

Derbyshire Local Transport Plan 3 2011 - 2026



DERBYSHIRE
County Council
Improving life for local people

Habitats Regulations Assessment Statement October 2010

Introduction

Derbyshire County Council is required to produce a Local Transport Plan (LTP) under the Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008. A new LTP is being developed to commence in April 2011. As part of the LTP development, the County Council is required to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment under the European Directive 92/43/ECC, known as the Habitats Directive, and have been transposed in England by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, which are referred to as the Habitats and Species Regulations within this document.

The Habitats and Species Regulations provide legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Protection is provided by the establishment and conservation of a Europe-wide network of sites, known as Natura 2000. These sites are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) as designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC).

Selection of European Sites to examine

The Habitats and Species Regulations require the County Council to consider whether the Derbyshire LTP3 is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or species. To do this we undertook two screening exercises which determined that the LTP alone, or in-combination, is unlikely to have a significant effect on a European site or species.

To come to this conclusion we examined European sites within the County and also sites located outside within a 15km buffer-zone to ensure that we considered potential cross-boundary effects. The table on the next page lists the sites that we examined. The locations are shown on maps 1 and 2.

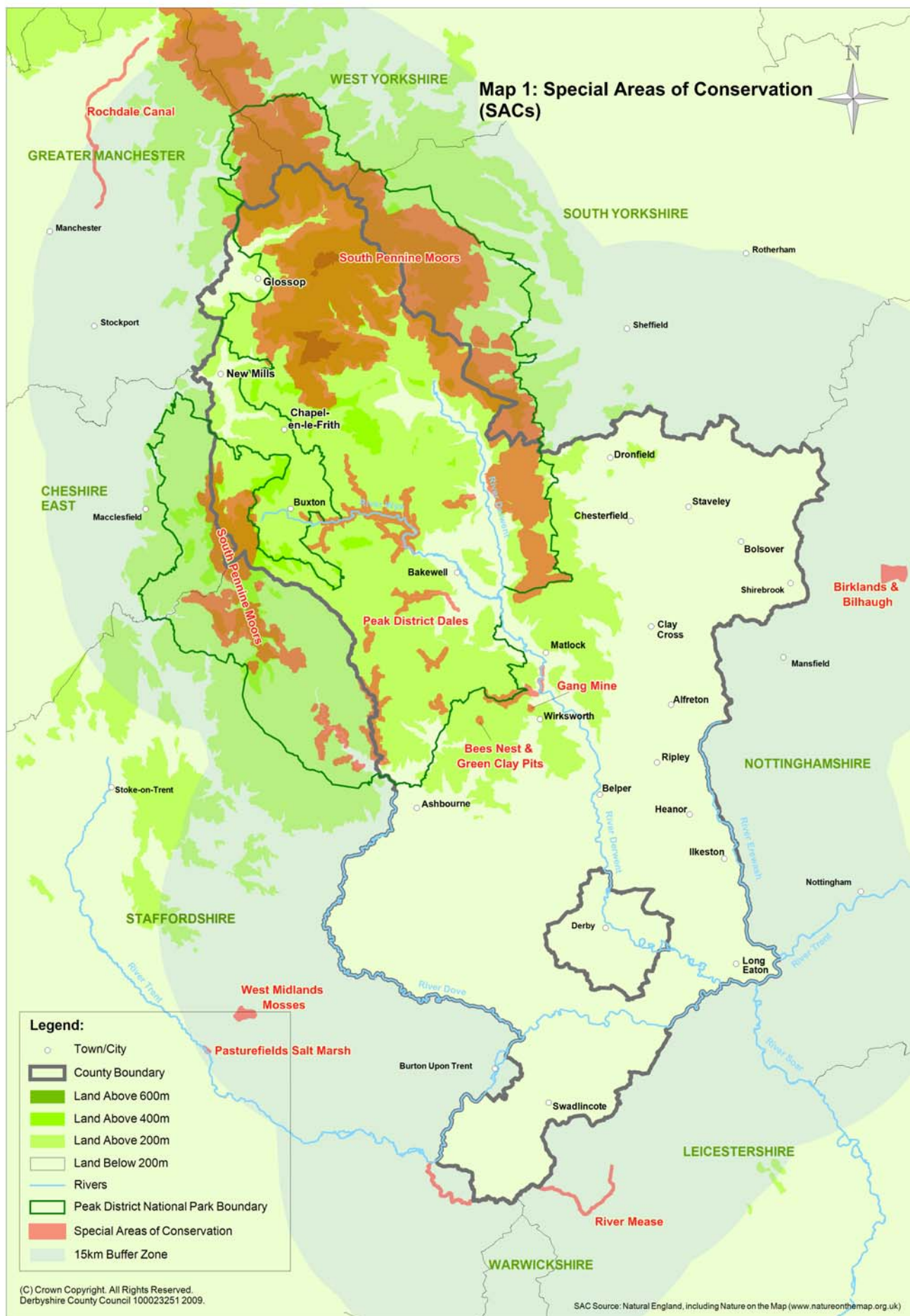
European Sites examined for the Derbyshire Local Transport Plan 3

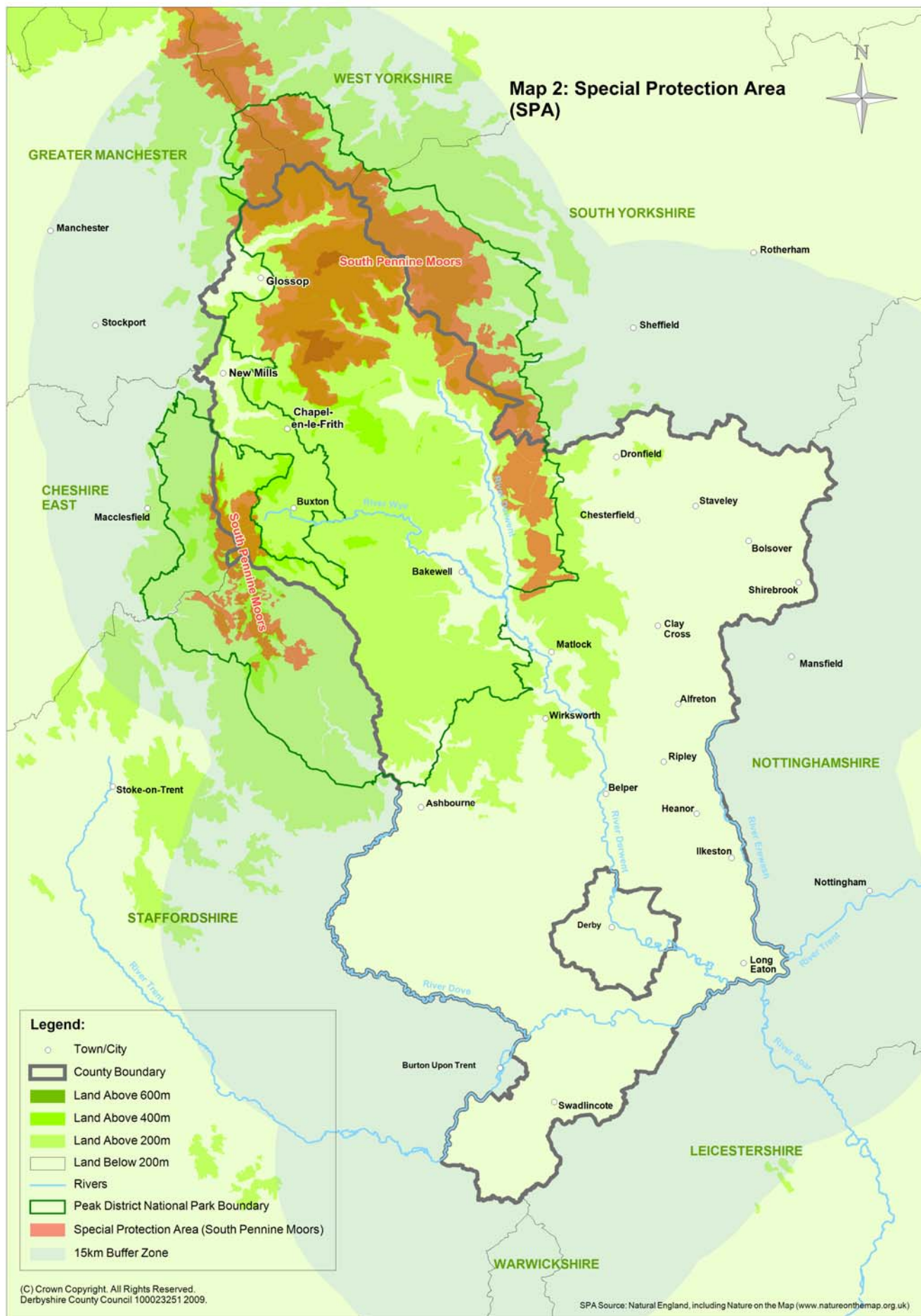
Site Name	Distance from Derbyshire County Boundary	Summary of Reasons for Designation
Bees Nest & Green Clay Pits SAC	Within Derbyshire	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. This site is also considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom for great crested newts.
Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC	6.9km from Derbyshire boundary in Nottinghamshire	Selected for old acidophilous oak woods, noted for its rich invertebrate fauna.
Gang Mine SAC	Within Derbyshire	Is an example of Calaminarian grasslands in an anthropogenic context in northern England. Natural limestone outcrops supporting species typical of calaminarian grasslands are rare and small. This has been chosen to provide an example of the habitat type on sedimentary rocks.
Pasture Fields Salt Marsh SAC	14.1km from Derbyshire boundary in Staffordshire	This is the only known site in the UK of a natural salt spring with inland saltmarsh vegetation.
Peak District Dales SAC	Within Derbyshire	Site has been selected for number of habitats and species. Habitats are mainly related to calcareous areas – semi natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates; Tillio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines; European dry heaths; Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae; Alkaline fens; Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels; Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation. Species are related to those living in the River Dove – White-clawed Crayfish; Brook Lamprey; and Bulhead.
River Mease SAC	Within Derbyshire extending into buffer zone	Habitat is a watercourse of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitans and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation. Species are Spined Loach for which the river is one of only four known outstanding localities in the UK; Bullhead; White-clawed Crayfish; and Otter.
Rochdale Canal SAC	11.5km from Derbyshire boundary in Greater Manchester	Has been selected for supporting a significant population of floating water-plantain in a botanically diverse water plant community.
South Pennine Moors SAC	Within Derbyshire extending into buffer zone	Has been selected for a number of habitat types – European dry heaths; Blanket Bogs which are a priority feature and is the most south-easterly occurrence in Europe; Old Sessile woods with Ilex and Blechnum around the fringes of upland heath and bogs; Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix; and Transition mires and quaking bogs.
South Pennine Moors SPA ¹	Within Derbyshire extending into buffer zone	Site is of importance for several upland breeding species, including birds of prey and waders. During the breeding season the site is of importance for Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon and Dunlin.
West Midlands Mosses SAC	8.7km from Derbyshire boundary in Staffordshire	Contains three pools which are examples of natural dystrophic lakes and ponds in the lowlands of England and Wales. Also Transition mires and quaking bogs.

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

Notes:

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





Pre-screening results

In October 2009 we produced a report for consultation with Natural England which included an initial assessment of each of the European sites as listed in the table on page 2. The assessment looked at the key environmental conditions that were required to maintain and support the integrity of the site. This assessment is reproduced and updated to take account of the draft Derbyshire LTP3 strategy in Annex 1 to this statement.

The results were that we identified three issues that could arise during the implementation of the Derbyshire LTP3 that potentially would have an effect on European sites. At the time we had considered scoping these out because we believed that they would not be significant issues. But following consultation with Natural England we agreed to examine the issues in more detail. The three issues were:-

Disturbance due to visitors and tourism pressure – five SACs and the SPA are vulnerable to disturbance from an increase in visitors

Air quality – two SACs are already exceeding critical loads related to air quality

Water quality – two SACs are vulnerable to decreases in water quality, for which highway drainage should be considered

Full Screening

Alongside the development of Derbyshire LTP3, we sought more evidence to investigate the three issues. In June 2010 we produced a second screening report again for consultation with Natural England setting out the findings of this further analysis. Because the results concluded that there were unlikely to be any significant impacts, we also sought the views of the Peak District National Park, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, RSPB and the Local Biodiversity Partnerships.

A summary of the findings of our further analysis was:-

Recreational Disturbance and damage

To examine the potential for further recreational damage to flora and soils at five sites, listed below, we used data from Moors for the Future Partnership¹ relating to footpath condition within the Peak District moorlands. We used this as a proxy because the moorlands were subject to high levels of walking and peat soils were identified through our strategic environmental assessment as most vulnerable to erosion.

Sites vulnerable to damage to flora and soils

- Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC
- Gang Mine SAC
- Peak District Dales SAC
- South Pennine Moors SAC
- West Midlands Mosses SAC

In terms of impact on flora, only 2.9% of surveyed footpaths were classified in the worst two categories for bare ground (where bare ground was 2.7 metres or more). 0.6% were in a similar category for worn vegetation and 9.1% had soil structure damaged and evidence of water scarification. The surveyed footpaths

¹ An organisation which is working to reverse 150 years of damage to the Peak District moorlands bare of vegetation

included the very busy Pennine Way. Where damage has occurred, mitigation measures such as stone flagging of footpaths were restoring areas of vegetation. This data showed that even where footpaths were heavily used the resulting damage was localised and could be mitigated. Therefore we concluded that further damage from the LTP was unlikely to be a significant issue that required further assessment. However the implementation of LTP should recognise the importance that footpath restoration works such as stone flagging can have in protecting and enhancing habitats.

To examine the potential for further disturbance from recreation within the South Pennine Moors SPA in relation to five species of bird, listed below, we used an analysis of moorland breeding bird distribution and change in the Peak District undertaken by the Moors for the Future Partnership.

- Golden Plover
- Merlin
- Peregrine
- Short-eared owl
- Dunlin

This analysis did not focus on all these species, but it did consider the impact of disturbance on ground nesting birds, [of which four of the species are ground nesting] which are more vulnerable to disturbance from walking. The analysis concluded that ground nesting waders, such as Golden Plover did avoid habitats close to footpaths. However, over a wider habitat this impact was minimal on overall population density. The study also found that populations of birds considered sensitive to visitor pressures were actually on the increase within the Peak District e.g. Merlin populations have increased since the 1970s alongside considerable increases in recreational pressures. Therefore we concluded that although there may be localised issues, further disturbance from the LTP was unlikely to be a significant issue that required further assessment. However, the implementation of LTP should recognise that local management techniques such as keeping dogs on leads during the nesting season should minimise any localised issues.

Air Quality

Air quality was identified as a potential issue for two SACs. Bees Nest and Green Clay Pits was screened out because it was located close to a minor road which was extremely unlikely to be subject to a significant increase in traffic during the LTP period – up to 2026.

The second SAC was Peak District Dales. We did not have any specific data on air quality within the SAC so to examine the baseline situation we used data from an air quality monitoring station located at Ladybower, which offered a rural context and a station in Chesterfield to provide an urban context as a proxy. We compared these with a threshold of $30\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) for protection of vegetation and ecosystems as given within UK Air Quality Standards Regulations 2007. The results were that annual averages of NO_2 were well below thresholds, even within an urban context ($17.8\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ was the highest level recorded, in Chesterfield). To consider the future situation we modelled air quality using traffic forecasts and formulae contained within the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. Although this uses a number of assumptions it showed that air quality was likely to improve over the plan period. Therefore we concluded that air quality was unlikely to be a significant issue that required further assessment.

Nitrogen deposition

Since this conclusion on air quality was made, through the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), we have considered nitrogen deposition, which was raised as a potential issue relating to the development of the Waste Core Strategy. The screening stage identified that nitrogen deposition was also an issue at Peak District SAC and Bees Nest and Green Clay Pits SAC. To examine this we considered all SSSIs in Derbyshire, of which some are included within the SACs. Habitats within 500metres of a road were considered most at risk. Using data from the Air Pollution Information System website we examined a number of sites that were either dissected or close to roads. We found that most sites exceeded threshold levels. However, it was difficult to make a correlation between higher traffic levels and higher deposition levels because lower trafficked roads appeared to have similar levels of nitrogen deposition than high trafficked roads. Indeed data from further distances from the road did not show levels significantly reduce either. One factor that seemed to have a role was topography, with higher levels experienced in valleys.

Within the SEA we concluded that although we could not model the impact of the LTP, we could make an assumption that should the LTP seek to reduce the use of motorised transport that this would have a positive effect on the sites. The draft LTP contains many measures to help reduce the rate of traffic growth and to encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport. Therefore we have concluded that the plan will not significantly increase nitrogen deposition over the LTP period and should provide a positive effect.

Water Quality

Water quality was identified as a potential significant impact for two SACs, River Mease and Peak District Dales. As part of our SEA we considered water quality and traffic-related water pollution. Through this we only found one instance where highway run-off was causing damage to a SSSI and a mitigation measure is planned for 2010/11. Therefore, we concluded that any instances of traffic-related water pollution is likely to be localised and not a strategic issue for further consideration.

Conclusions

The results of the two screening stages and the work undertaken in conjunction through the Strategic Environmental Assessment of LTP3 found that it was unlikely that the implementation of Derbyshire LTP3 would have a significant impact upon the Special Protection Area and Special Areas of Conservation contained within Derbyshire or the 15km buffer-zone. We therefore concluded that under the Habitats and Species Regulations there is no requirement for the Authority to undertake an Appropriate Assessment.

As previously mentioned, we consulted Natural England and a number of other organisations with an environmental interest about the results of the full screening stage. No comments were received contrary to the conclusion made. It should be noted that Nitrogen Deposition was scoped out during the first two screening stages and we will seek further clarification with Natural England about this during the consultation on the draft Derbyshire LTP3.

Ensuring Protection and Enhancement of European sites

Alongside this Habitats and Species Regulations assessment, we are currently consulting upon the draft Derbyshire LTP3 strategy and the Strategic Environmental Assessment: Environmental Report. The screening stage was used to inform the development of the draft strategy and recommendations within the Environmental Report. Therefore within this statement, we can now set out how the draft plan will protect and enhance European sites in relation to recreational damage and disturbance, air quality and nitrogen deposition and water quality.

The draft Derbyshire LTP3 strategy has a strong focus on protecting and enhancing the environment through one of its transport goals:

- **Improving quality of life and promoting a healthy natural environment**

The draft LTP3 strategy contains a number of measures to provide positive effects on the environmental issues examined through the Habitats and Species Regulations assessment:-

- **Cycleway and rights of way maintenance** – will consider potential damage and disturbance to habitats and species
- **Managing special road verges to preserve biodiversity** – can consider verges where nitrogen deposition is currently an issue
- **Habitat protection for plants and wildlife** – will consider potential damage and disturbance to habitats and species
- **Improve access to public/ green space** – will consider potential damage and disturbance to habitats and species
- **Support tourism growth** – will consider potential damage and disturbance to habitats and species
- **Vehicle technology** – will consider vehicle emissions
- **Green infrastructure** – will consider linking up habitats

In addition to these there are many measures to reduce the growth of motorised traffic and to encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport; and to encourage sustainable tourism, these include:-

- Supported bus services
- Quality bus corridors
- Support for more demand responsive transport services
- Community rail
- Walking facilities and networks
- Cycling facilities and networks
- Better promotion of existing opportunities for walking and cycling
- Parking controls
- Reducing DCC commuter mileage
- Personalised travel planning
- Liaison between spatial and transport planning on an ongoing basis

The Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Derbyshire LTP3 has set out the following objectives, of relevance to protecting and enhancing to European Sites:-

- **Protect and enhance the landscape character (landscapes, townscapes and the historic and natural environment) including the setting of heritage assets, of the whole plan area**

This objective contains a sub-objective to 'Prevent damage to the landscape, and biodiversity assets within it, due to increases in recreational walking, cycling, motorcycling etc

- **Protect and enhance nature (biodiversity, geodiversity, wildlife flora and fauna) and take measures to reduce habitat fragmentation and enhance connectivity**
- **To reduce motorised traffic growth through a combination of demand management measures, land use planning and encouragement of the use of more sustainable transport modes**

Annex 1 Screening Summary Table for Derbyshire LTP3

[illegible]

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

Site Name	Qualifying Features*	Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts arising from Derbyshire LTP3	Is there a risk of significant effect?	Possible impacts from other trends, plans etc	Is there a risk of significant 'in combination' effects?
Peak District Dales SAC (continued)	<p>Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>violetalia calaminariae</i></p> <p>Alkaline fens</p> <p>Calcareous and clacshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i>)/ Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation</p>	<p>play an important role in management. Control of invasive species required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of suitable habitat with characteristic species assemblages, and substrate enriched with heavy metals, areas of bare ground with characteristically short sward structure and suitably low levels of dead plant matter • Sporadic management such as occasional light grazing • Appropriate management, usually in the form of light grazing, is required to maintain sward structure and composition. • Control of inappropriate and invasive species. • Hydrology, water quality and air quality must be maintained. Although groundwater levels need to be high, standing water may be detrimental for alkaline fen communities. • Maintenance of the extent of habitat with characteristic pioneer calcicole and basiphilous species • Maintenance of natural processes such as erosion 				

Site Name	Qualifying Features*	Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts arising from Derbyshire LTP3	Is there a risk of significant effect?	Possible impacts from other trends, plans etc	Is there a risk of significant 'in combination' effects?
Peak District Dales SAC (continued)	<p>White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>)</p> <p>Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>)/ Bullhead (<i>Cottus gobio</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of extent of habitat and water quality • The absence of introduced species and crayfish plague is especially important and can be introduced by human activity, therefore maintaining visitor awareness initiatives, sympathetic management of fishery practices and regular monitoring is important. • River's natural structure and form should be maintained to support a natural flow regime that will help ensure the provision of resting pools for fish, conserve the quality of the riverbed as fish spawning habitat and avoid the creation of artificial barriers to the passage of migratory fish • Any exploitation of fish populations or other native animals or plants should be at a sustainable level, without manipulation of the rivers capacity to support them or augmentation by excessive stocking. 				

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

Site Name	Qualifying Features*	Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts arising from Derbyshire LTP3	Is there a risk of significant effect?	Possible impacts from other trends, plans etc	Is there a risk of significant 'in combination' effects?
River Mease SAC (Continued)	Otter (<i>Lutra Lutra</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> support them or augmentation by excessive stocking. The absence of introduced/ alien species is important. Maintenance of terrestrial habitat with cover; shelter and holt sites provided by dense scrub and mature trees along river banks. Maintenance of suitably low levels of disturbance. 				
Rochdale Canal SAC	Floating water plantain (<i>Luronium natans</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance of open situations with a moderate degree of disturbance where growth of emergent vegetation is held in check. Maintenance of water levels 	None. Site integrity has no relation to transport issues.	No	None	No
South Pennine Moors SAC	European Dry Heaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate heathland management is required to maintain the extent of the heaths, the structural diversity including undisturbed dwarf shrub, varied age structure and vegetational mosaic. Grazing plays an important role in this management. The control of inappropriate and invasive species is required. Specific grouse moor management contributes to the maintenance of habitat mosaic. Maintaining hydrological conditions as wet heaths require wet soils during winter with a dry surface in summer. Also importance of water quality, including lack of eutrophication and maintenance of oligotrophic character. Air pollution and atmospheric deposition is likely to be an important cause of eutrophication for wet and dry heaths. 	Some sites are vulnerable to increased visitor pressure which the Plan may contribute to increasing tourism by improving rights of way and building new greenways however these will be expected to protect sensitive locations.	No	Unlikely to be any transport proposals in this area that could be undertaken to support any development. However, the HRA of the RSS states that the SP Moors SAC is under multiple development-related pressures relating to the Housing Market Areas, which may create adverse effects e.g. increases in traffic	No Development options are being addressed through the East Midlands Regional Plan Partial Review Process

Site Name	Qualifying Features*	Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts arising from Derbyshire LTP3	Is there a risk of significant effect?	Possible impacts from other trends, plans etc	Is there a risk of significant 'in combination' effects?
South Pennine Moors SAC (Continued)	<p>Blanket Bogs/ Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix/ Transition mires and quaking bogs</p> <p>Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of habitat extent and species composition are important for this habitat, with some areas requiring management of scrub encroachment in addition to minimising the levels of trampling and damage from recreational activities including fire-setting. • Mires and bogs are sensitive to changes in hydrology and maintenance of natural regimes, water quality, and avoidance of water table lowering are important factors. • Areas that have suffered previous damaging activities require enhancement including revegetation of bare peat, increased vegetational diversity in response to past heavy sheep grazing and a reduction of erosion through gullying. • Appropriate woodland management is required in particular to maintain natural processes and create a diverse woodland structure, allow tree regeneration potential, control invasive species and support characteristic species and habitat types. • To increase the extent of native character woodland without detriment to other key habitats. 				

Site Name	Qualifying Features*	Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity	Possible impacts arising from Derbyshire LTP3	Is there a risk of significant effect?	Possible impacts from other trends, plans etc	Is there a risk of significant 'in combination' effects?
South Pennine Moors SPA	<p>Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)</p> <p>Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)</p> <p>Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)</p> <p>Short Eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)</p> <p>Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of the extent of suitable habitat mosaic including areas of tall mature heath and grass sward suitable for nesting short-eared owl and merlin whilst maintaining shorter, recently grazed and burnt areas suitable for nesting golden plover. • Maintaining low-levels of disturbance and predation are especially important for ground nesting birds and management of human access should direct disturbance away from sensitive areas. Predator control may be required. • Maintenance of the extent of habitats suitable for providing adequate food supply such as small mammals, nesting birds and invertebrates. 	Some sites are vulnerable to increased visitor pressure which the Plan may contribute to increasing tourism by improving rights of way and building new greenways however these will be expected to protect sensitive locations and regularising routes we would expect to lead to less disturbance in any case.	No	Unlikely to be any transport proposals in this area that could be undertaken to support any development. Therefore unlikely to be any in combination effects.	No
West Midlands Mosses SAC	<p>Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds</p> <p>Transition mires and quaking bogs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of habitat extent and suitable conditions for characteristic species are important for these habitats. • Management of scrub encroachment and natural succession required to reduce nutrient enrichment. • Levels of disturbance such as trampling and damage from recreational activities should be maintained at appropriate levels. • These habitats are sensitive to changes in hydrology and maintenance of natural regimes, and characteristic water quality and chemistry are important factors. 	The site is vulnerable to increased visitor pressure but given its location, it is very unlikely that the Plan will contribute to increasing disturbance from tourism or recreational activities.	No	Unlikely that any development would be supported by measures through the Derbyshire LTP.	No

Notes

Qualifying Features:-

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

Sources of Information

Key Environmental Conditions to support site integrity:-

Environmental conditions have been taken from the East Midlands RSS Partial Review Habitats Regulations Assessment Pre-Screening Report October 2008, except:

Pasture Fields Saltmarsh SAC - Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Local Development Framework: Information to Inform the Appropriate Assessment of the Core Strategy May 2008

Rochdale SAC – taken from Screening Opinion of the Impact of the Rochdale MBC Biodiversity and Development Supplementary Planning Document on the Rochdale SAC 2007