

Screening Report
for
Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-
Trent Core Spatial Strategy

July 2008

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1. Legislative background

1.1 The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/1843) came into force on 21 August 2007 and are explicit in their requirement that plan making authorities must make an appropriate assessment of the implications for European sites of land use plans if (the plan):-

(a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site in Great Britain 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,

1.2 Land use plans included a Local Development Document as provided for in Part 2 (local development) of the 2004 Planning Act other than a statement of community involvement under section 18 (statement of community involvement) of that Act.

1.3 'European sites' are:-

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), for habitats;
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs), for birds.

1.4 Paragraph 6 of PPS9 states that it is government policy that potential SPAs, candidate SACs and Ramsar sites should also be regarded as 'European sites' within this context.

2 Screening

2.1 Before a full Appropriate Assessment is required it must be considered whether, either alone or in combination with other plans, the Core Spatial Strategy (CSS) is likely to have significant effects upon a European site. This process is called 'Screening' and ensures that only plans and projects that ARE likely to have significant effects on European sites and are NOT directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site undergo an Appropriate Assessment.

2.2 The screening stage comprises four steps:

1. Determining whether the project or plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site;
2. Describing the project or plan and the description and characterisation of other projects or plans that in combination have the potential for having significant effects on the European site;
3. Identifying the potential effects on the European site;
4. Assessing the significance of any effects on the European site.

- 2.3 An additional step has been added to this staged process which is not explicitly identified in the European Guidance. Step 2a has been included to assess *which* European sites should be considered within screening. Due to the potentially wide-ranging effects of the CSS the following categories of European sites have been included within the screening.
- a) All European sites within the plan area *and*
 - b) European sites identified by Natural England as potentially likely to be affected *and*
 - c) Any other European site where it is considered that likely significant effects could occur.

Step 1 – Directly connected or necessary?

- 2.4 The CSS is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European sites as it establishes the strategic planning policies to guide the sustainable development of the borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme and the city of Stoke-on-Trent. The CSS is not a site allocation plan.

Step 2 – Describing the CSS and other plans/projects

The Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Core Spatial Strategy

- 2.5 The CSS provides the statutory planning bedrock to develop and support detailed planning policies, guidance and programmes to secure the long term sustainable regeneration of North Staffordshire for a twenty year period to 2026. It provides the springboard for development in accordance with the principles of sustainable development; in broad conformity with national and regional planning policy and to give spatial expression to approved and emerging community strategies.
- 2.6 The CSS provides a spatial portrait of the plan area; a set of strategic visions and aims; a number of bespoke area spatial strategies and a set of complementary core strategic policies. The CSS includes details on implementation and a comprehensive monitoring regime is set in place to measure the impact of the CSS.
- 2.7 At the Revised Preferred Option 'Draft Spatial Options' (March 2007) stage of the CSS three options for growth were presented. These being:-
- *Rural Dispersal – the progressive urbanisation of the North Staffordshire countryside in the form of expanded villages,*

new settlements and peripheral expansion of the conurbation into the surrounding Green Belt;

- *Uniform Conurbation Development – development spread uniformly across the conurbation in response to expediency;*
- *Targeted Regeneration – focussing regeneration within specified areas with investment being directed towards rejuvenation of our centres, priority intervention areas and bringing forward strategic development opportunities.*

- 2.8 It was considered that the Rural Dispersal option and the Uniform Conurbation Development option fail the basic tests of sustainability and soundness. They performed poorly in the sustainability appraisal (SA) of the Revised Preferred Options, raised major and irreconcilable conflicts with national and regional planning policies (such as protecting natural assets) and do not address the real and present regeneration issues and challenges facing North Staffordshire.
- 2.9 It was concluded that the Targeted Regeneration option would be the most sustainable as well as being the most deliverable, flexible and 'least risky' within the overall context of the North Staffordshire emerging Regeneration strategy. This option now provides the strategic thrust of the CSS.

The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy

- 2.10 The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) was published in June 2004 and forms part of the statutory development plan for the plan area. The RSS is currently being reviewed and the Preferred Option stage of Phase Two has been submitted to the Secretary of State.
- 2.11 The RSS Preferred Option sets out the figure for the amount of new housing within Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent between 2006 to 2026. This figure is set at 5,700 dwellings for Newcastle and 11,400 dwellings for Stoke.
- 2.12 As the CSS is being prepared in advance of the adoption of these revisions it must be sufficiently flexible to ensure the continued conformity with the emerging regional spatial policy or any revised strategic development targets.
- 2.13 Both phases one and two of the review of West Midlands RSS have undergone an Appropriate Assessment. A number of potential adverse effects were identified within the RSS AA process. Out of these effects, increases in diffuse air pollution, increases in contaminants from urban surface water runoff flowing directly into watercourses and reduction of water supply to sites were considered to have potential to have in combination effects upon those sites which may be affected by the CSS.

- 2.14 The result of the AAs for phases one and two of the West Midlands RSS was the introduction of new policy in order to remove the predicted likely significant effect (LSE) on a European site as a direct (or in combination) effect of the RSS.
- 2.15 The degree to which policies within the RSS may both increase or decrease diffuse air pollution and therefore, the LSE of the RSS on European sites could not be quantified. However, new policy was introduced to focus on air quality at the regional level and to integrate the regional approach into local planning guidance. Air quality strategies, Local Transport Plans (LTP) and Local Development Frameworks (LDF) were highlighted as of particular importance in tackling this issue.
- 2.16 To mitigate the effect of the RSS on water quality from urban run-off new policy wording was introduced to tighten up the requirement for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and the achievement of the Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) standards for water and energy consumption within new development.
- 2.17 The Water Resources Plans produced by the water companies that serve the region are key documents that will assist in the determination of the LSE of the RSS on water supply to European sites. These are currently at a draft stage and the phasing of the development as required by the RSS will be dependant on the results of these plans and the effect of new development on the European sites. However, in the interim, the emphasis within the RSS is on water neutral development and retro-fitting water conservation measures.

Other plans/projects

- 2.18 Local Development Framework documents for neighbouring authorities (which border the plan area) have been considered inline with the current consensus which involves considering plans and their potential effects at a similar level to the one being assessed. However, no plan is beyond the Issues and Options stage and therefore not sufficiently complete to allow consideration. The plans are:
- Staffordshire Moorlands Core Strategy (Issues/Options)
 - Stafford Borough Core Strategy (Issues/Options)
 - North Shropshire Core Strategy (evidence gathering)
 - Crewe and Nantwich Core Strategy (Issues/Options)
 - Congleton Core Strategy (Issues/Options)
- 2.19 In addition to the above, the following plans, relevant to the CSS, have been assessed.

North Staffordshire Local Transport Plan

- 2.20 The North Staffordshire Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2006/07–2010/11 has been prepared jointly by Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Staffordshire County Council. It replaces the 2001/02–2005/06 Stoke-on-Trent Local Transport Plan and also covers areas of Staffordshire, namely urban Newcastle-under-Lyme and parts of the adjoining Staffordshire Moorlands that were covered by the Staffordshire Local Transport Plan 2001/02-2005/06.
- 2.21 The plan is based around the locally identified priority of regeneration together with shared transport priorities agreed between Government and the Local Government Association. It identifies how these priorities will be delivered in North Staffordshire both within the five-year life of this plan, and what is expected to be achieved over a longer timescale of 15 years. It focuses on how important it is to work with our partners both within our own local planning and highway authorities and with other agencies and transport providers, and the need to fully engage in consultation processes.
- 2.22 The strategy has been developed by looking at a variety of information. This included:
- North Staffordshire Integrated Transport Study (NSITS);
 - Census and other socio-economic data;
 - Consultation;
 - Information in the ‘Wider Context’ chapter of the LTP; and
 - The outcomes of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the LTP.
- 2.23 This has identified the following key problems that will need to be tackled:
- The regeneration of North Staffordshire will increase the demands on our transport system and improvements are needed to support sustainable regeneration;
 - There are many people in North Staffordshire who find access to essential services (education, healthcare, employment and retail facilities) and local facilities difficult or impossible;
 - Serious congestion on key strategic roads and junctions with a significant negative impact on the local economy, people’s quality of life and the prospects for the sustainable regeneration of North Staffordshire;
 - Bus routes operating on congested roads causing delays, unreliability and reduced viability of services;
 - Sensitive locations that experience high levels of noise and poor air quality from traffic;
 - Despite good progress there are still too many people killed or injured on the roads of North Staffordshire;

- Transport interchange facilities that poorly serve their users particularly with fear of crime and personal security problems;
 - Poor environmental quality of important aspects and locations of North Staffordshire; and,
 - The population of North Staffordshire suffers from poor levels of health and significant health inequalities.
- 2.24 A wide range of things have been considered that could solve these problems ranging from the construction of new ring roads through to the creation of a new light rail network.
- 2.25 The LTP sets out a long term strategy to 2021 which will:
- Support **regeneration** efforts and the local economy;
 - Give better **accessibility** for all;
 - Tackle traffic **congestion**;
 - Improve **air quality**;
 - Improve travel **safety** and reduced fear of crime;
 - Deliver an enhanced **quality of life**.

*Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Minerals Local Plan 1994 to 2006
(Adopted 1999)*

- 2.26 This plan set out detailed policies and proposals for mineral working in Staffordshire (outside the Peak District National Park) and Stoke-on-Trent. It aims to provide a framework for the future supply of minerals whilst ensuring that measures are taken to protect the environment.
- 2.27 The plan indicates where provision is made for mineral working and protection, the policies against which proposals for mineral development will be assessed.

*Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Waste Local Plan 1998 to 2011
(Adopted 2003)*

- 2.28 The plan sets out a statement of waste planning policies that provide the framework for the consideration of planning applications for the development of waste management facilities or other forms of development with significant waste implications.

Severn Trent Water – Water Resource Management Plan 2009 (Draft)

- 2.29 The Plan sets out how Severn Trent intends to provide supplies of water to their customers over the next 25 years and beyond. The Plan highlights the challenges they face and the uncertainties they have to deal with in planning for the future.

- 2.30 The plan sets out a strategy, including demand management and leakage reduction, as well as new water resource development in the longer term, to ensure it can meet the future demand for water which is reliable, at least cost and in a way that will minimise the impact on the natural environment. The area of operation covers the centre of the UK, stretching from the Bristol Channel to the Humber, and from mid-Wales to the East Midlands.

United Utilities – Water Resource Management Plan 2008 (Draft)

- 2.31 The Water Resources Management Plan explains how United Utilities intends to maintain water supplies across North West England in the long term.

The Staffordshire Trent Valley Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS)

- 2.32 This strategy sets out how the Environment Agency will manage water resources in the catchment and provides information about how existing abstraction licences will be managed and the availability of water for further abstraction.
- 2.33 The Staffordshire Trent Valley CAMS area is approximately 1,335km² and spans most of Staffordshire, a small part of Shropshire and parts of Wolverhampton and Walsall.

The Weaver and Dane Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS)

- 2.34 This strategy sets out how the Environment Agency will manage water resources in the catchment and provides information about how existing abstraction licences will be managed and the availability of water for further abstraction.
- 2.35 The Weaver and Dane CAMS covers an area of 1,423km². The area is centred on the eastern half of the Cheshire Plain and is bordered on the western side by the Mid-Cheshire Ridge and on the east by the Pennines.

North Staffordshire Regeneration Partnership Business Plan

- 2.36 The North Staffordshire Regeneration Partnership (NSRP) was established in March 2007 as the Regeneration Agency for the North Staffordshire conurbation. It is an unincorporated body which has the city council as its accountable body and brings together the regeneration functions across North Staffordshire.

2.37 It covers a wide geographic area and includes:

- Stoke-on-Trent City Council;
- Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council (includes Kidsgrove and Chesterton); and
- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (includes Leek, Cheadle and Biddulph).

2.38 The objectives of the NSRP are to:

- Establish leadership of the regeneration agenda;
- Act as a catalyst for transformation and renewal in the area;
- Provide a focus and delivery mechanism for the regeneration; and
- Set out a forward strategy for the regeneration and economic up-lift for the area.

2.39 In terms of specific developments the plan includes:-

- **The East West Precincts** a £220m new retail development in the City Centre which includes replacing the existing bus station with a state of the art bus terminal on John Street surface car park;
- **The Business District**; a £120m office led development in the City Centre.
- **Renew North Staffordshire**; one of nine housing pathfinders in the country. The scheme will see £281m spent over the next three years on improving housing conditions, building new housing and making neighbourhoods cleaner, greener and safer
- **Keele Phase 3 Science Park**; A 13ha mixed use development of high quality commercial buildings for knowledge based companies.
- **Newcastle Town Centre**; a series of projects to boost the economy of the town centre including new and upgraded office accommodation, public realm schemes and a creative space and gallery in the former St George and St Giles school.
- **Chatterley Valley**; development of this 93ha predominantly brownfield site for employment.
- **University Quarter**; £308m collaboration between Stoke-on-Trent College, Stoke Sixth Form College and Staffordshire University to transform the educational offer in the City. New joint facilities will be built including a Media Centre, Knowledge Hub, Science centre, Performing and Arts centre.
- **Worklessness**; £20m scheme to address the barriers to employment and the low levels of skills in the sub region.

Step 3 – Identifying the potential effects on European sites

2.40 The outcomes are set out on Table 2.

Step 4 – Assessing the significance of any effects on the European sites

2.41 The outcomes are set out on Table 3.

Step 2a – European sites considered (nearest first)

Table 1

<i>European site</i>	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site (nearest site Betley Mere)		
<i>Distance from LDF boundary (km) as crow flies</i>	Within plan area		
<i>Qualifying Ramsar feature</i>	The site comprises a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog Supports a number of rare species of plants associated with wetlands including five nationally scarce species together with an assemblage of rare wetland invertebrates (three endangered insects and five other British Red Data Book species of invertebrates)		
<i>European site</i>	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site (nearest site Black Firs & Cranberry Bog)		
<i>Distance from LDF boundary (km) as crow flies</i>	Within plan area		
<i>Qualifying Ramsar feature</i>	The site comprises a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog Supports a number of rare species of plants associated with wetlands, including the nationally scarce cowbane <i>Cicuta virosa</i> and, elongated sedge <i>Carex elongata</i> . Also present are the nationally scarce bryophytes <i>Dicranum affine</i> and <i>Sphagnum pulchrum</i> . Also supports an assemblage of invertebrates including several rare species. There are 16 species of British Red Data Book insect listed for this site including the following endangered species: the moth <i>Glyphipteryx lathamella</i> , the caddisfly <i>Hagenella clathrata</i> and the sawfly <i>Trichiosoma vitellinae</i> .		
<i>European site</i>	West Midlands Mosses SAC (nearest site Wybunbury Moss)		
<i>Distance from LDF boundary (km) as crow flies</i>	4.5		
<i>Qualifying feature(s)</i>	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds (Annex I habitat). Transition mires and quaking bogs (Annex I habitat)		
<i>Conservation objectives</i>	Maintain in a favourable condition the habitat types for which this site is designated		
<i>Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site</i>	Dystrophic Pools (Schwingmoor) Maintain present distribution of species representative of community; Maintain present pH range and water levels; Maintain sediment quality and quantity; Filamentous algae should be absent or at very low levels. Basin mire with a quaking surface (Schwingmoor): NVC types M2 and M18 Water level and degree of fluctuation capable of sustaining the floating raft composed of NVC type appropriate to longstanding water chemistry and fertility; Maintain raft characteristics, exclude surface and drainage water likely to increase fertility; Stable groundwater, not fluctuating more than 30cm annually; Maintain type and extent of site specific NVC communities; Scrub or woodland limited to margins, or no more than scattered over open NVC communities; Maintain NVC communities: M2 <i>Sphagnum recurvum</i> bog pool community and M18 <i>Erica tetralix</i> - <i>Sphagnum papillosum</i> mire. Scrub not to be more than occasional; Maintain or enhance populations of special or rare plant (and animal) species.		

<i>European site</i>	South Pennines Moors SAC	
<i>Distance from LDF boundary (km) as crow flies</i>		13.5
<i>Qualifying feature(s)</i>	European dry heaths (Annex I habitat)	
	Blanket bogs (Annex I habitat).	
	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum (Annex I habitat)	
	North Atlantic wet bogs with Erica tetralix, Transition mires and quaking bogs (supporting Annex I habitats)	
<i>Conservation objectives</i>	Maintain in a favourable condition the habitat types for which this site is designated	
<i>Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site</i>	(Blanket bog (active only)) No net loss or consequent fragmentation, maintained presence of characteristic species composition and habitat structure, limited levels of moderate-heavy grazing, limited presence or absence of negative indicator species, limited occurrence of bare ground and erosion, no peat extraction	
	(Dry heaths (all subtypes), Ulex gallii sub-montane dry dwarf-shrub heath, Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix) No net loss or consequent fragmentation, maintained presence of characteristic species composition and habitat structure, limited levels of moderate-heavy grazing, limited presence or absence of negative indicator species	
	(Transition mires and quaking bogs)	
	No net loss of habitats, maintained sward composition and structure, low levels of disturbance or damage to tufa formations (if present)	

<i>European site</i>	Peak District Dales SAC	
<i>Distance from LDF boundary (km) as crow flies</i>		13.5
<i>Qualifying feature(s)</i>	Semi-natural dry grassland and scrub facies on calcareous substrate (Annex I habitat)	
	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines - W8 Fraxinus excelsior-Acer campestre-ercurialis perennis woodland (Annex I habitat)	
	European dry heaths, Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae, Alkaline fens, Calcareous and calcschist screes of the montane to Alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii) and Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation (all supporting Annex I habitats)	
	White-clawed Crayfish Austropotamobius pallipes (Annex II species)	
	Brook lamprey Lampetra planeri, Bullhead Cottus gobio (supporting Annex II species)	
<i>Conservation objectives</i>	Maintain in a favourable condition the habitat types for which this site is designated	
	Maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the population of white-clawed crayfish, bullhead and brook lamprey	
<i>Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site</i>	(Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines) No loss of ancient semi-natural stands, recent semi-natural stands and area of ancient woodland; Maintain structural diversity: understorey $\geq 20\%$ total stand area, ground flora $\geq 50\%$ total stand area, canopy cover 30-90% of stand area, except retrogressive hazel scrub and site-appropriate age class structure with standing and fallen dead wood; Successful establishment of young stems; signs of seedling development (over 10 yr period); regeneration by planting $\leq 20\%$, using locally native stock; no planting where it has not occurred in the last 15 years; Maintain at least the current level of site-native species ($\geq 90\%$ cover); effects of introduced fauna/other external unnatural factors $\leq 10\%$ by number or area in 5yr period; Species, habitats, structures characteristic of the site: 80% of ground flora cover referable to relevant NVC community, maintain distinctive elements at current levels and in current locations.	
	(Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates) Maintain current area; Monitor positive indicator species and maintain favourable grass/herb ratio (herbs: 40-90%), monitor and control negative indicator species; Maintain average sward height (2-10cm), litter ($\leq 25\%$), bare ground ($\leq 10\%$)	

	(<i>Festuca ovina</i> - <i>Hieracium pilosella</i> - <i>Thymus praecox</i> calcicolous grassland) Maintain current area; Monitor positive indicator species and maintain favourable grass/herb ratio (herbs: 40-90%), monitor and control negative indicator species; Maintain average sward height ($\leq 5\text{cm}$), litter ($\leq 25\%$) and bare ground ($\leq 15\%$).
	(<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> - <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> tall herb grassland) Maintain current area; Monitor positive indicator species and maintain favourable grass/herb ratio (herbs: 30-90%), monitor and control negative indicator species; Maintain average sward height (5-80cm); litter ($\leq 50\%$); bare ground ($\leq 5\%$).

<i>European site</i>	Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA
<i>Distance from LDF boundary (km) as crow flies</i>	17
<i>Qualifying feature(s)</i>	Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> breeding population: >30 pairs: 2.2% of GB population (1995) (Annex I Bird species)
	Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i> breeding population :>22 pairs: 2.3% of GB population (1990) (Annex I Bird species)
	European Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> breeding population >435 pairs: 1.9% of GB population (Annex I Bird species)
<i>Conservation objectives</i>	Maintain, in favourable condition, habitats for Annex I bird species of European importance, with particular reference to Merlin, Golden Plover and Short-eared Owl
<i>Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site</i>	Blanket bog, heathland. Annex I and migratory populations of European importance: Golden Plover, Dunlin, Merlin, Short-eared Owl. No significant displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance in relation to reference level; No significant decrease in extent and distribution of area from reference level; No significant reduction in view-lines in feeding and roosting areas (Golden Plover and Dunlin require views >200m, Short-eared Owl >1km). At least 80% of current moorland area and all flatter plateaux open, e.g. without new walls or trees. New fences only where essential for conservation land management. Some loss of view, to trees and shrubs, may be acceptable in low density breeding areas, to benefit other bird and habitat interest; No significant reduction in presence and abundance of prey species in relation to reference level. Small birds - pipits to waders - and moths are important for Merlin, Mice, shrews, voles and birds - pipits to waders - are important for Short-eared Owl. No significant reduction in abundance of soil and ground surface invertebrates. Earthworm, leatherjackets, beetles, spiders are important for Golden Plover. Dipteran flies, beetles, caddisfly, wasps, sawflies and mayflies are important for Dunlin; Maintain or increase existing areas of grassland (within 10-15km) without pesticide use; (Dunlin) Hydrology: Predominantly moist boggy ground with pools or flowing water (feeding). No significant reduction in extent of this habitat.
	Blanket bog (active only) No reduction in area and any consequent fragmentation; Bryophytes (excluding <i>Polytrichum</i> spp, <i>Campylopus</i> spp and <i>Racomitrium lanuginosum</i> on bare ground) should be abundant and must include <i>Sphagnum</i> spp; <i>Sphagnum</i> spp must be both frequent and widespread in the stand and not restricted to hollows, forming at least occasional lawns or hummocks . In many Pennine blanket mires, pleurocarpous mosses can make up a significant proportion of the bryophyte layer; Cover of dwarf-shrubs must be greater than 33%; At least two species of dwarf-shrub species should be widespread and frequent in the sward (unless in wetter areas where <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses are forming lawns); Total cover of graminoids should not exceed 50%, unless <i>Sphagnum</i> spp. are abundant/co-dominant and forming lawns below the grasslands i.e. in waterlogged conditions; Little or no bare ground, or bare ground carpeted by <i>Racomitrium lanuginosum</i> , <i>Polytrichum</i> spp, <i>Campylopus</i> spp, crust forming lichens or algal mats; No erosion, other than very localised instances, associated with human impacts (eg drainage, fires, peat extraction, livestock grazing, recreational activities or military training); No peat extraction; A maximum of 5% of the grazing unit ay show signs of current moderate or heavy grazing
	Calluna sub-montane dry dwarf-shrub heath No reduction in area and any consequent fragmentation; Minimum of 75% cover of dwarf-shrubs; At least two species of dwarf-shrub species should be widespread and frequent in the sward; Bryophytes (excluding <i>Polytrichum</i> spp. and/or <i>Campylopus</i> spp.) and/or <i>Cladonia</i> spp. lichens should be at least frequent and forming patches below, or in more open swards, between the dwarf-shrubs; All <i>Calluna</i> age classes present with at least 25% of the management unit in the late mature/degenerate age class or 25% or more excluded from the burning rotation; A maximum of 5% of the grazing unit may show signs of current moderate or heavy grazing. Ulex gallii sub-montane dry dwarf-shrub heath

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	No reduction in area and any consequent fragmentation; Minimum of 75% cover of dwarf-shrubs; At least two species of dwarf-shrub species should be widespread and frequent in the sward; Ulex gallii should not exceed 50% cover; All Calluna age classes present with at least 25% of the management unit in the late mature/degenerate age class or 25% or more excluded from the burning rotation; A maximum of 5% of the grazing unit may show signs of current moderate or heavy grazing
<i>Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site</i>	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix No reduction in area and any consequent fragmentation; Minimum of 25% cover of species other than dwarf-shrubs; Sward composed of a variety of higher plants and bryophytes. Dwarf shrubs should not dominate the sward; At least two species of dwarf-shrub species should be widespread and frequent in the sward; Bryophytes (excluding Polytrichum and/or Campylopus spp) should be at least frequent and forming patches below or, in more open swards, between the dwarf shrubs; All Calluna age classes present with at least 33% of the management unit in the late mature/degenerate age class or 33% or more excluded from the burning rotation; Stands which are never burnt should be present on level or gently sloping ground, not entirely confined to steep slopes; Total cover of graminoids should not exceed 50% Purple moor-grass Molinia caerulea, deer grass Scirpus cespitosus, wavy hair-grass Deschampsia flexuosa, heath rush Juncus squarrosus or other graminoids should not dominate over other species; A maximum of 5% of the grazing unit may show signs of current moderate or heavy grazing
	Transition mires and quaking bogs Base-rich flushes: no loss without prior consent, no more than 10% of tufa deposits damaged by trampling/removal (if present), maintained sward composition with positive indicators present and negative indicators absent or at low frequency, low litter levels, and limited disturbance from trampling and vehicles, vegetation height >10cm (below 600m a.s.l.) Upland valley and basin mires: As above, but includes also limited presence of bog myrtle Myrica gale and an average vegetation height of >15cm, below 600m a.s.l.
	Old oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles No loss of ancient semi-natural stands and at least current area of recent seminaturalstands and of ancient woodland maintained; At least the current level of structural diversity maintained; Understorey (2-5m) present over at least 10% of total stand area (except in parkland); Ground flora present over at least 50% of area; Canopy cover present over 30-90 % of stand area (except in parkland stands); Age class structure appropriate to the site, its history and management; Mature trees allowed to die standing at end of life cycle. All fallen timber retained, especially over 20 cm diameter; Successful natural regeneration, limited planting of trees and only using native stock; Maintaining current species composition, with oak providing ≥30% cover in canopy of mature stands; Maintaining species, habitats and structures characteristic of given sites, in particular ground flora elements and patches of associated habitats and transitions.

<i>European site</i>	River Mease SAC
<i>Distance from LDF boundary (km) as crow flies</i>	17.5
<i>Qualifying feature(s)</i>	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation (supporting Annex 1 habitat) Spined loach and Bullhead (Annex II species)
<i>Conservation objectives</i>	Maintain in a favourable condition the habitat types for which this site is designated
<i>Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site</i>	Not available

<i>European site</i>	Cannock Chase SAC
<i>Distance from LDF boundary (km) as crow flies</i>	19.5
<i>Qualifying feature(s)</i>	European dry heaths (Annex 1 habitat) Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> (supporting Annex 1 habitat)
<i>Conservation objectives</i>	Maintain in a favourable condition the habitat types for which this site is designated
<i>Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site</i>	(European dry heaths) No net loss of habitat; Maintain extent of bare ground (10-25% natural bare ground, <1% disturbed/recreational in each unit); Vegetation structure and composition (25-90% <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> in a mosaic with >10% young, 30-50% mature/degenerate <i>Calluna</i>); Manage negative indicators (<50% cover of dead/degraded <i>Calluna</i>); Control invasive species
	(M16 Wet heath) No net loss of habitat; Maintain extent of bare ground (natural bare ground 1-5%, heavily disturbed <1%); Vegetation structure and composition; Control presence of tree seedlings (<5% cover); Absence of artificial drains/grips causing peat or gravel erosion
	(M10 Mires) No net loss of habitat; Maintained sward composition and structure; Maintain consistently high water levels and presence of natural flowing channels and open standing bog pools; Absence of artificial drains/grips causing peat or gravel erosion

<i>European site</i>	Pasturefields Saltmarsh SAC
<i>Distance from LDF boundary (km) as crow flies</i>	19.5
<i>Qualifying feature(s)</i>	Inland salt meadows (Annex 1 habitat)
<i>Conservation objectives</i>	Maintain in a favourable condition the habitat types for which this site is designated
<i>Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site</i>	Not available

<i>European site</i>	Mottey Meadows SAC
<i>Distance from LDF boundary (km) as crow flies</i>	20
<i>Qualifying feature(s)</i>	Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) (Annex 1 habitat)
<i>Conservation objectives</i>	Maintain in a favourable condition the habitat types for which this site is designated
<i>Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site</i>	Not available

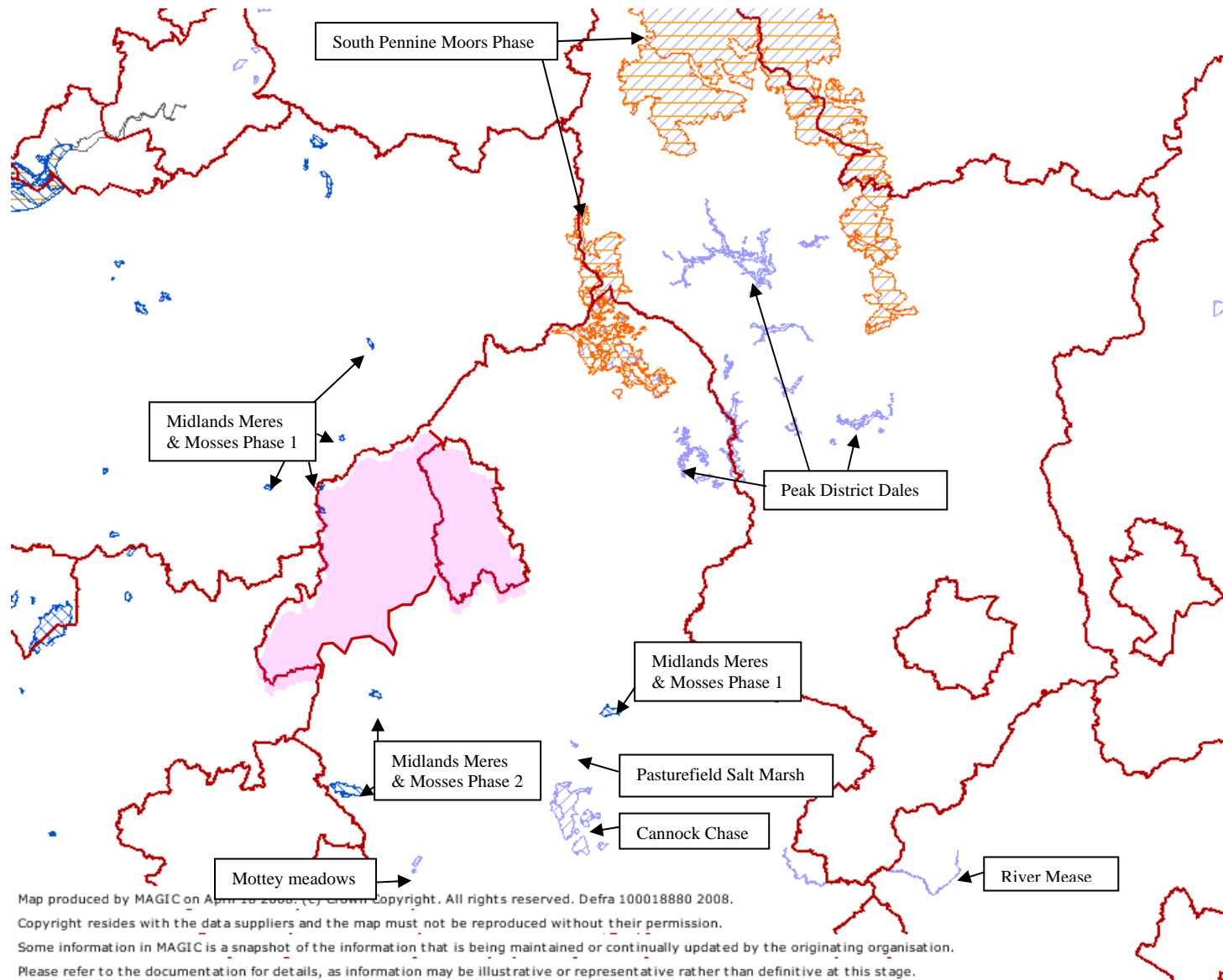
<i>European site</i>	South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA
<i>Distance from LDF boundary (km) as crow flies</i>	57
<i>Qualifying feature(s)</i>	Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> breeding population 28 pairs: 2.2% of GB population (Annex I species)
	European Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> breeding population 292 pairs: 1.3% of GB population (Annex I species)
	Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i> breeding population 3 pairs: 0.3% of GB population (Annex I species)
	An internationally important assemblage of breeding birds, including the following species: Northern Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> , Common Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> , Eurasian Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> , Common Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> , Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> , Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i> , Northern Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> , Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i> , Twite <i>Carduelis flavirostris</i> , Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>
<i>Conservation objectives</i>	Maintain, in favourable condition, habitats for Annex I bird species of European importance, with particular reference to Merlin, Golden Plover and Short-eared Owl
	Maintain, in favourable condition, habitats for migratory bird species of European importance, with particular reference to upland moorland
	Maintain, in favourable condition, the blanket bog, European dry heath, Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>
<i>Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site</i>	(Blanket bog, heathland. Annex I and migratory populations of European importance: Golden Plover, Dunlin, Merlin, Short-eared Owl) No significant displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance in relation to reference level; No significant decrease in extent and distribution of area from reference level; No significant reduction in view-lines in feeding and roosting areas (Golden Plover and Dunlin require views >200m, Short-eared Owl >1km); At least 80% of current moorland area and all flatter plateaux open, e.g. without new walls or trees. New fences only where essential for conservation land management. Some loss of view, to trees and shrubs, may be acceptable in low density breeding areas, to benefit other bird and habitat interest; No significant reduction in presence and abundance of prey species in relation to reference level. Small birds - pipits to waders - and moths are important for Merlin, Mice, shrews, voles and birds - pipits to waders - are important for Short-eared Owl; No significant reduction in abundance of soil and ground surface invertebrates. Earthworms, leatherjackets, beetles, spiders are important for Golden Plover. Dipteran flies, beetles, caddisfly, wasps, sawflies and mayflies are important for Dunlin; Maintain or increase existing areas of grassland (within 10-15km) without pesticide use; (Dunlin) Hydrology: Predominantly moist boggy ground with pools or flowing water (feeding). No significant reduction in extent of this habitat (though reference level yet to be determined)

European site	Humber Estuary SAC
Distance from LDF boundary (km) as crow flies	118
Qualifying feature(s)	Estuaries (Annex I habitat)
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (Annex I habitat)
	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Coastal lagoons; Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>); Embryonic shifting dunes; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ; Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation; Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> (all supporting Annex I habitats).
	Sea lamprey; River lamprey and Grey seal (supporting Annex II species)
Conservation objectives	Maintain in a favourable condition the habitat types for which this site is designated
	Maintain in favourable condition the habitats of sea lamprey, River lamprey and Grey seal.
Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site	(Estuaries) Subject to natural change (stnc) distribution and extent, morphological equilibrium and water density -temperature and salinity should not deviate from an established baseline; Sub-tidal and sediment communities Stnc Distribution and extent of characteristic subtidal sediment biotopes for example: IMU, IMX biotope distribution and extent should not deviate from an established baseline
	(Coastal lagoons) Stnc extent, salinity water clarity ,nutrient status (green algal mats) and density of characteristic species - <i>Chaetomorpha linum</i> and <i>Ruppia</i> spp should not deviate significantly from an established baseline
	(Atlantic salt meadows) Stnc distribution and extent, creek system pattern, topography, species composition of characteristic low to mid marsh communities, species composition of characteristic midmarsh communities and transitional communities should not deviate from an established baseline
	(<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand) Stnc distribution and extent, species composition of characteristic pioneer marsh communities, algal mat cover & distribution and extent of common cordgrass should not deviate from an established baseline
	(Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide) Stnc extent, topography, nutrient enrichment - macroalgal mats, sediment character, range and distribution of characteristic gravel and sand biotopes, muddy sand biotopes, mud biotopes and extent of eelgrass bed communities should not deviate from an established baseline
	(Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time) Stnc extent, topography, sediment character, distribution and extent of characteristic subtidal gravel & sand biotopes and subtidal mud biotopes should not deviate from an established baseline
	(River Lamprey & Sea Lamprey) No significant variation in water quality (physico-chemical properties), maintain habitat structure, no artificial barriers significantly impairing adults or juveniles, maintain age/size class structure.

<i>European site</i>	Humber Estuary SPA
<i>Distance from LDF boundary (km) as crow flies</i>	118
<i>Qualifying feature(s)</i>	Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> breeding population 10.5% of GB population (Annex I species)
	Marsh harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> breeding population: 6.3% of GB population (Annex I species)
	Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> breeding population: 8.6% of GB population (Annex I species)
	Little tern <i>Sterno albifrons</i> breeding population: 2.1% of GB population (Annex I species)
	Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> wintering population: 4% of GB population (Annex 1 species)
	Hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> wintering population: 1.1% of GB population (Annex 1 species)
	Golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> wintering population: 12.3 % of GB population (Annex 1 species)
	Bar-tailed godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> wintering population: 4.4 % of GB population (Annex 1 species)
	Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> on passage: 1.4% of GB population (Annex 1 species)
	Internationally important populations of regularly occurring migratory bird species, including the following species: redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> , shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> , black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> , knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> & dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>
	An internationally important assemblage of waterfowl
<i>Conservation objectives</i>	Stnc maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important populations of the regularly occurring Annex I species, in particular: Intertidal mudflats and sandflats, Saltmarsh communities, Tidal reedbeds, Coastal lagoons & Unvegetated sand and shingle
	Stnc maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important populations of the regularly occurring migratory bird species, in particular: Intertidal mudflats and sandflats, Saltmarsh communities, Tidal reedbeds & Coastal lagoons
	Stnc maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important assemblage of waterfowl, in particular: Intertidal mudflats and sandflats, Saltmarsh communities, Tidal reedbeds & Coastal lagoons
<i>Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site</i>	(Internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex I species) No significant decrease in extent of habitat, No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance, No increase in obstructions to existing bird view lines, No significant reduction in food availability, No significant deviation in vegetation height, density, bare ground and age structure.
	(Internationally important migratory species and waterfowl assemblage) No significant decrease in extent of habitat, No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance, No increase in obstructions to existing bird view lines, No significant reduction in food availability, No significant deviation in vegetation height, density, bare ground and age structure, No significant deviation in presence, size and depth of pools




<i>European site</i>	Humber Estuary Ramsar site
<i>Distance from LDF boundary (km) as crow flies</i>	118
<i>Qualifying Ramsar features</i>	The site is a representative example of a near-natural estuary with the following component habitats: dune systems and humid dune slacks, estuarine waters, intertidal mud and sand flats, saltmarshes, and coastal brackish/saline lagoons
	The Humber Estuary Ramsar site supports a breeding colony of grey seals <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> at Donna Nook. It is the second largest grey seal colony in England and the furthest south regular breeding site on the east coast.
	Assemblages of international importance: 153,934 waterfowl, non-breeding season
	Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance: Eurasian golden plover, Red knot, Dunlin, Black-tailed godwit, Redshank, Shelduck, Bar-tailed godwit & Redshank
	The Humber Estuary acts as an important migration route for both river lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> and sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> between

coastal waters and their spawning areas.
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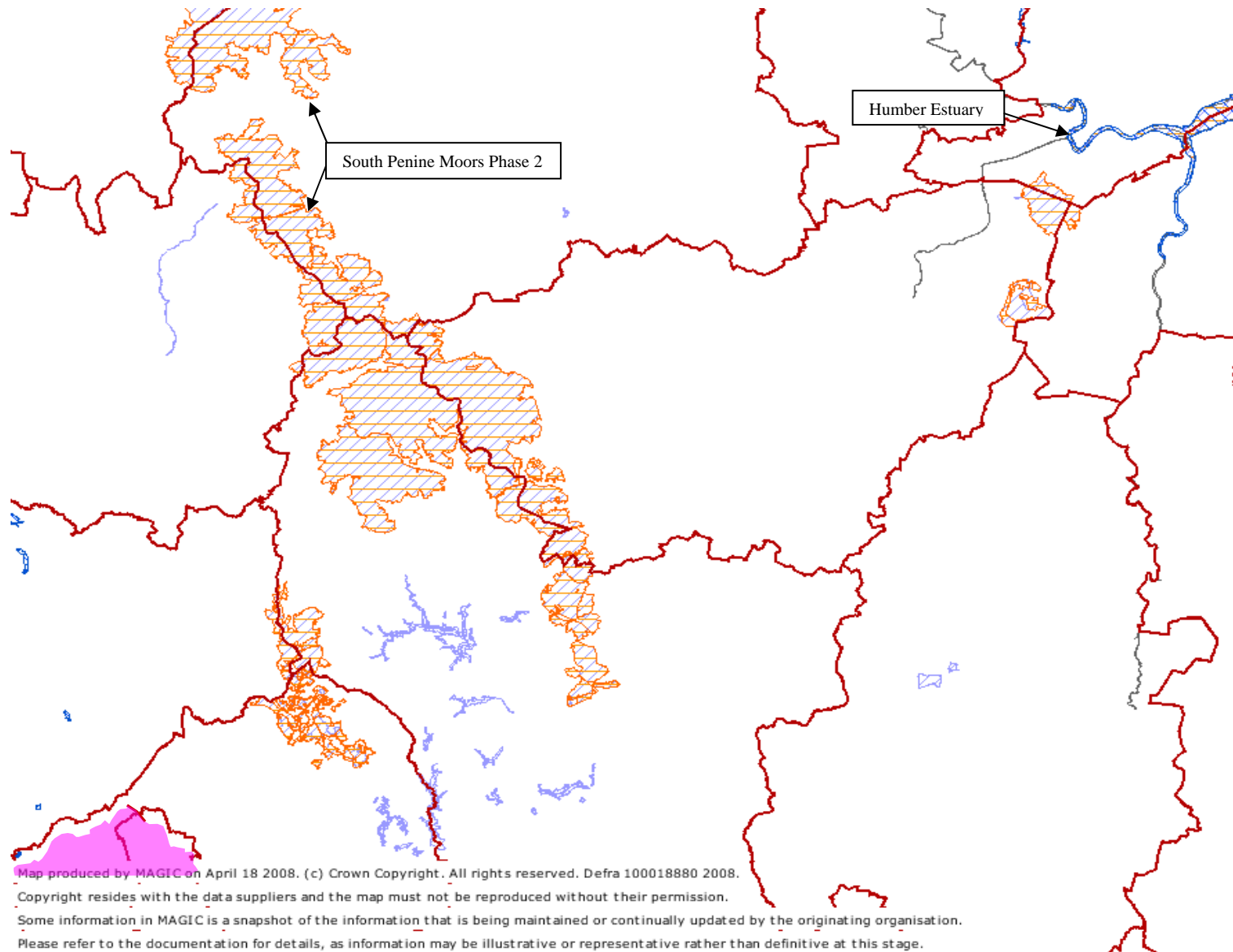


Map 1
Designated sites
considered within
report (west)

KEY




-  SPA
-  Ramsar
-  SAC

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Map 2
Designated sites considered within report (East)

KEY

-  SPA
-  Ramsar
-  SAC

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Step 3 – Identifying potential effects

Table 2

Key factors affecting site integrity	European sites	Has the Core Strategy the potential to affect these key factors? How?
Direct land take	Cannock Chase SAC, Mottey Meadows SAC, Pasturefields SAC, River Mease SAC, South Pennines Moors SAC, Peak District Dales SAC, West Midlands Mosses SAC, Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA, South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, Humber Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar	No - sites not in plan area
	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site	Yes – sites in plan area
Recreational pressure and disturbance	Humber Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar	No-sites too remote to be affected by plan
	Cannock Chase SAC, South Pennines Moors SAC, Peak District Dales SAC, Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA, South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, West Midlands Mosses SAC, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site	Yes - increases in number of households in plan area visiting sites
Appropriate management	Cannock Chase SAC, Mottey Meadows SAC, Pasturefields SAC, River Mease SAC, South Pennines Moors SAC, Peak District Dales SAC, West Midlands Mosses SAC, Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA, South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, Humber Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar	No - sites not in plan area
	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site	Yes - sites in plan area
Local air pollution	Cannock Chase SAC, South Pennines Moors SAC, Peak District Dales SAC, West Midlands Mosses SAC, Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA, South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, Humber Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar	No- sites more than 200m away from plan area boundary
	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site	Yes -increases in traffic emissions, household and business emissions within 200m of site boundary
Diffuse air pollution (specifically	West Midlands Mosses SAC, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar	Yes - increased traffic emissions, household

NOx) and acid deposition	site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site, Cannock Chase SAC, South Pennines Moors SAC, Peak District Dales SAC, Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA, South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, Humber Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar	and business emissions. There will be LSEs if further background increases in the levels of nitrogen oxides emitted from motor vehicles, industrial or domestic combustion processes.
Water quantity	Cannock Chase SAC, Motte Meadows SAC, Pasturefields Saltmarsh SAC, River Mease SAC, South Pennines Moors SAC, Peak District Dales SAC, West Midlands Mosses SAC, Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA, South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA	No - sites too remote or not hydrologically connected to plan area
	Humber Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site	Yes - increases in abstraction affecting sites
Water quality	Cannock Chase SAC, Motte Meadows SAC, Pasturefields SAC, River Mease SAC, South Pennines Moors SAC, Peak District Dales SAC, West Midlands Mosses SAC, Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA, South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA	No - sites too remote or not hydrologically connected to plan area
	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site, Humber Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar	Yes - increased foul and storm water discharges
Invasive &/or non-native species	South Pennines Moors SAC, Peak District Dales SAC, West Midlands Mosses SAC, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site	Yes - increased recreational pressure

Step 4 – Assessing significance

Table 3 – Likely significant effect of the Core Spatial Strategy alone.

Key factors affecting site integrity (and relevant Core Spatial Strategy)	European sites	Likely significant effect of Core Strategy alone?
Direct land take (Area Spatial Strategies, CSP4 'Natural Assets')	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site	No -The Core Spatial Strategy is not a site allocation plan. It establishes the strategic planning policies to guide the sustainable regeneration of the plan area to 2026. The quality and sustainability of natural assets will be secured by Core Strategic Policy CSP4 intended to specifically protect the Meres and Mosses.
Recreational pressure and disturbance (Area Spatial Strategies, CSP5 'Open Space/Sport/Recreation')	Cannock Chase SAC, South Pennines Moors SAC, Peak District Dales SAC, Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA, South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, West Midlands Mosses SAC, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site	No – The CSS does not seek to allocate or promote development at or near to the European sites. This will ensure that recreational pressure and disturbance associated with new development (such as dog walking, recreational activities) will not affect the European sites. Additionally, the CSS, through Core Spatial Policy 4 'Open/Space/Sport/Recreation' seeks to promote the development of existing and established recreation facilities which are predominantly within existing urban areas.
Appropriate management	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site	No - There are no policies within Core Spatial Strategy that would influence or drive land-use change at these sites.
Local air pollution (Area Spatial Strategies, CSP3 'Sustainability and Climate Change')	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site	No - There is likely to be minimal increase in traffic, household and business emissions within 200m of the site boundaries. This will be achieved by the application of restrictive planning policies which seek to locate new development within existing conurbations within the plan area, thus precluding development near to the European Sites.
Diffuse air pollution (specifically NOx) and acid deposition (Area Spatial Strategies, CSP3 'Sustainability and Climate Change')	West Midlands Mosses SAC, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site, Cannock Chase SAC, South Pennines Moors SAC, Peak District Dales SAC, Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA, South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, Humber Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar	No – The growth planned within the CSS is 'downwind' of all but two of the European sites (South Pennine Moors and the Peak District Dales), which are located to the northeast of the conurbation. In addition to this the separation distances between the conurbation area and the European sites will ensure that the impact of the CSS in terms of diffuse air pollution is minimal. In addition to the above, the LTP, which is based on air quality assessments and monitoring for both Newcastle and Stoke, seeks a comprehensive package of transport objectives and actions to enable the growth of the CSS not to impede the progress being made in improving air quality. The LTP recognises that there is no single transport

		<p>intervention which can resolve all poor air quality problems. For this reason, the LTP includes measures which in combination or where applied locally can help to reduce poor air quality. The main areas of work include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing more environmentally friendly alternatives to the car; • Encouraging sustainable travel; • Demand management measures; • Making better use of the existing network; • Using regulatory powers. <p>The North Staffordshire Integrated Transport Study (NSITS), which informed the LTP, highlighted that there is more benefit (to the transport system and therefore air quality) in locating growth in accessible and sustainable locations rather than trying to implement a package of transport to deal with problems that would be increased by growth.</p>
<p>Water quantity (Area Spatial Strategies, CSP3 'Sustainability and Climate Change')</p>	<p>Humber Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site</p>	<p>No - The CSS provides for 11400 dwelling in Stoke and 5700 in Newcastle in the plan period as a result there will be a net increase in the use of water resources in the plan area up to 2026. However, evidence within the draft Severn Trent Water Resource Management Plan (2009-2035) indicates that the projected growth aspirations of the CSS can be met with no significant impact on the European sites.</p> <p>North Staffordshire lies in Water Resource Zone 2 (WRZ2) of Severn Trent Water Resource Management Plan (2009-2035). This is a large zone covering Staffordshire and East Shropshire. The majority of the water within the zone comes from a combination of river abstraction, groundwater sources and reservoirs.</p> <p>The consumption trends for WRZ2 for the future are:-</p> <p>2013/14 - Supply/demand balanced 2019/20 - Supply shortfall of 23ML/D (mega litres) 2034/35 - Supply shortfall of 44ML/D</p> <p>The Water Resources Management Plan (May 2009) shows that the future water deficit will be addressed in the follows ways:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive investment in reduction of leakage. • Introduction of metering in more homes. • Investment in abstraction and network efficiently. Less water will be lost via

		<p>abstraction and more investment will be made to increase the potential to transfer water within the network to address 'hotspots'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The output from Tittesworth will be increased to serve Leek and the Potteries (subject to approval by the Environment Agency). • Stafford surplus of water will go to Leek and the Potteries. <p>The plan shows that to meet the need of the plan area there will be no water resource operations (such as abstraction) that will affect the European sites.</p>
Water quality (Area Spatial Strategies, CSP3 'Sustainability and Climate Change')	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site, Humber Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar	No - No new development is planned adjacent or near by these sites that would see an affect on water quality entering the sites. The quality of water will be secured through Core Strategic Policy CSP3 which seeks to secure Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) into new developments.
Invasive &/or non-native species	South Pennines Moors SAC, Peak District Dales SAC, West Midlands Mosses SAC, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site	See the answer to 'Recreational pressure and disturbance' above. Reduction of visitor pressure would reduce the likelihood of introduction of invasive species.

Table 4

Likely significant effect of other plans alone.

Plan name	Location	Description	Stage	SA,SEA, AA	European sites which could be affected by plan	How could they be affected?	Likely effects on SAC sites?
North Staffordshire Local Transport Plan	Plan covers the North Staffordshire Major Urban Area, which includes Stoke-on-Trent and the more urban parts of Newcastle-under-Lyme and Staffordshire Moorlands.	See paragraph 2.20.	Adopted	Yes	Cannock Chase SAC, South Pennines Moors SAC, Peak District Dales SAC, Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA, South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, West Midlands Mosses SAC, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site, Humber Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar.	Diffuse air pollution, Direct land take, recreational pressure and disturbance, local air pollution, water quality, invasive &/or non-native species	No – The plan seeks to develop a sustainable transport network in the area which will lessen congestion, improve access and promote sustainable forms of transport thus improving air quality and reducing diffuse air pollution. The plan does not seek to allocate land for new transport nodes, such as roads, that will affect any of the European sites by direct land take. Recreational pressure and disturbance and invasive &/or non-native species are not likely to affect the sites as no new transports nodes will be introduced near to the sites. Water quality, as a result of the Plan, will not be affected. As stated above, no new transport nodes will be planned that will affect the water quantity of the protected sites (e.g. run-off, drainage).
Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Minerals Local Plan 1994 to 2006 (Adopted 1999)	Staffordshire County	See paragraph 2.26.	Adopted; with some saved policies	Yes	Cannock Chase SAC, South Pennines Moors SAC, Peak District Dales SAC, Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA, South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, West Midlands Mosses SAC, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site, Humber Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar.	Diffuse air pollution, Direct land take, local air pollution, and water quality.	No – The plan does not seek to develop any of the European sites for mineral purposes. In addition to this separation distances between mineral activity and the European sites is sufficient to ensure no likely significant affect in terms of local air pollution. Safeguarding measures within the plan and national guidance (PPS9 Para 6) will ensure no likely significant affect. The plan is to be replaced by the emerging Minerals Development Plan Document (which will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment).
Staffordshire &	Staffordshire	See paragraph	Adopted;	Yes	Cannock Chase SAC,	Diffuse air	No – The plan sets out a statement of waste planning

Stoke-on-Trent Waste Local Plan 1998 to 2011 (Adopted 2003)	County	2.28.	with some saved policies		South Pennines Moors SAC, Peak District Dales SAC, Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA, South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, West Midlands Mosses SAC, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site, Humber Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar.	pollution, Direct land take, local air pollution, and water quality.	policies that will provide a framework for the consideration of planning applications for the development of waste management facilities or other forms of development with significant waste implications. The plan does not allocate sites/land for waste facilities. The plan is to be replaced by the Waste Site Allocations Development Plan Document (which will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment).
Severn Trent Water – Water Resource Management Plan 2009 (Draft)	Midlands and Mid Wales.	See paragraph 2.29.	Draft	Yes	West Midlands Mosses SAC, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site, Cannock Chase SAC, South Pennines Moors SAC, Peak District Dales SAC, Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA, South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, Humber Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar	Water quantity	No – The plan identifies current and future supply/demand patterns for water and a strategy to address future deficits where applicable. The plan is compliant with the guidance provided by the Environment Agency on Water Resource Plans and takes into account the primary and secondary duties and obligations upon Severn Trent as a water and wastewater service provider. The conclusion of the SEA of the plan states that overall Severn Trent will be able to secure future water supplies across the region with minimal effects on the environment.
United Utilities – Water Resource Management Plan 2008 (Draft)	North-West.	See paragraph 2.31.	Draft	Yes	Midlands Meres & Mosses Phase 1, South Pennine Moors	Water quantity	No – The plan identifies current and future supply/demand patterns for water and a strategy to address future deficits where applicable. The plan is compliant with the guidance provided by the Environment Agency on Water Resource Plans and will not affect the European sites.
The Staffordshire Trent Valley CAMS	Spans most of Staffordshire, a small part of Shropshire and parts of Wolverhampton	See paragraph 2.32.	Complete and published in July 2007. Subject to annual	Yes	Humber Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar	Water quantity	No - Water Resource Management Units (WRMU) 1 & 2 refer to the Upper and Lower Trent and the River Swarbour. The Upper Trent is abstracted for public water supply to serve Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme, mainly from the Triassic Sherwood Sandstone aquifer. This WRMU does not, however,

Screening Report for the Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Core Spatial Strategy

	and Walsall.		update.				serve the rural areas of Newcastle-under-Lyme District which fall under the Weaver and Dane CAMS. The water resource availability status of the Upper Trent WRMU is 'no water available at low flows'. Under the Habitats Regulations existing abstraction licences and new applications have to be assessed to make sure they are not impacting on internationally important nature conservation sites. This document specifies that new licences will be issued subject to the application of a condition, or 'hands-off flow' (HoF), restricting further abstraction when river flows are low. This is equivalent to conditions set throughout the Trent catchment to protect the Humber Estuary SAC as a result of the Trent Corridor CAMS, published in December 2003.
The Weaver and Dane CAMS (June 2006)	The area is centred on the eastern half of the Cheshire Plain and is bordered on the western side by the Mid-Cheshire Ridge and on the east by the Pennines.	See paragraph 2.34.	Complete and published in. Subject to annual update	Yes	Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar	Water quantity	No - WRMU Middle Weaver and WRMU Valley Brook contain parts of the Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site and the WRMUs cover much of the rural district of Newcastle-under-Lyme including Madeley, Audley and Betley. The water resource availability status of the Middle Weaver and Valley Brook WRMU is 'no water available at low flows'. Under the Environment Agency Restoring Sustainable Abstraction (RSA) and Habitats Directive (HD) process these have been assessed as not being impacted under existing rates of abstraction.

North Staffordshire Regeneration Partnership Business Plan	Local authority boundaries of Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Moorlands.	See Paragraph 2.36	Yes	No	Cannock Chase SAC, South Pennines Moors SAC, Peak District Dales SAC, Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA, South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, West Midlands Mosses SAC, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site, Humber Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar.	Diffuse air pollution, Direct land take, recreational pressure and disturbance, local air pollution, water quality, invasive &/or non-native species	No – The plan forms a business/corporate strategy for the North Staffordshire Regeneration Partnership and is not a formal/statutory planning document. The projects and strategies contained within the document have or will be subject to some form of sustainability assessment.
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Table 5

In combination effects.

Key factors affecting site integrity	European sites	Likely significant effect of Core Strategy in combination with other plans/projects?
Direct land take	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site	No - The CSS and other plans will not influence or lead to direct land take of a European site.
Recreational pressure and disturbance	Cannock Chase SAC, South Pennines Moors SAC, Peak District Dales SAC, Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA, South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, West Midlands Mosses SAC, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site	No - The CSS will deliver urban renaissance and less pressure on European sites and none of the other plans will influence or lead to increased recreational pressure.
Appropriate management	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site	No - There are no policies within the CSS that would influence or drive land-use change at any European site and none of the other plans influence European site management.
Local air pollution	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site	No –The CSS concentrates new development within conurbations, leading to minimal increase in traffic, household and business emissions within 200m of the European sites. No other plans will lead to or influence increased local air pollution.
Diffuse air pollution (specifically NOx) and acid deposition	West Midlands Mosses SAC, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site, Cannock Chase SAC, South Pennines Moors SAC, Peak District Dales SAC, Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA, South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, Humber Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar	No – The CSS will be delivered in parallel with the LTP which seeks to provide transport solutions to enable growth whilst also continuing to improve air quality. There are also considerable distances from the plan area to the European sites.
Water quantity	Humber Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site	No - The CSS will lead to an increase in households and therefore to increased water need, however, water company and Environment Agency plans show that to meet the need of the plan area there will be no water resource operations (such as abstraction) that will affect the European sites. This will also be coupled with policy (CSP3) to increase the water efficiency of new development.
Water quality	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site,	No – The CSS does not allocate development adjacent or near

	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site, Humber Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar	to the European site sites that would see an affect on water quality entering the sites and none of the other plans influence water quality. Water quality will also be secured through policy in the CSS that requires SUDS in new developments. .
Invasive &/or non-native species	South Pennines Moors SAC, Peak District Dales SAC, West Midlands Mosses SAC, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 Ramsar site, Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site	No - The CSS will deliver urban renaissance and less pressure on European sites and none of the other plans will influence or lead to increased recreational pressure which could lead to an increase in the populations of invasive or non-native species.

3 Summary of screening results

- 3.1 Eight factors have been identified as potentially affecting the European sites' integrity and that could potentially be influenced by the CSS, although only for some of the sites (Table 2).
- 3.2 These factors are:-
- Direct land take;
 - Recreational pressure and disturbance;
 - Appropriate management;
 - Local air pollution;
 - Diffuse air pollution (specifically NOx) and acid deposition;
 - Water quantity;
 - Water quality; and
 - Invasive &/or non-native species.
- 3.3 These eight factors have been analysed in detail for the significance of the potential effects of the CSS on them (Table 3).
- 3.4 As Table 3 demonstrates the CSS is not considered likely to significantly affect the sites alone in relation to the above factors.
- 3.5 Table 4 shows other plans considered for their potential in combination effect with the CSS and Table 5 shows the likely significant effect of the CSS in combination with the other plans.
- 3.6 The conclusions of the screening are that the CSS is not likely to have significant effects on any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans/projects.

Appendix A Copies of correspondence

Your reference
Our reference ET/SW/LDF/AADate
Date 19 November 2007



Robert Duff Conservation Advisor Attingham Park Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4TW	Community and Adult Services Streetscene Division Weighbridge Site Cromer Road Northwood Stoke-on-Trent ST1 6QN Julie Seddon / Terry Hawkins Joint Interim Directors
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Dear Robert

Appropriate Assessment and the North Staffordshire Core Spatial Strategy

As you are aware I am currently undertaking a screening exercise of the above strategy to assess whether the Core Strategy is likely to have significant effects on any European sites.

I would be most grateful if you could take a moment to consider the attached excel spreadsheet that I have put together which summarises the European sites that I am considering. Please could you check that the information for the sites is correct?

You will see that for most there is information available regarding their designation, however, I do not have any information on the conservation objectives for the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA. Would it be possible for you to send me these? Electronically would be best.

I would also be very grateful if you could confirm that the factors that I have identified that could adversely affect these sites are correct? None are missing or not applicable? At this stage I am not ruling out any factors that could adversely affect the sites. It is at the next stage that I will consider whether the LDF Core Spatial Strategy would have an influence on the listed factors (or not).

Thank you very much for your help in this matter and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S. Wykes'.

Suzanne Wykes
Ecologist/Environment Officer

23 November 2007

Thank you for your e-mail and the attached letter of 19 November. Please accept this e-mail as Natural England's response.

I confirm that I have checked that the information for the international nature conservation sites is complete. I only have one recommended additional area for inclusion. The Humber Estuary SAC and SPA.

Moreover I am satisfied that the factors that you have identified that could adversely affect these sites are appropriate. With respect to the Humber Estuary I suggest this is added to the other sites that could be adversely affected by water quality.

With respect to the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA Conservation Objectives I attach a copy of the Dark Peak SSSI Conservation Objectives which includes part of the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) however if this does not cover what you were looking for adequately I would suggest contacting our Peak District Office who should be able to advise further on this matter.

Finally I attach a copy of the AA Screening Report produced for the Black Country chapter of the RSS as a potentially useful reference.

Let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely

Robert Duff
Staffordshire Land Management Team
Natural England

15 August 2008

Dear David and Edward

I refer to the revised Core Strategy Screening Report dated July 2008. I confirm that Natural England is satisfied with the document subject to confirmation that the suggested amendments to the Core Strategy regarding the Black Firs and Cranberry Bog Ramsar site detailed in our letter of 24 June 2008 will be included into the submission Core Strategy.

Please could you confirm this latter point.

Yours sincerely

Robert Duff
Planning and Conservation Adviser
Natural England