housing for key workers (Policy HC1) and businesses in the countryside (Policy E2).”	No. Development proposals are very small scale and confined to the existing built area of Hartington. Policies limit development outside the Development Boundary, particularly camping.
Impact on Water quality	“ . . . discharges into the River Wye within the Peak District SAC are impacting water quality (particularly in relation to phosphorous levels) in the context of the freshwater SAC species which the river is known to support.” “Additional development as a result of a range of policies including DS1 Development Strategy, policies associated with recreation and tourism (RT1, 2 and 3) and business development (E1 and E2) could potentially exacerbate this pressure via sewage discharges.”	No. Policies limit development outside the Development Boundary, particularly camping.
Impact on air quality	Modelling of air quality has predicted that Nitrogen/acid deposition is likely to have exceeded critical loads at Peak District Dales SAC, South Pennine Moors SAC & Peak District Moors SPA” “A number of these sites are in close proximity to settlements named within Policy DS1 where new build development will be acceptable for affordable housing, community facilities and small-scale retail and business premises.” “Transport policies of the plan are generally aimed at reducing the amount of traffic in the Park, although Policy T2 does allow for transport developments in exceptional circumstances where there would be a net environmental benefit and public interest would exceed a negative impact on the National Park.”	No. Any development permitted by HNBP, will be of such a small scale, and at a location so removed from the SAC/SPA sites, to have a negligible effect on air quality.
Human activity	“Human activity is a key pressure for the South Pennine Moors SAC, South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA and Peak District Moors SPA and can lead to impacts such as disturbance, predation and fires, although there is no detailed evidence to back this up. Human activity could increase where development is likely to take place in close proximity to these European Sites, for example, as a result of Policy DS1 Development Strategy.”	No. Any development permitted by HNBP will be of such a small scale, and at a location so removed from the SAC/SPA sites, to have a negligible effect on human activity

Core Strategy Issue of concern	Extract from HRA of core strategy highlighting issues of concern where there is direct link between core strategy and HNDDP.	Is core strategy issue also of concern in Hartington Neighbourhood Development Plan?
Hydrology	<p>“Peak District Moors SPA and South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA are sensitive to changes in hydrology - the Derbyshire Dales CAMS and Tame, Goyt and Etherow CAMS outline that catchments within the SPA are already over abstracted and over licensed. Increased demand on resources resulting from a larger population could heighten over-abstraction problems, particularly during summer months. There is potential for this to take place as a result of proposals in Policy DS1 Development Strategy.”</p>	<p>No. Any development permitted by HNDDP will be of such a small scale, to have a negligible effect on hydrology.</p>
Small scale wind turbine development	<p>“Low carbon and renewable energy development can affect biodiversity in a number of ways including barrier effects, potential for collisions between turbine blades and birds, disturbance and physical damage during construction. East Midlands RSS HRA states that species that are qualifying features of Peak District Moors SPA and South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA are sensitive to wind turbine development (golden plover being vulnerable to barrier effects and disturbance, and owls being vulnerable to collisions).”</p> <p>“Policy CC2 allows for low carbon and renewable energy development, subject to a number of criteria. Although only small scale wind turbine developments will be permitted, taking account of cumulative impacts, potential effects on key bird breeding areas remains an issue.”</p>	<p>No. HNDDP policies for renewables are relevant only for the parish of Hartington. Any development permitted by HNDDP will be of such a small scale, and at a location so removed from the SAC/SPA sites, to have a negligible effect.</p>

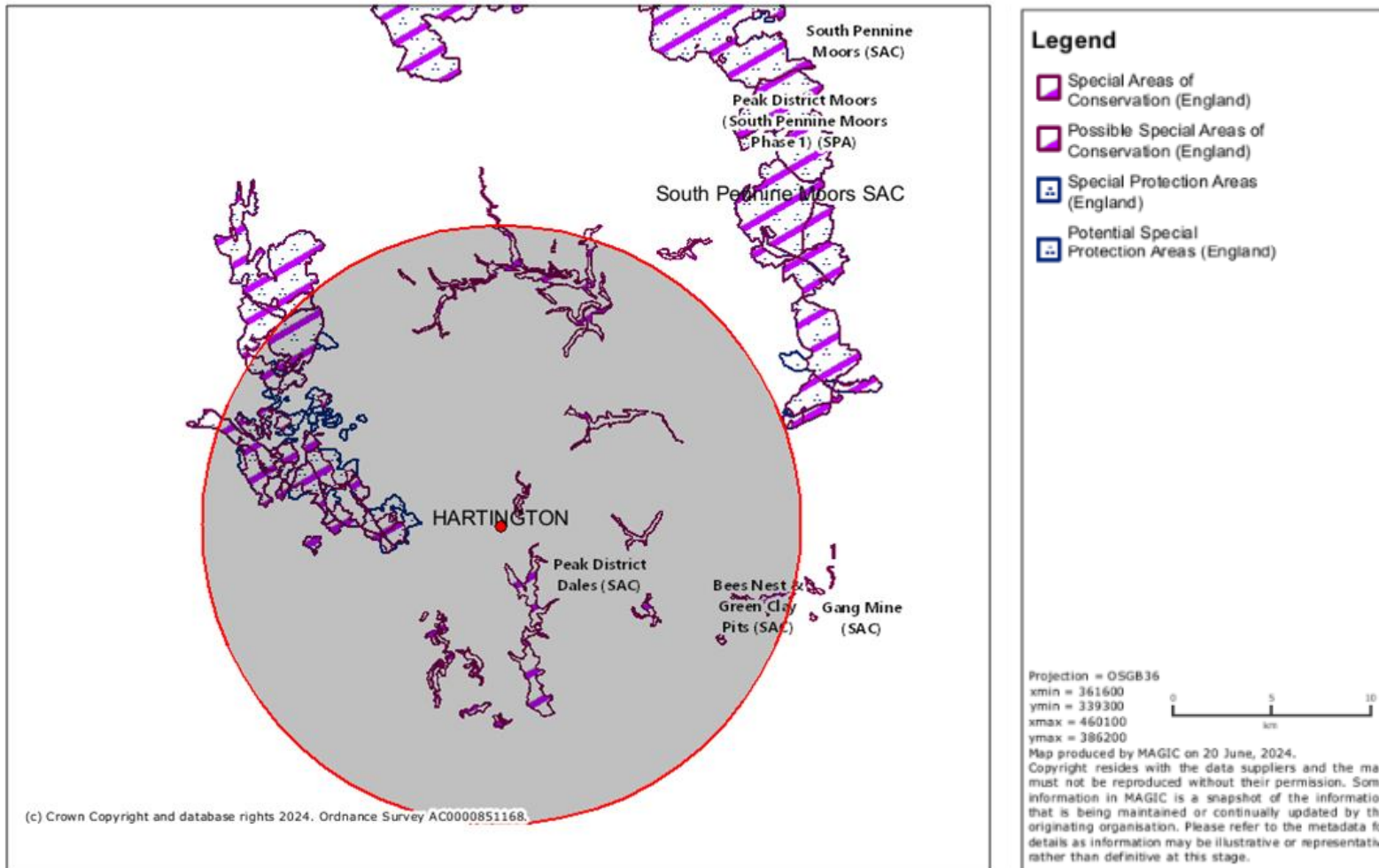
## 4. Conclusion of screening process

- 4.1 There is likely to be no significant effect of the Hartington Neighbourhood Development Plan on the European sites. Therefore, an Appropriate Assessment is not required.
- 4.2 In the tables below HNNDP policies are assessed for their likeliness of negative significant effects on European Sites within a 15km radius of the plan area. HNNDP must be in general conformity with strategic planning policy, so this assessment is made in the context of the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) undertaken for PDNPA Core Strategy, specifically the 'summary of appropriate assessment findings' (Table 1), and 'discussion of potential impacts' (Table 2). In combination effects are also considered.
- 4.3 Hartington Neighbourhood Development Plan is in conformity with the Peak District National Park Authority's Local Plan. The core strategy and Development Management Policy Document have undergone their own HRA – both a screening statement and for some policies a fuller 'appropriate assessment'.
- 4.4 Therefore, it can be concluded that where the HRA for the Local Plan has determined that a particular policy is 'unlikely to have an adverse effect on the integrity of a relevant European Sites, any HNNDP policy that conforms with it, similarly, is unlikely to have an adverse effect.
- 4.5 The core strategy HRA also determined that the effect of certain core strategy policies on the integrity of a relevant European Sites was 'uncertain'. Where these 'effect uncertain' policies are relevant to HNNDP they are also shown in Table 1.
- 4.6 In order to further test the likelihood of significant effects of the 'uncertain' policies, the core strategy HRA undertakes a more detailed assessment of these policies for the following criteria:
- impact on drainage,
  - impact on water quality,
  - impact on air quality,
  - human activity,
  - hydrology &
  - small-scale wind turbine development.
- 4.7 HNNDP policies that are judged to be in conformity with these 'uncertain' core strategy policies, are also further screened according to these criteria. This is shown in Table 2.
- 4.8 Both the Environment Agency and Natural England have been consulted on the Habitat Regulations Assessment. The Environment Agency (Appendix 2) noted on 18/10/2024 that there are no housing allocations within this proposed neighbourhood plan. They aim to reduce flood risk, while protecting and enhancing the water environment. They have had to focus their detailed engagement to those areas where the environmental risks are greatest. Based on the environmental constraints within the area, they therefore have no detailed comments to make in relation to HNNDP at this stage. Natural England (Appendix 3) responded on 24/10/24 and state that they agree with the conclusions of the 'Habitat Regulation Screening and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening' that there is likely to be no significant effect of the Hartington Neighbourhood Development Plan on European sites.

- 4.9 At the request of the Peak District National Park Authority an independent ecologist report has been carried out by the Pioneer Environment Group Ltd. This was completed on 16/11/2024 and states that *'Pioneer Environment Group Ltd, a registered ecological practice accredited by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), acknowledges and welcomes the screening report that assesses the need for a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Hartington Town Quarter Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan 2024-2039.*
- 4.10 Pioneer Environment Group Ltd agrees with the report's conclusion that the Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on any European Site, either alone or in combination. Therefore, no further assessment under the Habitats Regulations is required (Appendix 4).

## 5. Appendix 1: Map of Hartington neighbourhood development plan area in relation to European sites

**MAGiC** European Sites forming part of the National Site Network within 15km of Hartington





## 6. Appendix 2 Report by the Environment Agency on the Habitat Regulations Assessment

Ms Jane Newman  
Policy and Communities Team  
Peak District National Park Authority  
Aldern House  
Baslow Road  
Bakewell  
Derbyshire  
DE45 1AE

**Our ref:** LT/2006/000238/OR-  
11/PO1-L01

**Your ref:**

**Date:** 18 October 2024

Dear Ms Newman

### Hartington Neighbourhood Plan 2024-2039

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on your Draft Neighbourhood Plan. We are a statutory consultee in the planning process providing advice to Local Authorities and developers on pre-application enquiries, planning applications, appeals and strategic plans.

The Environment Agency notes that there are no housing allocations within this proposed neighbourhood plan.

We aim to reduce flood risk, while protecting and enhancing the water environment. We have had to focus our detailed engagement to those areas where the environmental risks are greatest.

Based on the environmental constraints within the area, we therefore have no detailed comments to make in relation to your Plan at this stage. However together with Natural England, English Heritage and Forestry Commission we have published joint advice on neighbourhood planning which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans. This is available at: [http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/LIT\\_6524\\_7da381.pdf](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/LIT_6524_7da381.pdf)

Yours sincerely

**Ms Lydia Bond**  
**Planning Specialist**

Direct dial 0208 4745166

Direct e-mail [lydia.bond@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:lydia.bond@environment-agency.gov.uk)

## 7. Appendix 3 Report by Natural England on the Habitat Regulation Assessment

From: **SM-NE-Consultations (NE)** <[consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk)>  
Date: Thu, 24 Oct 2024 at 09:06  
Subject: RE: Consultation re HRA Hartington Neighbourhood Plan  
To: [janenewmanplanning@gmail.com](mailto:janenewmanplanning@gmail.com) <[janenewmanplanning@gmail.com](mailto:janenewmanplanning@gmail.com)>  
Cc: ENQ-WRI2024/10628/[CON1@naturalengland.ecase.co.uk](mailto:CON1@naturalengland.ecase.co.uk) <ENQ-WRI2024/10628/[CON1@naturalengland.ecase.co.uk](mailto:CON1@naturalengland.ecase.co.uk)>

Dear Jane Newman

Apologies for the delay in getting this response to you. There seems to have been a processing error, and the consultation was closed but this response was not sent. Please see Sandra's original wording below.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Jones  
Manager  
Natural England  
Consultation Service  
Natural England, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, U.K., WR5 2NP  
Email: [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/natural-england](http://www.gov.uk/natural-england)

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**Our ref: 487223**

Dear Jane

Thank you for your consultation. Natural England agree with the conclusion of the 'Habitat Regulation Screening and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening' that there is likely to be no significant effect of the Hartington Neighbourhood Development Plan on European sites.

Kind regards

Sandra

**Sandra Close**  
**Sustainable Development Higher Officer**  
**Natural England**  
**East Midlands**

## 8. Appendix 4 Report by the Pioneer Environment Group Ltd on the Habitat Regulation Assessment



Pioneer Environment  
Spring Farm, Spring Lane,  
Wymondham, LE14 2AY

Tel: 0116 350 0370

Email: [office@pioneerenvironment.co.uk](mailto:office@pioneerenvironment.co.uk)  
Web: [www.pioneerenvironment.co.uk](http://www.pioneerenvironment.co.uk)

Date: 16.11.2024

Our Reference: PEG589

Dear Keith Quine,

### **Hartington Town Quarter Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan 2024-2039 - Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report**

Thank you for your consultation on the document dated 1st November 2024, which we received on 8th November 2024.

Pioneer Environment Group Ltd, a registered ecological practice accredited by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), acknowledges and welcomes the screening report that assesses the need for a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Hartington Town Quarter Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan 2024-2039.

We can confirm that the implementation of the Hartington Town Quarter Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan is unlikely to result in any significant environmental effects.

Pioneer Environment Group Ltd agrees with the report's conclusion that the Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on any European Site, either alone or in combination. Therefore, no further assessment under the Habitats Regulations is required.

I hope that this information is of use to you at this time. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Woolley MCIEEM

Director