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Habitats  
Regulations  
Assessment  
Screening Report  
for the 2025/30  
AONB  
Management  
Plan

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The Cannock  
Chase National  
Landscape

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Craggatak Consulting  
29th January 2025

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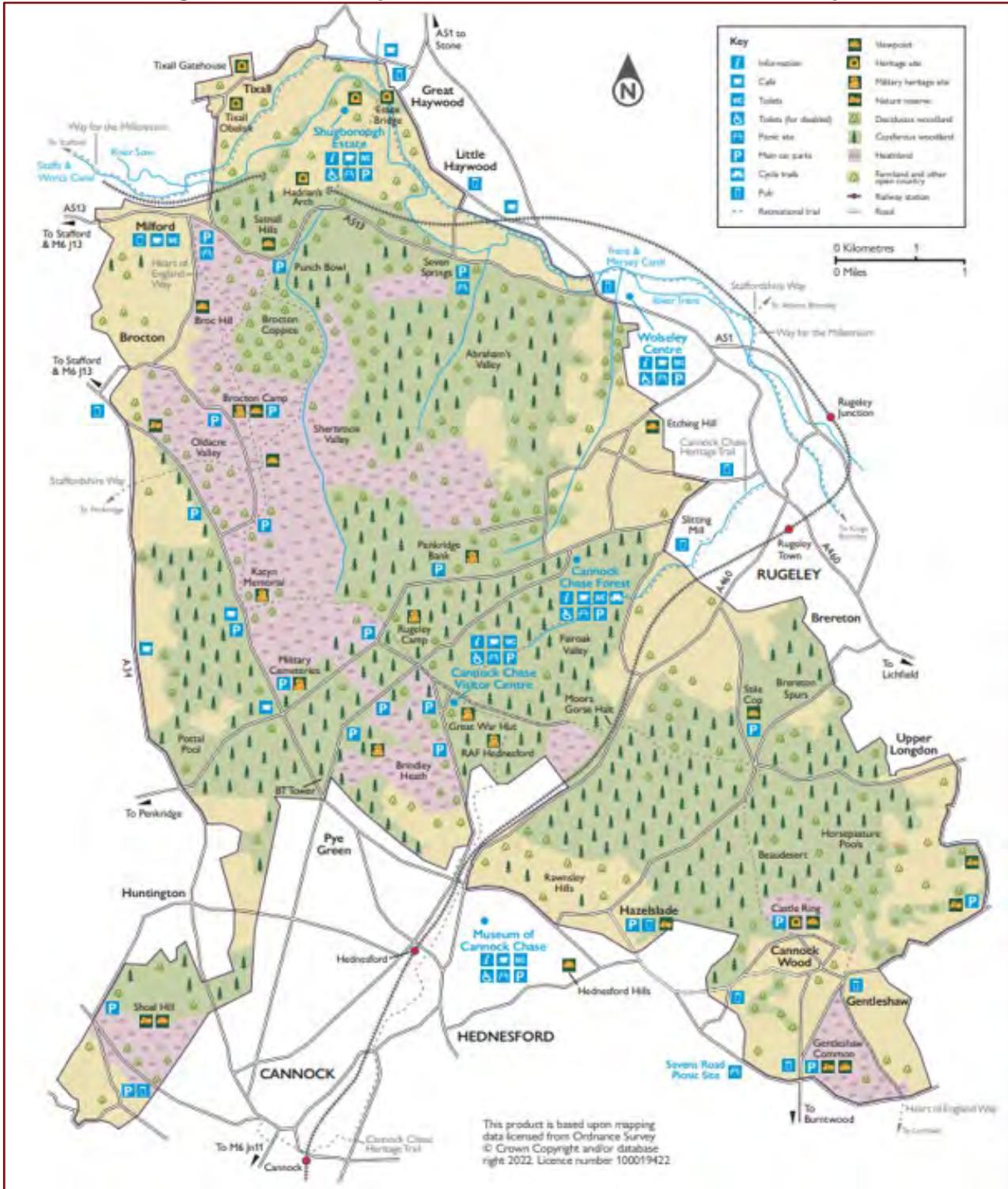
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### *Acknowledgements*

Craggatak Consulting prepared this report with the close support of staff from the Cannock Chase National Landscape Team.

**Figure 1: Outline map of the Cannock Chase National Landscape**



## 1. Background

- 1.1. This Screening Report has been prepared as part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (SEA) of the Cannock Chase National Landscape (NL) Management Plan Review. A National Landscape is the everyday name for what is set out in legislation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The Cannock Chase National Landscape Management plan is already subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)<sup>1</sup>. SEA and HRA are separate assessments. However, the two are complimentary and contribute to the management plan process, with all three exercises proceeding jointly and in an iterative way. Unlike SEA and National Landscape management plans, there is no requirement to submit the HRA to public consultation.
- 1.2. This report is for scrutiny by Natural England, as the statutory consultee for Habitats Regulation Assessment.

### The European Habitats Directive

- 1.3. The UK national site network of European sites provides ecological infrastructure for the protection of sites that are of exceptional importance in respect of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species. Habitat Regulations Assessment is a statutory requirement<sup>2</sup> to ensure that the protection of the integrity of these sites is a part of the planning process at a regional and local level. Under the Regulations, there is a requirement for the Cannock Chase National Landscape Joint Committee to undertake a HRA of the draft Management Plan to determine whether its policies and actions are likely to have a significant adverse effect on any internationally recognised sites of nature conservation interest (the National Site networks). These sites include Special Protection Areas (SPAs), designated under the Birds Directive<sup>3</sup>; and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), designated under the Habitats Directive<sup>4</sup>. Natural England guidance specifies the inclusion of sites designated under the Ramsar wetlands convention in HRAs<sup>5</sup>. If there are significant adverse effects then there is an examination of alternative policies or avoidance and mitigation measures. The intent is to prevent the plan from detrimentally influencing any National Site network conservation objectives.
- 1.4. Article 2 of the Habitats Directive requires the maintenance or restoration of habitats and species of European Community interest, at a favourable conservation status.

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC “on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment”. Transposed into law by Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the “SEA Regulations”).

<sup>2</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21st May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Transposed into law by the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 (Habitats Regulation) as amended in 1997 and in 2000 (in England only) as amended in 2017 (SI 1012).

<sup>3</sup> Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (the codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended).

<sup>4</sup> Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora

<sup>5</sup> Natural England 2009. Final Draft Guidance: The Habitats Regulations Assessment of Local Development Documents.

Articles 3 - 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest. Article 6 (3) of the Directive states:

- 1.5. “Any plan or project not directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of the [European] site, but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives”.

### Habitats Regulations Assessment Stages

- 1.6. It is the accepted practice to adopt a stage-by-stage approach for an Article 6 Assessment. There are four stages:
- **Stage One: Screening** - To identify the likely impacts on a National Site network of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and consider whether these impacts are likely to be significant;
  - **Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment** (where there are likely to be significant impacts) - To consider the impact on the integrity of the National Site network of the project or plan, either alone or ‘in combination’ with other projects or plans, with respect to the structure, function and conservation objectives of the site. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, to assess the potential mitigation of those impacts;
  - **Stage Three: Assessment of alternative solutions** - To examine alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the National Site network;
  - **Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist** (where adverse impacts remain) - To assess compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest, it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

Each stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required. If, for example, the conclusions at the end of Stage One are that there will be no significant impacts on any National Site network, there is no requirement to proceed further.

### Cannock Chase National Landscape

- 1.7. Designation of the Cannock Chase National Landscape was in 1958. It is the smallest mainland NL, at 68 square kilometres. Cannock Chase is the largest surviving area of lowland heathland in the Midlands. It is an area of high sandstone heather and bracken heathland with birch woodland and extensive pine plantations. Dissected by secluded valleys and framed by a gentler landscape of fine parklands and attractive villages, the NL encloses the last oak remnant of the ancient Cannock Forest. Lowland heath is an internationally scarce and threatened wildlife habitat. A Special Area of Conservation covering some 1,237 hectares of the NL gives protection to the habitats. The NL also has extensive areas of forest and woodland along with areas of designed parkland, quarrying and mixed agriculture. The area lies within the River Trent catchment and lies close to the river.
- 1.8. Nearly two million people live within 30 kilometres of the NL. Cannock Chase is an important recreation area, both for daytrips and for the growing population on its

immediate fringe. One of Britain's largest country parks conserves 1,214 hectares of the area. Many footpaths and bridleways cross the Chase, including Forestry Commission trails and the Staffordshire Way.

- 1.9. National Landscapes are areas whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard them<sup>6</sup>. Each NL has been designated by reason of its 'special qualities'. These include the flora, fauna, historical and cultural associations as well as landscape and scenic views.

## Management Plan review

- 1.10. Section 82 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 establishes the primary purpose of AONB designation as the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty. Section 85 of the CRoW Act (as amended by section 245 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023) places a duty on all public bodies (other than a devolved Welsh authority) to 'seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty'. Under section 89, the relevant local authorities must prepare and publish a Management Plan for each AONB; and keep it under review. A plan under section 89 relating to an AONB in England must further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of that area.
- 1.11. The Management Plan is a statutory document. It provides a policy framework that brings together partners to help them design, resource and implement the priorities set out specifically for the AONB designation. It guides and informs all other plans and activities that may affect the AONB so that they can contribute to the continued conservation and enhancement of the AONB designation.
- 1.12. There are five relevant local authorities for the Cannock Chase NL. Staffordshire County Council, Cannock Chase Council, Lichfield District Council, South Staffordshire Council and Stafford Borough Council. These councils have established a joint committee under Section 101 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 to manage their obligations for the AONB. Representatives of the five local authorities form the Joint Committee, with advisors from Natural England, Forestry Commission, Historic England, and local landowners, businesses, community groups and environmental NGOs..
- 1.13. CRoW requires a formal review of each Management Plan at intervals of not more than five years. The Partnership is now preparing a Management Plan for the period 2025-30. Following consultation with local communities, public bodies and agencies with an interest in the area, the plan will present the special qualities and features of the National Landscape, and set out the outcomes and policies needed to ensure their conservation and enhancement.

## 2. HRA programme and methodology

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<sup>6</sup> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) (2015) *Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: Landscape Protection and Enhancement Support Scheme (England) 2015 – 17. Application to European Commission.*

## Introduction

- 2.1. The approach for carrying out the HRA of the National Landscape Management Plan Review is based on good practice and the following guidance:
- European Commission (2001). Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites
  - European Commission (2002). Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/ECC
  - Department for Communities and Local Government (2006). Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment. Guidance for Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents.
  - European Commission (2007). Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/ECC
  - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations as amended
- 2.2. A summary of the approach and method applied to the Management Plan is set out in **Table 1** below:

**Table 1: The four stages of assessment**

| Stages / Tasks                        |   | Description | Habitats Directive |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------------|--------------------|
| 1                                     | Likely Significant Effects or 'Screening' | i           | Article 6(3)       |
|                                       |   | ii          |                    |
| Where a significant impact is likely: |   |             |                    |
| 2                                     | Appropriate Assessment                    | i           |                    |
|                                       |   | ii          |                    |
|                                       |   | iii         |                    |
|                                       |   | iv          |                    |
|                                       |   | v           |                    |
| 3                                     | Assessment of Alternative Solutions       | -           |                    |

|   |  |    |   |                     |
|---|--|----|---|---------------------|
| 4 | <b>Assessment where no alternative solutions remain and where adverse impacts remain</b> | i  | At this stage actions which, even with mitigation, still have an adverse effect on the site(s) integrity should be dropped. | <i>Article 6(4)</i> |
|   |  | ii | Assess whether an action can be passed justified by ‘imperative reasons of overriding public interest’.                     |                     |
|   |  |    | Permitted on the grounds of human health, public safety or primary beneficial consequences for the environment.             |                     |

**Step one – Pre-Screening**

2.3. Gather information on the location of the National Landscape and the scope and intent of its draft Management Plan. This includes the location, conservation objectives and qualifying feature(s) for each National Site network complete with the key factors influencing that condition; and the objectives of other plans and schemes in the area that may work in combination with the Management Plan to affect a National Site network.

**Step two – Screening for a likely significant effect**

2.4. Categorise each element of the plan as to its likely effects on each interest feature of each National Site network identified as subject to assessment in the evidence base. This includes all the reasons for the designation / classification or listing of the site (in the case of SAC, including primary and non-primary reasons for designation). There are four categories of potential effects as follows:

- Category A:** elements of the plan that would have no negative effect<sup>2</sup> on a National Site network at all;
- Category B:** elements of the plan that could have an effect but the likelihood is there would be no significant negative effect on a National Site network either alone or in combination with other elements of the same plan, or other plans or projects;
- Category C:** elements of the plan that could or would be likely to have a significant effect alone and will require the plan to be subject to an appropriate assessment before the plan may be adopted;
- Category D:** elements of the plan that would be likely to have a significant effect in combination with other elements of the same plan, or other plans or projects and will require the plan to be subject to an appropriate assessment before the plan may be adopted;

*After Tyldesley, D. CCW 2012*

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<sup>7</sup> ‘Negative’ effects in the context of this and all the following lists are effects that would be likely to undermine the conservation objectives of a European site. (Tyldesley, D., 2012 ‘Final Draft Guidance for Plan Making Authorities in Wales: The Appraisal of Plans under the Habitats Regulations’ by David Tyldesley and Associates for Countryside Council for Wales, September 2012. footnote 24)

2.5. There are three tasks in Step Two:

**Task 1** – Compile a schedule listing all the policies and actions of the Management Plan. Check each element for the likelihood of it leading to a significant effect on a National Site network.

All elements placed in Category A are set aside, as they could have no ecological impact on any National Site network.

Those elements identified as having a potential negative impact upon any National Site network were re-checked ‘in combination’ with other elements of the Management Plan. Where other elements clearly mitigated any potential negative impacts, they are set aside.

**Task 2** – Assess the remaining elements of the plan for each National Site network (both alone and in combination) to identify any elements that could have an effect but would not be likely to have a significant (negative) effect on a National Site network because the effects are trivial or ‘*de minimis*’, even if combined with other effects (Category B). The identification of such elements follows the precautionary principle. If there is any doubt about an ecological impact then the element remains in the assessment process.

All elements placed in Category B are set aside, as they could have no ecological impact on any National Site network.

**Task 3** - Any remaining elements are likely to have a significant effect alone (Category C) or in combination (Category D).

Move to Step Three

**Step Three – Appropriate Assessment**

Once identified as Category C or D, the recommendation is to remove the policy or action from the plan, or otherwise modify the plan, to avoid the likelihood of significant effects (all modifications pass through the assessment steps).

Where modification is not possible, the plan must be the subject of a full appropriate assessment.

**Consultation and re-appraisal**

- 2.6. The draft Management Plan and Habitats Regulations Screening Report (together with the Strategic Environmental Assessment) are the subject of consultation with the statutory agencies and principal stakeholders. As well as the formal consultation with the statutory agencies, there is regular informal support from Natural England throughout the process.
- 2.7. Amendments to the Management Plan may occur in the light of the Screening Report and Strategic Environmental Assessment findings and / or the advice received from the statutory agencies. The plan making authority should remove potentially harmful policies and proposals and explicitly include measures to ensure that no development flowing from the plan will have an adverse effect on the integrity of a National Site

network. The plan making authority must consult and reach agreement with Natural England before concluding that a plan would have no adverse effect on the integrity of a National Site network. If the plan making authority amends the Management Plan, then there is a reappraisal of the impacts upon the integrity of any National Site networks under the Habitat Regulations using the methodology set out above.

### 3. National Site network potentially affected

#### List of relevant National Sites

- 3.1. The National Site network provides ecological infrastructure for the protection of sites that are of exceptional importance in respect of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species within the Europe. These sites consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA). It is common practice to treat RAMSAR sites (Internationally Important Wetlands) as if they were national sites. The guidance recommends taking into consideration sites within the plan area and within 15 km of its boundary. Through an analysis using MAGIC Map<sup>8</sup> it was determined that there is one National Site in the National Landscape and 6 within 15 km of its boundary. The relevant National Site networks for the Cannock Chase National Landscape are set out in **Table 2**; **Figure 2** shows the location and spatial relationship of the National Sites to the Cannock Chase National Landscape.

**Table 2: National Sites**

#### National Sites in the National Landscape boundary

Cannock Chase SAC

#### National Sites within 15 km of the National Landscape boundary

Cannock Extension Canal SAC

Mottey Meadows SAC

Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC

River Mease SAC

West Midland Mosses SAC / Midland Meres & Mosses – Phase 1 RAMSAR

#### Remote National Site to consider

Humber Estuary SAC / Humber Estuary SPA & RAMSAR

A link because the River Trent flows through the NL into the Humber Estuary

#### Though not subject to HRA, other sites to note

There are 2,106 hectares of protected areas for biodiversity (SSSI, LNRs, and Local Wildlife Sites) on Cannock Chase (31% of the National Landscape).

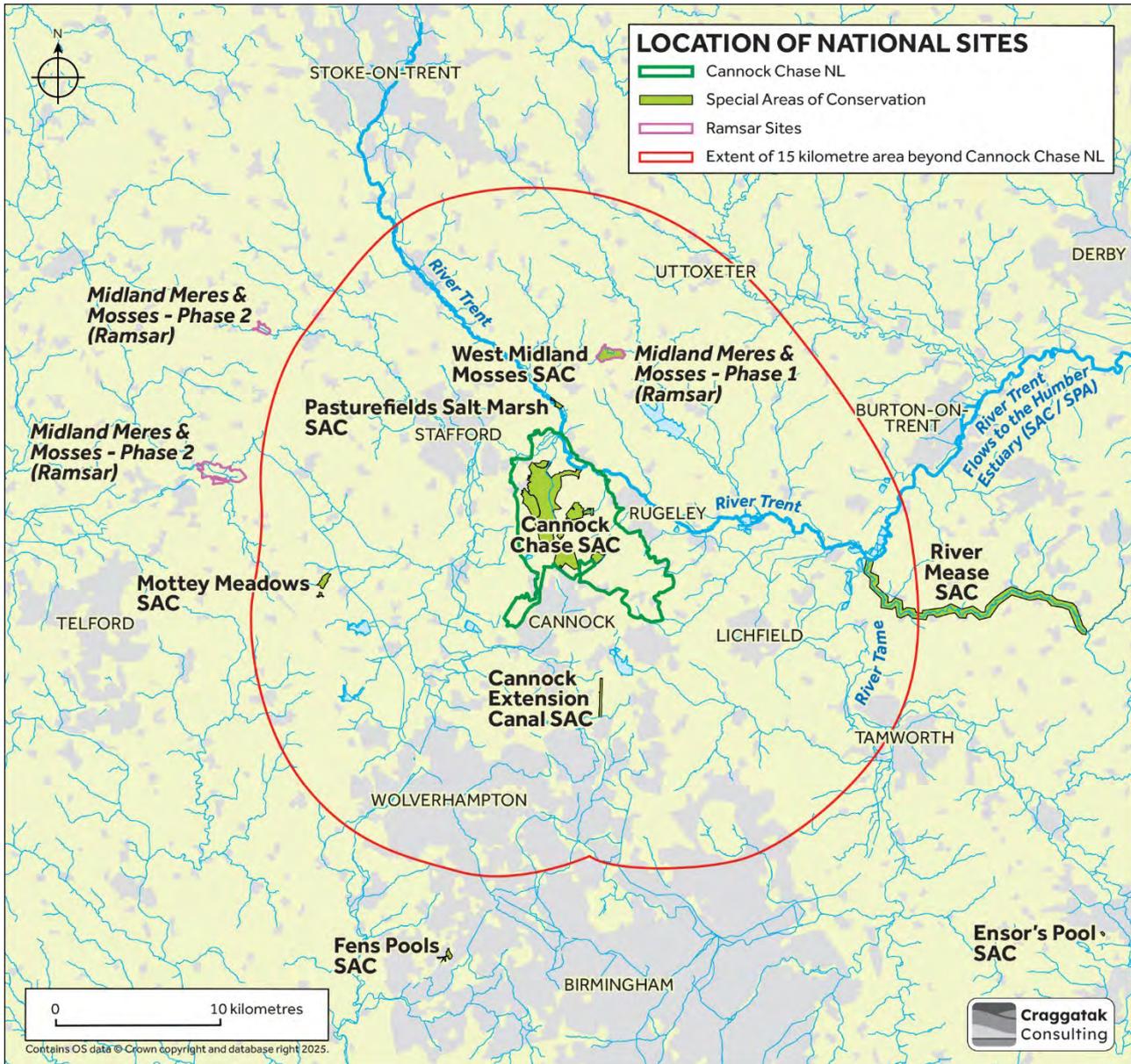
Only 6.25% of the total number of SSSI features are assessed to be in favourable condition. None of the 16 features has actions on track to achieve favourable condition.

Cannock Chase supports 10 priority habitats, which combined cover 2,300 hectares, or 34 % of the National Landscape. The majority (1,366 hectares/59% of the total area of priority habitats) lie within protected sites

<sup>8</sup> The Government's open-access mapping service at <http://magic.gov.uk/>

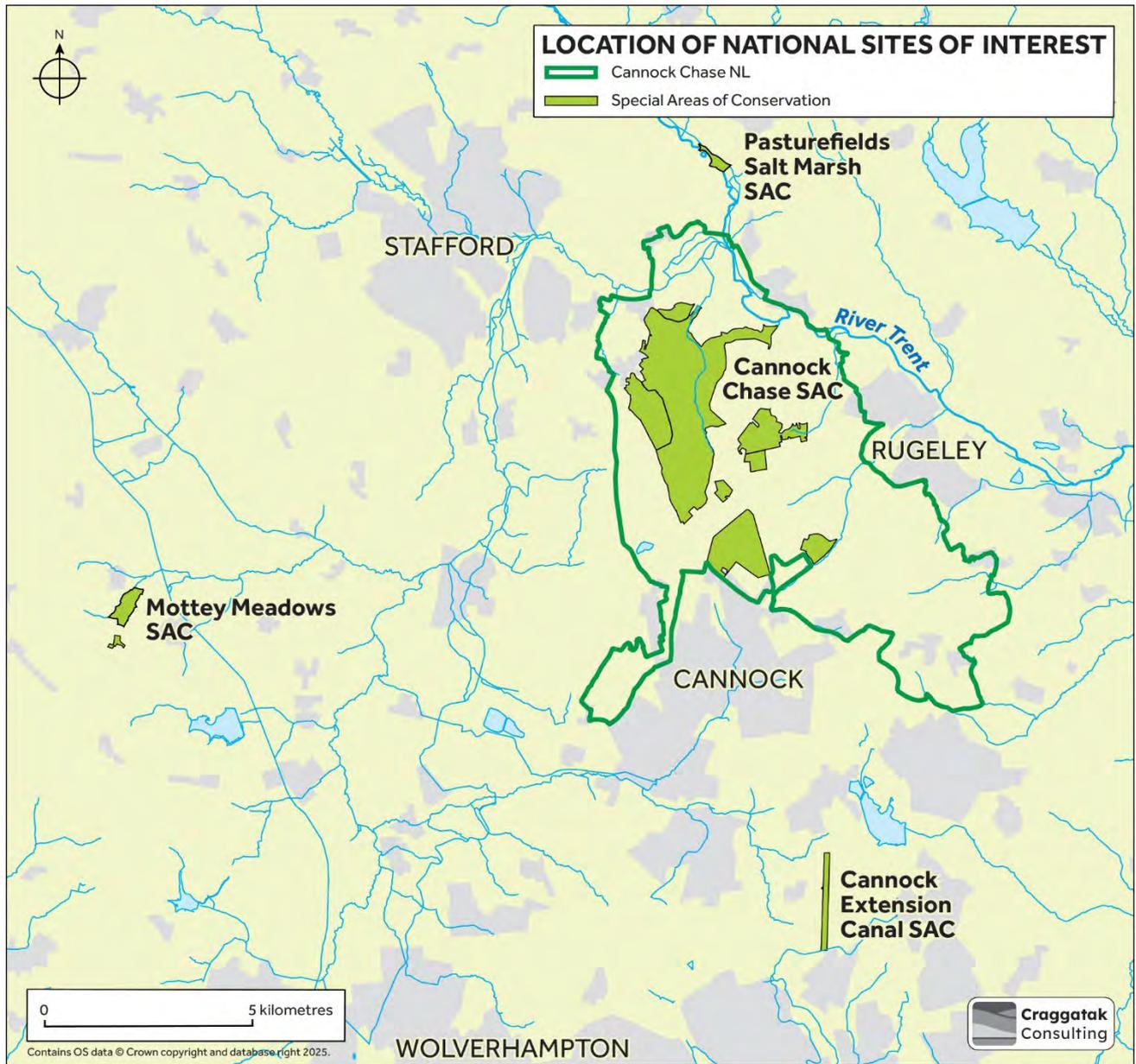
for biodiversity, but some 955 hectares/41% lie outside these areas, and their condition is largely unknown.

Figure 2: Location of National Sites



3.2. Following a discussion with Natural England (see **Appendix 6**), it was agreed that the Management Plan policies were unlikely to have a significant effect on any National Sites outside of the National Landscape. However, there should be a precautionary approach. The initial assessment must consider the Cannock Chase and the Cannock Extension Canal SACs. And, to test for hydrological effects, both the Pasturefields and Mottey Meadows SAC should be considered.

Figure 3: National Sites of interest



3.3. Descriptions of each National Site listed in Table 2 are set out in **Appendix 1**. The qualifying features and conservation objectives for each site are set out in a schedule, as stated by Natural England.

## 4. Potential adverse effects of the Management Plan

### AONB Management Plan

4.1. The Management Plan sets out a framework that gives guidance and direction towards achieving the long-term Vision for the Cannock Chase National Landscape. The Objectives and policies are set out under four over-arching themes, each supported by a strategic aim. The themes are:

- 1) **Nature - Strategic aim:** A nature-rich, healthy, National Landscape, with a thriving and connected network of habitats that is alive with wildlife, both within and beyond its borders (addressed by 12 policies).
- 2) **Climate - Strategic aim:** A resilient National Landscape, adapted to cope with the impacts of climate change and net zero (addressed by 3 policies).
- 3) **People - Strategic aim:** An inclusive National Landscape, providing a quality experience in which people from all backgrounds and abilities value Cannock Chase as an important part of their lives and are empowered to care for it (addressed by 11 policies).
- 4) **Place - Strategic aim:** A welcoming National Landscape, whose local character, distinctiveness and sense of place is sustained and enhanced, providing multiple benefits for all (addressed by 13 policies).

4.2. The policy framework is set out in **Appendix 3**.

### Identifying potential adverse effects of Management Plan Policies

4.3. To understand whether the Management Plan may affect the National Sites listed above it is necessary to identify those factors that will adversely affect the sites. Through Natural England, data is available for the National Site network on the conservation objectives and descriptions of the designated features of interest complete with a statement on the current pressures and vulnerabilities that threaten their integrity<sup>9</sup>. These pressures are set out in **Appendix 1** and are summarised in **Table 3**.

| <b>Table 3: Pressures on the integrity of National Sites</b> |
|--|
| <b>Site within the National Landscape</b>                    |
| Under-grazing  |
| Drainage   |
| Hydrological changes   |
| Disease  |
| Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition     |
| Wildfire / arson   |
| Invasive species   |
| <b>Sites within 15 km of the National Landscape boundary</b> |
| Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition     |
| Change in land management                                    |
| Drainage   |
| Eutrophication   |
| Forestry and woodland management                             |

<sup>9</sup> There are Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) for each national site in England, developed as part of the Improvement Programme for England’s national site network. They are live documents capable of updating to reflect changes in evidence / knowledge and as actions get underway.

|  |
|--|
| Game management: pheasant rearing              |
| Habitat fragmentation                          |
| Hydrological changes                           |
| Inappropriate scrub control                    |
| Inappropriate weirs, dams and other structures |
| Introduction of non-native plant species       |
| Invasive species                               |
| Overgrazing                                    |
| Siltation                                      |
| Water abstraction                              |
| Water pollution* (Priority 1 for all sites)    |

4.4. As set out in paragraph 3.2, it is not necessary to consider all the National Sites for the initial assessment. **Table 4** shows the relevant impacts for the Sites of Interest (Cannock Chase, Cannock Extension Canal, Pasturefields & Motte Meadows) as extracted from Table 3.

| <b>Table 4: Impacts relevant to the Sites of Interest</b> |
|---|
| <b>Impacts for initial assessment</b>                     |
| Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition  |
| Disease   |
| Drainage  |
| Hydrological changes                                      |
| Invasive species  |
| Under-grazing   |
| Water abstraction   |
| Water pollution   |
| Wildfire / arson  |

- 4.5. The Site Improvement Plan for the network site within the Cannock Chase National landscape provides an overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the SAC. It also outlines the priority measures required to improve the condition of the features. It does not cover issues where remedial actions are already in place or ongoing site maintenance activities. **Appendix 2** sets out in detail the issues for the site in Table 3.
- 4.6. The factors listed in the national site schedules frame the testing of policies within the AONB Management Plan when assessing their effect upon the sites.

**Results of the preliminary screening appraisal**

- 4.7. **Task 1** is to compile a schedule listing all the policies of the Management Plan and check each for the likelihood of it leading to a significant effect on the National Site network (**Appendix 4**). The initial task was to identify those policies that have no negative effects.
- 4.8. The Management Plan’s policies do not directly trigger development proposals, and neither do they provide a decision-making framework for development. However, the

assessment applies the precautionary principle. An element is screened when it has the potential for one or more of the impacts, even if it falls under an element that does not have that impact. Where no potential ecological impacts have been identified, it has been assumed that the policy or action will not have an impact on the National Site network.

- 4.9. The preliminary screening finds that **no policies** Cannock Chase National Landscape Management Plan **are likely to have any Likely Significant Effect** on the National Site network.

## Outcome of consultation

- 4.10. Natural England was consulted during December 2024 and January 2025. It found that the Management Plan does not outline any projects in any detail that could be assessed as part of a HRA process. It would expect the Partnership to work with NE to look at each future project and gain consent, as appropriate. NE agree that there is no need to undertake an Appropriate Assessment at this stage. (Précis in **Appendix 6**).

## 5. Other relevant plans

### Introduction

- 5.1. The Habitats Regulations state that when considering whether a specific plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the National Site network, this should consider possible ‘in-combination’ effects with other plans or projects.
- 5.2. Part of the Management Plan screening process is to identify the plans, programmes and projects that could have ‘in-combination’ effects. There is no assessment of these plans, programmes and projects in any detail at this stage. In-combination effects will only be assessed where it is identified in Stage 2 of the HRA process that the Management Plan policies and actions are likely to have significant adverse effects. If the plan is not likely to have an impact on a site, there is no potential for any ‘in-combination’ effect. A series of other plans and projects have been identified to test for possible in-combination effects. These are outlined in **Appendix 5**.

## 6. Conclusions

- 6.1. Results of Screening:
- That no policy areas would have a Likely Significant Effect on any National Sites.
  - There is no requirement to undertake an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitat Regulations.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Location & description of the National Site networks

#### Sites within the National Landscape

##### Cannock Chase

Cannock Chase is a large, diverse area of semi-natural vegetation comprising the most extensive area of lowland heathland in the Midlands with alder woodland, oak wood pasture and valley mires. It is home to breeding Nightjar, Woodlark, occasionally Dartford warbler and a diverse invertebrate fauna. The character of the vegetation is intermediate between the upland or northern heaths of England and Wales and those of southern counties.

Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation is also a Country Park and lies in the heart of Cannock Chase National Landscape. Given its location, it is a popular outdoor recreation destination and is subject to high visitor pressure. The Cannock Chase SAC Partnership has been set up to deliver robust access management measures to mitigate the negative effects of predicted future increases in recreational usage of the SAC. Current management of SAC land is targeted at restoring and strengthening the heathland vegetation mosaics.

##### Site details

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Country  | England                                       |
| Unitary Authority  | Shropshire & Staffordshire                    |
| Centroid <sup>10</sup>   | SJ982188                                      |
| Latitude   | 52.76638889                                   |
| Longitude  | -2.026666667                                  |
| SAC EU code  | UK0030107                                     |
| Status   | Designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC) |
| Area (ha)  | 1244.2  |
| <b>General site character</b><br>Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (0.5%)<br>Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana (76.3%)<br>Coniferous woodland (12%)<br>Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including Orchards, groves, Vineyards, Dehesas) (10.5%)<br>Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites) (0.7%) |   |

<sup>10</sup> This is the approximate central point of the site. In the case of large, linear or composite sites, this may not represent the location where a feature occurs within the site.

| Conservation Objectives (June 2014)  | Issues <sup>11</sup>   |
|--|--|
| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and,</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely</li> </ul> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undergrazing</li> <li>2. Drainage</li> <li>3. Hydrological changes</li> <li>4. Disease</li> <li>5. Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> <li>6. Wildfire / arson</li> <li>7. Invasive species</li> </ol> |
| <p><b>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site<sup>12</sup></b><br/>European dry heaths</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</b><br/>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</b><br/>n/a</p>  |  |
| <p><b>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</b><br/>N/a</p>  |  |

## Sites within 15 Km of the National Landscapes boundary

### Cannock Extension Canal

Cannock Extension Canal SAC supports the largest known population of Floating Water-plantain *Luronium natans* in Staffordshire. Floating water-plantain is a rare, small white-flowered water plant only found in Europe. In the UK, it is considered a nationally scarce plant. It is found in Wales, and central England, growing in lakes, reservoirs, ponds, slow-flowing rivers and canals.

Floating water-plantain occurs as two forms: in shallow water with floating oval leaves; in deep water with submerged rosettes of narrow leaves. The assemblage of 34 aquatic plant species places this site in the top 20% of British canals. The site also has a good dragonfly assemblage.

### Site details

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| Country | England |
|---------|---------|

<sup>11</sup> Identified in the Natural England Site Improvement Plan; in priority order

<sup>12</sup> When undertaking an appropriate assessment of impacts at a site, **all** features of European importance (both primary and non-primary) need to be considered.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Unitary Authority</b>  | Shropshire & Staffordshire;<br>West Midlands   |
| <b>Centroid</b>   | SK020058   |
| <b>Latitude</b>   | 52.64972222  |
| <b>Longitude</b>  | -1.970555556   |
| <b>SAC EU code</b>  | UK0012672  |
| <b>Status</b>   | Designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC)  |
| <b>Area (ha)</b>  | 5  |
| <b>General site character</b>   |  |
| <p>Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (75%)<br/>                 Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (10%)<br/>                 Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (4.9%)<br/>                 Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites) (10.1%)</p>  |  |
| <b>Conservation Objectives (June 2014)</b>  | <b>Issues</b>  |
| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The supporting processes on the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water pollution</li> <li>2. Overgrazing</li> <li>3. Invasive species</li> <li>4. Air pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> </ol> |
| <b>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</b>  |  |
| n/a   |  |
| <b>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</b>  |  |
| n/a   |  |
| <b>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</b>  |  |
| Floating water-plantain <i>Luronium natans</i>  |  |
| <b>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</b>  |  |
| n/a   |  |

## Mottey Meadows

This site is an outstanding floristically-diverse mesotrophic grassland where traditional late hay cutting and aftermath grazing has been perpetuated, largely unaffected by modern agricultural practices.

The site is important because of its large size, variety of grassland community types and presence of rare species. Furthermore, it contains an extensive example of an alluvial flood meadow.

### Site details

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Country</b>  | <b>England</b>  |
| <b>Unitary Authority</b>  | Shropshire and Staffordshire  |
| <b>Centroid</b>   | SJ840134  |
| <b>Latitude</b>   | 52.7175   |
| <b>Longitude</b>  | -2.236944444  |
| <b>SAC EU code</b>  | UK0030051   |
| <b>Status</b>   | Designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC)   |
| <b>Area (ha)</b>  | 43.69   |
| <b>General site character</b><br>Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (97%)<br>Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including Orchards, groves, Vineyards, Dehesas) (3%)  |   |
| <b>Conservation Objectives (June 2014)</b>  | <b>Issues</b>   |
| Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and,</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely</li> </ul> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water pollution</li> <li>2. Hydrological changes</li> <li>3. Water abstraction</li> <li>4. Change in land management</li> </ol> |
| <b>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</b><br>Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> )  |   |
| <b>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</b><br>n/a   |   |
| <b>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</b><br>n/a   |   |
| <b>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</b><br>n/a   |   |

## Pasturefields Salt Marsh

Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC is in the River Trent floodplain and is one of only two known extant brine marshes in the country. This extremely rare habitat contains a number of halophytic plants and is locally important for breeding waders including snipe, redshank and lapwing.

### Site details

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Country   | England                                       |
| Unitary Authority   | Staffordshire                                 |
| Centroid  | SJ992249                                      |
| Latitude  | 52.82138889                                   |
| Longitude   | -2.0125                                       |
| SAC EU code   | UK0012789                                     |
| Status  | Designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC) |
| Area (ha)   | 7.7   |
| <b>General site character</b><br>Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes (6.5%)<br>Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (3%)<br>Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (90.5%)   |   |
| <b>Conservation Objectives (June 2014)</b>  | <b>Issues</b>                                 |
| Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and,</li> <li>The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely</li> </ul> | No issues have been identified on this site.  |
| <b>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</b><br>Inland salt meadows * Priority feature  |   |
| <b>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</b><br>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath   |   |
| <b>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</b><br>n/a   |   |
| <b>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</b><br>n/a   |   |

## River Mease

The River Mease is representative of a relatively un-modified clay lowland river, which supports nationally significant populations of Spined Loach *Cobitis taenia* and Bullhead *Cottus gobio*, both of which are of International importance.

Other interest features include freshwater White-clawed Crayfish *Austropotamoisus pallipes* and Otter *Lutra lutra*, both have restricted distribution within the East Midlands.

### Site details

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Country</b>  | <b>England</b>  |
| <b>Unitary Authority</b>  | Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire  |
| <b>Centroid</b>   | SK260114  |
| <b>Latitude</b>   | 52.69972222   |
| <b>Longitude</b>  | -1.615555556  |
| <b>SAC EU code</b>  | UK0030258   |
| <b>Status</b>   | Designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC)   |
| <b>Area (ha)</b>  | 21.03   |
| <b>General site character</b>   |   |
| Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (100%)  |   |
| <b>Conservation Objectives (June 2014)</b>  | <b>Issues</b>   |
| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The supporting processes on the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water pollution</li> <li>2. Drainage</li> <li>3. Inappropriate weirs, dams and other structures</li> <li>4. Invasive species</li> <li>5. Siltation</li> <li>6. Water abstraction</li> </ol> |
| <b>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</b>  |   |
| n/a   |   |
| <b>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</b>  |   |

Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation

**Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site**

Spined loach *Cobitis taenia*

Bullhead *Cottus gobio*

**Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection**

White-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*

Otter *Lutra lutra*

## West Midlands Mosses

The West Midlands Mosses comprises four sites: Clarepool Moss, Abbots Moss, Chartley Moss and Wybunbury Moss.

These support large basin mires that have developed as quaking bogs, known as Schwingmoors, together with a variety of associated hollows and pools showing various types and stages of mire development. This complexity of habitats gives rise to a diverse assemblage of associated plants and invertebrates of national significance.

### Also known as: Midland Meres and Mosses (Phase 1)

The Meres & Mosses form a geographically discrete series of lowland open water and peatland sites in the north-west Midlands of England. These have developed in natural depressions in the glacial drift left by receding ice sheets that formerly covered the Cheshire/Shropshire Plain. The 16 component sites include open water bodies (meres), the majority of which are nutrient-rich with associated fringing habitats; reed swamps, fen, carr & damp pasture. Peat accumulation has resulted in nutrient poor peat bogs (mosses) forming in some sites in the fringes of meres or completely infilling basins. In a few cases, the result is a floating quaking bog or schwingmoor. The wide range of resulting habitats supports nationally important flora & fauna.

### Site details

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Country           | England                                       |
| Unitary Authority | Cheshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire        |
| Centroid          | SK026282                                      |
| Latitude          | 52.85111111                                   |
| Longitude         | -1.96111111                                   |
| SAC EU code       | UK0013595                                     |
| Status            | Designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC) |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>RAMSAR UK code</b>  | UK0011043   |
| <b>Status</b>  | Designated RAMSAR Wetland   |
| <b>Area (ha)</b>   | 184.62  |
| <b>General site character</b>  |   |
| <p>Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (2.3%)<br/>                     Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens (35.5%)<br/>                     Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana (5.5%)<br/>                     Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (3.3%)<br/>                     Improved grassland (20.5%)<br/>                     Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (22.5%)<br/>                     Coniferous woodland (4.9%)<br/>                     Mixed woodland (3.3%)<br/>                     Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites) (2.2%)</p> |   |
| <b>SAC</b>   |   |
| <b>Conservation Objectives (June 2014)</b>   | <b>Issues</b>   |
| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and,</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely</li> </ul>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water pollution</li> <li>2. Hydrological changes</li> <li>3. Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> <li>4. Inappropriate scrub control</li> <li>5. Game management: pheasant rearing</li> <li>6. Forestry and woodland management</li> <li>7. Habitat fragmentation</li> </ol> |
| <b>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</b>   |   |
| <p>Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds<br/>                     Transition mires and quaking bogs</p>   |   |
| <b>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</b>   |   |
| n/a  |   |
| <b>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</b>   |   |
| n/a  |   |
| <b>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</b>   |   |
| n/a  |   |
| <b>RAMSAR</b>  |   |
| <b>Ramsar criterion 1</b> The site comprises a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog.  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eutrophication</li> <li>2. Introduction of non-native plant species</li> </ol>  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Ramsar criterion 2</b> 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). |  |
| <b>Noteworthy flora:</b> <i>Elatine hexandra</i> , <i>Eleocharis acicularis</i> , <i>Cicuta virosa</i> , <i>Thelypteris palustris</i> , <i>Carex elongata</i>   |  |
| <b>Noteworthy fauna:</b> <i>Hagenella clathrata</i> , <i>Limnophila fasciata</i> , <i>Cararita limnaea</i> , <i>Lathrobium rufipenne</i> , <i>Donacia aquatica</i> , <i>Prionocera pubescens</i> , <i>Gonomyia abbreviata</i> , <i>Sitticus floricola</i>                                   |  |

## Remote from the National Landscape but linked by the River Trent

### Humber Estuary

The Humber Estuary is a large macro-tidal coastal plain estuary with high suspended sediment loads, which feed a dynamic and rapidly changing system of accreting and eroding intertidal and subtidal mudflats, sandflats, saltmarsh and reedbeds. Other notable habitats include a range of sand dune types in the outer estuary, together with sub-tidal sandbanks and coastal lagoons. As salinity declines upstream, tidal reedbeds and brackish saltmarsh communities fringe the estuary. Significant fish species include river lamprey and sea lamprey, which migrate through the estuary to breed in the rivers of the Humber catchment. Grey seals come ashore in autumn to form large breeding colonies on the sandy shores of the south bank around Donna Nook.

The estuary is used by many species of wintering and passage waterbirds attracted by the different habitats of the SPA. For example, the sandy sediments of the outer estuary typically attract knot and grey plover, while waterfowl prefer the wetland zones of the upper estuary. At high tide, large mixed flocks congregate in key roost sites that are at a premium due to the combined effects of extensive land claim, coastal squeeze and lack of grazing marsh and grassland on both banks of the estuary. In summer, the site supports important breeding populations of Bittern, Marsh harrier, Avocet and Little tern.

Several developing managed realignment sites on the estuary are providing replacement habitats, which contribute to the variety of habitats available to the bird features.

### Site details

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Country</b>           | England   |
| <b>Unitary Authority</b> | East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire, Extra-Regio, Lincolnshire |
| <b>Centroid</b>          | SE838110  |
| <b>Latitude</b>          | 53.58916667   |
| <b>Longitude</b>         | -0.734722222  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>SAC EU code</b>  | UK0030170  |
| <b>Status</b>   | Designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC)  |
| <b>Area (ha)</b>  | 36657.15   |
| <b>SPA EU code</b>  | UK9006111  |
| <b>Status</b>   | Special Protection Area (SPA)  |
| <b>Area (ha)</b>  | 37630.24   |
| <b>General site character</b>   |  |
| Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (94.9%)<br>Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes (4.4%)<br>Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair (0.4%)<br>Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens (0.4%)   |  |
| <b>Conservation Objectives (SAC March 2014 / SPA June 2014)</b>   | <b>Issues</b>  |
| <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The supporting processes on the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water Pollution</li> <li>2. Coastal squeeze</li> <li>3. Changes in species distribution</li> <li>4. Undergrazing</li> <li>5. Invasive species</li> <li>6. Natural changes to site conditions</li> <li>7. Public access / disturbance</li> <li>8. Fisheries: fish stocking</li> <li>9. Fisheries: commercial marine and estuarine</li> <li>10. Direct land-take from development</li> <li>11. Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> <li>12. Shooting / caring</li> <li>13. Direct impact from third party</li> <li>14. Inappropriate scrub control</li> </ol> |
| <b>SAC</b>  |  |
| <b>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</b>  |  |
| Estuaries<br>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide   |  |
| <b>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</b>  |  |
| Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time<br>Coastal lagoons * Priority feature  |  |

|   |
|---|
| <p>Glasswort <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand<br/>                 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)<br/>                 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation<br/>                 Embryonic shifting dunes<br/>                 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with marram <i>Ammophila arenaria</i><br/>                 Dunes with sea-buckthorn <i>Hippopha rhamnoides</i></p>   |
| <p><b>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</b><br/>                 n/a</p>  |
| <p><b>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</b><br/>                 Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i><br/>                 River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i><br/>                 Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i></p>  |
| <p><b>SPA</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</b><br/>                 n/a</p>  |
| <p><b>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</b><br/>                 n/a</p>  |
| <p><b>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</b><br/>                 Great bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i><br/>                 Eurasian marsh harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i><br/>                 Pied avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i><br/>                 Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i><br/>                 Hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i><br/>                 Bar-tailed godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i><br/>                 European golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i></p> |
| <p><b>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</b><br/>                 Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i><br/>                 Red knot <i>Calidris canutus</i><br/>                 Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i><br/>                 Common shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i><br/>                 Common redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i><br/>                 Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i><br/>                 Waterbird assemblage</p>                    |

## Appendix 2: Prioritised issues for the National Site within the NL

| Prioritised issues for Cannock Chase SAC <sup>13</sup> |                      |  |   |
|--|----------------------|--|---|
| Priority   | Issue                |  | Measure   |
| 1  | Under-grazing        | Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation needs conservation grazing by appropriate animals to build on the restoration of the dry and wet heathland habitats and address several management issues. Grazing animals such as cattle will diversify the physical structure of the heathland habitats by creating habitat mosaics across the site that in turn will benefit the special fauna at Cannock Chase. The presence of the plant fungal disease <i>Phytophthora pseudosyringae</i> on bilberry has stalled the reintroduction of grazing to the main body of the Chase due to time and resources being diverted to controlling this little-known disease but also due to concerns that grazing would spread the disease around the site. After five years of disease monitoring and treatment, we have a better understanding of the disease and how it moves around County land. It is now time to use and build on this research, and to build on the grazing research already carried out, to devise a grazing plan for Cannock Chase that will pose no greater risk to spreading the disease than the risk posed by people, dogs and deer. | Introduce grazing.  |
| 2  | Drainage             | The water supply to the wetland habitats needs further investigation and there are artificial, historic drainage structures in the Oldacre Valley that need to be assessed to establish their impact on the wetland vegetation.  | Investigate the water supply to the wetland habitats in the Oldacre Valley, including the impact of the WW1 camp drainage system. |
| 3  | Hydrological changes | There has been a reduction in the extent of the valley mire and changes in the vegetation in the Sher Brook Valley which indicate a move towards a drier wetland vegetation. Investigations are needed into why this is happening and what can be done to rectify it.  | Investigate the hydrology of the Sher Brook Valley and restore where possible.  |
| 4  | Disease              | The fungal plant disease <i>Phytophthora pseudosyringae</i> is widespread on several parts of the main body of the Chase, affecting bilberry, a major part of the  | Extend <i>Phytophthora pseudosyringae</i> monitoring to all Special Area of Conservation land to                                  |

<sup>13</sup> After the Natural England Site Improvement Plan October 2014

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
|   |  | <p>heathland vegetation. Monitoring of disease spread has so far focussed on County land but there is a need to understand if and how the disease is spreading on the other parts of the Special Area of Conservation.</p> <p>The disease outbreak on Cannock Chase is the worst in the country and with 5 years-worth of disease monitoring and treatment data on County land available, there is an opportunity to build on this evidence base to understand the disease in greater detail, its long-term effects on the vegetation composition of the Special Area of Conservation and devise an effective control plan to stop the spread of the disease. The results of this research should be incorporated into all current and future management plans for the site.</p> | gather more data to aid understanding about the disease and long-term impacts.   |
| 5 | Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition | <p>Nitrogen deposition on Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation currently exceeds the relevant critical loads for the site. Possible effects of this seen on the ground include an increase in bramble across the site and a shorter <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> lifecycle resulting in the plants ageing faster.</p>   | Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts on the whole of Cannock Chase SAC  |
| 6 | Wildfire / arson   | <p>Accidental and deliberate fires have caused massive damage to Cannock Chase over the decades. Ensuring that the existing fire break network is robust and restoration plans post-fire are in place will help areas recover quicker. Raising awareness with the public will reduce fires in the future.</p>  | Update fire plans, review of the effectiveness of existing fire-breaks, and raise awareness with the public of the damage of accidental fires on heathland |
| 7 | Invasive species   | <p>A range of invasive species are present on the SAC and on surrounding land. Monitoring and controlling the spread of certain aggressive species is vital to prevent damage to the dry and wet heath communities. Raising awareness with neighbouring landowners about the damage such species can cause and how they can help prevent the risk of spread of invasive species is needed too.</p>   | Continue to monitor and control Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)   |

## Appendix 3: Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan policy framework

| Vision   |  |                                       |  |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <i>A wild and beautiful place, distinctive, thriving, resilient and welcoming</i>  |  |                                       |  |
| Themes   | Objectives                                 | Policy topics                         |  |
| <b>Nature</b><br>Strategic aim: A nature-rich, healthy, National Landscape, with a thriving and connected network of habitats that is alive with wildlife, both within and beyond its borders. | Improve conditions for nature on the Chase | N1 Protected sites                    | Develop a thriving and better connected network of protected, well-managed wildlife sites that is at the heart of nature recovery in the National Landscape.   |
|  |  | N2 Priority habitats                  | Restore, expand and maintain in favourable condition areas of priority habitat outside nationally-designated wildlife sites.   |
|  |  | N3 Priority species                   | Conserve and enhance populations of priority species and their habitats, taking particular account of threats, such as disturbance and pollution.  |
|  |  | N4 Wildlife-rich countryside          | Enhance the biodiversity of the wider countryside around and between protected sites and priority habitats.  |
|  |  | N5 Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) | Prevent, control and eradicate invasive species, pests and diseases in the National Landscape, focusing on those that are most harmful to biodiversity.  |
|  |  | N6 Deer                               | Monitor and manage the deer population across the Chase, working collaboratively with land managers and the public to balance the needs of both a healthy deer population and habitats, and to manage conflicts with people. |
|  |  | N7 Geodiversity                       | Protect and manage Local Geological Sites within the National Landscape to ensure their long-term conservation.  |
|  |  | A better connected Chase              | N8 Ecological networks   |

|   |                                 |                                     |  |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
|   |                                 |                                     | populations currently concentrated in the Chase.   |
|   |                                 | N9 Integrated land management       | Develop landscape-scale partnerships and initiatives that deliver better and integrated management of the land and water environment to provide multiple benefits for nature and people as well as increasing resilience to climate change.  |
|   | Improve environmental quality   | N10 Water quality                   | Improve the health of the water environment in the National Landscape, and the sustainability of water resources for people and nature.  |
|   |                                 | N11 Air quality                     | Protect sensitive natural habitats from the effects of air pollution.  |
|   |                                 | N12 Soil health                     | Encourage practices that protect and regenerate our soils.   |
| <b>Climate</b><br>Strategic aim: A resilient National Landscape, adapted to cope with the impacts of climate change and net zero. | Lower greenhouse gas emissions  | C1 Sustainable travel               | Promote and encourage the use of sustainable alternative means of transport by visitors to the Chase.  |
|   | Sequester and store more carbon | C2 Land use change and management   | Support land use changes and management practices that increase carbon sequestration and storage and protect our existing carbon stores, respecting and reinforcing local landscape characteristics and distinctiveness. Actions to increase woodland canopy cover should be targeted to ensure that the right tree is planted in the right place. |
|   | Adapting to climate change      | C3 Improved resilience              | Support and facilitate the delivery of more integrated land use and water management at the landscape-scale to meet climate change challenges and increase the resilience of our landscapes, habitats and heritage.  |
| <b>People</b><br>Strategic aim: An inclusive National Landscape, providing a quality experience in which people from all          | Recreation management           | PE1 Working together, strategically | Adopt a unified and strategic approach to the management of recreation on the Chase, including creating capacity for the anticipated growth in visitor numbers.  |

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| <p>backgrounds and abilities value Cannock Chase as an important part of their lives and are empowered to care for it.</p> | <p>Treading lightly on the Chase</p>     | <p>PE2 Avoiding impacts</p>                           | <p>Direct recreational activity away from the most sensitive parts of the National Landscape, ensuring that suitable measures are in place to reduce the negative impacts of an increase in visitors (both within and beyond the designated boundary).</p>  |
|  |  | <p>PE3 Changing perceptions and behaviours</p>        | <p>Convey the things that make Cannock Chase National Landscape special to visitors and local people in more consistent and effective ways so that they enjoy it, come to value it, want to care for it, and avoid any negative impacts.</p>  |
|  |  | <p>PE4 Recreation provision beyond the boundaries</p> | <p>Improve the quality and connectivity of existing, and development of new, Green Infrastructure and Open Space, as well as the Rights of Way network outside the National Landscape boundary to help reduce recreational and visitor pressure within the designated area, and reduce traffic.</p> |
|  | <p>A high-quality visitor experience</p> | <p>PE5 Improving access</p>                           | <p>Provide opportunities for safe access into and within the National Landscape for a range of abilities and users, that is sensitive to the special qualities of the Chase.</p>  |
|  |  | <p>PE6 Visitor infrastructure</p>                     | <p>Deliver high-quality visitor infrastructure and provision throughout the National Landscape, using best practice environmental design standards and adopting a common approach to branding, signage, waymarking, interpretation and the reduction of visual clutter on the open Chase.</p>       |
|  | <p>Inclusive and empowering</p>          | <p>PE7 A landscape for everyone</p>                   | <p>Foster greater inclusion and a sense of belonging within the work of the National Landscape that better reflects the diversity of our communities and visitors.</p>  |
|  |  | <p>PE8 Opportunities for volunteering</p>             | <p>Increase and diversify volunteering opportunities that support the special qualities of the National Landscape.</p>  |

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|  |  | PE9 Empower communities                               | Support and enable communities to develop and deliver high-quality, community-led initiatives that contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the special qualities of the National Landscape.   |
|  | Land-based economy                             | PE10 Rural skills                                     | Promote and support training schemes and employment opportunities for local people in nature and heritage conservation, recreation, woodland, farming and traditional rural skills that help to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Landscape.   |
|  | Place attachment                               | PE11 A greater sense of place                         | Strengthen people’s emotional connections with and attachments to Cannock Chase to generate a greater pride in, and respect for, the area.  |
| <b>Place</b><br>Strategic aim: A welcoming National Landscape, whose local character, distinctiveness and sense of place is sustained and enhanced, providing multiple benefits for all. | Maintain landscape quality and distinctiveness | PL1 High standards of design in the built environment | Development within the National Landscape should be of high quality design and environmental standards, respecting local distinctiveness, be complementary in form and scale with their surroundings, should take opportunities to enhance their setting and minimise their carbon footprint and negative impacts on the local environment. |
|  |  | PL2 Woodland  | Enhance the contribution that diverse and well-managed woodlands make to the character of the National Landscape as well as carbon sequestration and storage, flood alleviation and resilience to climate change.   |
|  |  | PL3 Farmland  | Encourage and support farming businesses in the Chase to maintain and enhance agricultural land management that contributes to the special qualities of the National Landscape, and delivers other public benefits, such as clean air, clean water and healthy soils.   |
|  |  | PL4 Other land uses                                   | Conserve and enhance the National Landscape’s special   |

|   |                                |  |  |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|
|   |                                |  | qualities through the sensitive use and management of rural non-farming land uses.   |
| Wildness and tranquillity   | PL5 Road traffic               |  | Minimise the impact of traffic travelling through the Chase and highway management on tranquillity and other special qualities by encouraging alternative routes and reducing speed, noise and air pollution.  |
|   | PL6 Overhead powerlines        |  | Reduce the visual impacts of overhead powerlines through undergrounding and landscape enhancement initiatives. All proposals for undergrounding will be rigorously assessed for any potential environmental impacts, and will seek to minimise disturbance and avoid harm to natural and cultural heritage.                                  |
|   | PL7 Dark skies                 |  | Maintain the National Landscape as a place where dark skies can be enjoyed.  |
| Enhance the setting of the Chase within its wider urban and rural landscape | PL8 Protecting views           |  | Resist development and land management proposals in the area which, by virtue of their nature, size, scale, siting, materials or design, can be considered to have a negative impact on the natural beauty and special qualities of Cannock Chase.   |
|   | PL9 Softening the boundary     |  | Design and maintain the character of the public realm (e.g. landscaping around roads and buildings, public lighting and signage) in the immediate vicinity of the National Landscape so that it reinforces and complements the landscape character and quality of the Chase and provides a welcoming experience for those entering the area. |
|   | PL10 Strategic landscape links |  | Encourage and support opportunities to enhance the character and quality of the countryside and public open spaces surrounding the National Landscape so as to enhance its setting, reduce its isolation and create strong visual and  |

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|  |   |  | aesthetic links with surrounding landscapes.   |
|  | Understanding the Chase’s historic environment              | PL11 Improving knowledge of heritage                 | Improve understanding of the significance, relative importance and condition of heritage assets within the National Landscape.                               |
|  | Conserving the Chase’s historic environment                 | PL12 Improving the condition of heritage             | Work with landowners, managers, local communities, decision makers and enforcement agencies to protect and positively manage the historic environment.       |
|  | Connecting communities with the Chase’s history and culture | PL13 Inspire through the Chase’s history and culture | Engage and inspire local communities and visitors to enjoy and appreciate Cannock Chase’s historic environment through education, interpretation and events. |

## Appendix 4: Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan HRA First Sieve

| Guidance on Habitats Regulations Appraisal of plans – Classifying No Negative Effect  |  |      |             |   |
|---|--|------|-------------|---|
| A1  | Options / policies that will not themselves lead to development e.g., because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development, or they are not a land use planning policy. |      |             |   |
| A2  | Options / policies intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity   |      |             |   |
| A3  | Options / policies intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on a Natura 2000 Site |      |             |   |
| A4  | Options / policies that positively steer development away from Natura 2000 Sites and associated sensitive areas  |      |             |   |
| A5  | General policy statements or policies that only express general intentions or political aspirations.   |      |             |   |
| Draft Policies  | Category A?  | Type | Next stage? | Comment   |
| N1 Protected sites: Develop a thriving and better connected network of protected, well-managed wildlife sites that is at the heart of nature recovery in the National Landscape.  | YES  | A2   | NO          | A general policy statement that will protect National Network sites by controlling the modification of ecosystems |
| N2 Priority habitats: Restore, expand and maintain in favourable condition areas of priority habitat outside nationally-designated wildlife sites.  | YES  | A3   | NO          | An aspiration to conserve and enhance biodiversity  |
| N3 Priority species: Conserve and enhance populations of priority species and their habitats, taking particular account of threats, such as disturbance and pollution.  | YES  | A3   | NO          | An aspiration to conserve and enhance biodiversity  |
| N4 Wildlife-rich countryside: Enhance the biodiversity of the wider countryside around and between protected sites and priority habitats.   | YES  | A3   | NO          | An aspiration to conserve and enhance biodiversity by maintaining the integrity of ecosystems                     |
| N5 Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS): Prevent, control and eradicate invasive species, pests and diseases in the National Landscape, focusing on those that are most harmful to biodiversity.  | YES  | A2   | NO          | A general policy statement that will protect National Network sites by controlling the modification of ecosystems |
| N6 Deer: Monitor and manage the deer population across the Chase, working collaboratively with land managers and the public to balance the needs of both a healthy deer population and habitats, and to manage conflicts with people. | YES  | A5   | NO          | A general policy statement  |

|   |            |           |           |  |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|--|
| N7 Geodiversity: Protect and manage Local Geological Sites within the National Landscape to ensure their long-term conservation.  | <b>YES</b> | <b>A2</b> | <b>NO</b> | An aspiration to protect geodiversity  |
| N8 Ecological networks: Build connected networks of wildlife sites extending beyond the National Landscape and improve landscape permeability, as a means of enhancing the resilience and viability of wildlife populations currently concentrated in the Chase.  | <b>YES</b> | <b>A3</b> | <b>NO</b> | An aspiration to conserve and enhance biodiversity by maintaining the integrity of ecosystems. Improving the ecological and landscape connectivity of the National Landscape with its surroundings might have a positive outcome on habitat fragmentation in the National Sites of Interest. |
| N9 Integrated land management: Develop landscape-scale partnerships and initiatives that deliver better and integrated management of the land and water environment to provide multiple benefits for nature and people as well as increasing resilience to climate change.  | <b>YES</b> | <b>A5</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general policy statement that seeks to improve ecological and landscape connectivity at a landscape scale. If developed, it might have a positive outcome on habitat fragmentation in the National Sites of Interest.  |
| N10 Water quality: Improve the health of the water environment in the National Landscape, and the sustainability of water resources for people and nature.  | <b>YES</b> | <b>A5</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general policy statement   |
| N11 Air quality: Protect sensitive natural habitats from the effects of air pollution.  | <b>YES</b> | <b>A2</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general policy statement   |
| N12 Soil health: Encourage practices that protect and regenerate our soils.   | <b>YES</b> | <b>A2</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general policy statement   |
| C1 Sustainable travel: Promote and encourage the use of sustainable alternative means of transport by visitors to the Chase.  | <b>YES</b> | <b>A5</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general policy statement   |
| C2 Land use change and management: Support land use changes and management practices that increase carbon sequestration and storage and protect our existing carbon stores, respecting and reinforcing local landscape characteristics and distinctiveness. Actions to increase woodland canopy cover should be targeted to ensure that the right tree is planted in the right place. | <b>YES</b> | <b>A2</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general policy statement   |
| C3 Improved resilience: Support and facilitate the delivery of more integrated land use and water   | <b>YES</b> | <b>A5</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general policy statement   |

|  |            |           |           |   |
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| management at the landscape-scale to meet climate change challenges and increase the resilience of our landscapes, habitats and heritage.  |            |           |           |   |
| PE1 Working together, strategically: Adopt a unified and strategic approach to the management of recreation on the Chase, including creating capacity for the anticipated growth in visitor numbers.   | <b>YES</b> | <b>A5</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general policy statement  |
| PE2 Avoiding impacts: Direct recreational activity away from the most sensitive parts of the National Landscape, ensuring that suitable measures are in place to reduce the negative impacts of an increase in visitors (both within and beyond the designated boundary).  | <b>YES</b> | <b>A4</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general intent that will modify any negative interactions arising from recreation and access.<br>Will move activities away from sensitive National Network sites. |
| PE3 Changing perceptions and behaviours: Convey the things that make Cannock Chase National Landscape special to visitors and local people in more consistent and effective ways so that they enjoy it, come to value it, want to care for it, and avoid any negative impacts.   | <b>YES</b> | <b>A5</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general intent  |
| PE4 Recreation provision beyond the boundaries: Improve the quality and connectivity of existing, and development of new, Green Infrastructure and Open Space, as well as the Rights of Way network outside the National Landscape boundary to help reduce recreational and visitor pressure within the designated area, and reduce traffic. | <b>YES</b> | <b>A5</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general intent  |
| PE5 Improving access: Provide opportunities for safe access into and within the National Landscape for a range of abilities and users, that is sensitive to the special qualities of the Chase.  | <b>YES</b> | <b>A5</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general intent  |
| PE6 Visitor infrastructure: Deliver high-quality visitor infrastructure and provision throughout the National Landscape, using best practice environmental design standards and adopting a common approach to branding, signage, waymarking, interpretation and the reduction of visual clutter on the open Chase.                           | <b>YES</b> | <b>A1</b> | <b>NO</b> | A policy relating to design and qualitative criteria for development  |
| PE7 A landscape for everyone: Foster greater inclusion and a sense of belonging within the work of the National Landscape that better  | <b>YES</b> | <b>A5</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general intent  |

|  |            |           |           |   |
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| reflects the diversity of our communities and visitors.  |            |           |           |   |
| PE8 Opportunities for volunteering: Increase and diversify volunteering opportunities that support the special qualities of the National Landscape.  | <b>YES</b> | <b>A5</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general intent  |
| PE9 Empower communities: Support and enable communities to develop and deliver high-quality, community-led initiatives that contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the special qualities of the National Landscape.   | <b>YES</b> | <b>A3</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general intent  |
| PE10 Rural skills: Promote and support training schemes and employment opportunities for local people in nature and heritage conservation, recreation, woodland, farming and traditional rural skills that help to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Landscape.   | <b>YES</b> | <b>A3</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general intent  |
| PE11 A greater sense of place: Strengthen people’s emotional connections with and attachments to Cannock Chase to generate a greater pride in, and respect for, the area.  | <b>YES</b> | <b>A5</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general intent  |
| PL1 High standards of design in the built environment: Development within the National Landscape should be of high quality design and environmental standards, respecting local distinctiveness, be complementary in form and scale with their surroundings, should take opportunities to enhance their setting and minimise their carbon footprint and negative impacts on the local environment. | <b>YES</b> | <b>A1</b> | <b>NO</b> | A policy relating to design and qualitative criteria for development                          |
| PL2 Woodland: Enhance the contribution that diverse and well-managed woodlands make to the character of the National Landscape as well as carbon sequestration and storage, flood alleviation and resilience to climate change.  | <b>YES</b> | <b>A3</b> | <b>NO</b> | An aspiration to conserve and enhance biodiversity by maintaining the integrity of ecosystems |
| PL3 Farmland: Encourage and support farming businesses in the Chase to maintain and enhance agricultural land management that contributes to the special qualities of the National Landscape, and delivers   | <b>YES</b> | <b>A3</b> | <b>NO</b> | An aspiration to conserve and enhance biodiversity by maintaining the integrity of ecosystems |

|  |            |           |           |   |
|--|------------|-----------|-----------|---|
| other public benefits, such as clean air, clean water and healthy soils.   |            |           |           |   |
| PL4 Other land uses: Conserve and enhance the National Landscape’s special qualities through the sensitive use and management of rural non-farming land uses.  | <b>YES</b> | <b>A3</b> | <b>NO</b> | An aspiration to conserve and enhance natural beauty  |
| PL5 Road traffic: Minimise the impact of traffic travelling through the Chase and highway management on tranquillity and other special qualities by encouraging alternative routes and reducing speed, noise and air pollution.  | <b>YES</b> | <b>A5</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general intent  |
| PL6 Overhead powerlines: Reduce the visual impacts of overhead powerlines through undergrounding and landscape enhancement initiatives. All proposals for undergrounding will be rigorously assessed for any potential environmental impacts, and will seek to minimise disturbance and avoid harm to natural and cultural heritage.                                     | <b>YES</b> | <b>A4</b> | <b>NO</b> | A commitment to rigorously assess proposals, minimise disturbance and avoid harm to sensitive sites. This will protect the Cannock Chase SAC. |
| PL7 Dark skies: Maintain the National Landscape as a place where dark skies can be enjoyed.  | <b>YES</b> | <b>A5</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general intent  |
| PL8 Protecting views: Resist development and land management proposals in the area which, by virtue of their nature, size, scale, siting, materials or design, can be considered to have a negative impact on the natural beauty and special qualities of Cannock Chase.   | <b>YES</b> | <b>A1</b> | <b>NO</b> | A policy relating to design and qualitative criteria for development  |
| PL9 Softening the boundary: Design and maintain the character of the public realm (e.g. landscaping around roads and buildings, public lighting and signage) in the immediate vicinity of the National Landscape so that it reinforces and complements the landscape character and quality of the Chase and provides a welcoming experience for those entering the area. | <b>YES</b> | <b>A1</b> | <b>NO</b> | A policy relating to design and qualitative criteria for development  |
| PL10 Strategic landscape links: Encourage and support opportunities to enhance the character and quality of the countryside and public open spaces surrounding the National Landscape  | <b>YES</b> | <b>A5</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general intent  |

|  |            |           |           |   |
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| so as to enhance its setting, reduce its isolation and create strong visual and aesthetic links with surrounding landscapes.   |            |           |           |   |
| PL11 Improving knowledge of heritage: Improve understanding of the significance, relative importance and condition of heritage assets within the National Landscape.   | <b>YES</b> | <b>A5</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general intent  |
| PL12 Improving the condition of heritage: Work with landowners, managers, local communities, decision makers and enforcement agencies to protect and positively manage the historic environment.                     | <b>YES</b> | <b>A3</b> | <b>NO</b> | An aspiration to conserve and enhance cultural heritage |
| PL13 Inspiring through the Chase’s history and culture: Engage and inspire local communities and visitors to enjoy and appreciate Cannock Chase’s historic environment through education, interpretation and events. | <b>YES</b> | <b>A5</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general intent  |

## Appendix 5: List of relevant plans & policies

### INTERNATIONAL

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International importance, especially waterfowl habitat (1971)  
[www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org)

Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979) (came into force on 1 June 1982)

[www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/bern/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/bern/default_en.asp)

Paris Agreement United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2015)

[http://unfccc.int/paris\\_agreement/items/9485.php](http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php)

### EUROPEAN

The Birds Directive (Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds) (79/409/EEC) (Adopted 1979)

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm)

The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention) Council of Europe (121) 1985

<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/QueVoulezVous.asp?NT=121&CM=1&CL=ENG>

European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised 1985)

<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/143.htm>

Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) (1991)

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:1991:375:0001:0008:EN:PDF>

The Habitats Directive (Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora) (Directive 92/43/EC) (1992)

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm)

The Landfill Directive (99/31/EC) (1999)

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/landfill\\_index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/landfill_index.htm)

The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) (2000)

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html)

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC) (2001)

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2001:197:0030:0037:EN:PDF>

The Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC) (2002)

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/noise/directive.htm>

The Landscape Convention 20 October 2000 (ratified by UK in November 2006)

[www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/default_en.asp)

Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (June 2006)

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st10/st10917.en06.pdf>

Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020, European Commission (2011)

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1\\_EN\\_ACT\\_part1\\_v7%5B1%5D.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5B1%5D.pdf)

### NATIONAL

#### Legislation

Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/1-2/49/contents>

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/pdfs/ukpga\\_19790046\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/pdfs/ukpga_19790046_en.pdf)

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69)

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (as amended)

[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/pdfs/ukpga\\_19900009\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/pdfs/ukpga_19900009_en.pdf)

The Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) Order 1994 SI 1381

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1994/1381/contents/made>

Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000

[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents)

Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006

[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents)

Planning Act 2008

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents>

Climate Change Act 2008

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>

Localism Act 2011

[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents)

The Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 (Habitats Regulation) as amended in 1997, 2000 (in England only) and 2017 (SI 1012)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents/made>

European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Act 2017

[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/9/pdfs/ukpga\\_20170009\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/9/pdfs/ukpga_20170009_en.pdf)

National Planning Policy Framework (DLUHC 2023)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a11af7e8f5ec000f1f8c46/NPPF\\_December\\_2023.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a11af7e8f5ec000f1f8c46/NPPF_December_2023.pdf)

Environment Act 2021

[https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/pdfs/ukpga\\_20210030\\_en.pdf](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/pdfs/ukpga_20210030_en.pdf)

Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 c. 55

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/55/section/245>

## **Policies, Strategies and Plans**

Securing the Future – UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (Defra 2005)

[www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/03/25/securing-the-future-pb10589/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/03/25/securing-the-future-pb10589/)

Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (English Heritage 2008)

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/publications/publicationsNew/guidelines-standards/conservation-principles-sustainable-management-historic-environment/conservationprinciplespoliciesandguidanceapril08web.pdf](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/publications/publicationsNew/guidelines-standards/conservation-principles-sustainable-management-historic-environment/conservationprinciplespoliciesandguidanceapril08web.pdf)

Water for people and the environment - Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales, Environment Agency 2009

<http://a0768b4a8a31e106d8b0-50dc802554eb38a24458b98ff72d550b.r19.cf3.rackcdn.com/geho0309bpx-e-e.pdf>

Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network, (Chaired by Professor Sir John Lawton CBE FRS ) Defra 2010

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130402170324/http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/201009space-for-nature.pdf>

Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (Defra 2011)

[www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/08/19/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/08/19/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020/)

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## LOCAL

The NL lies within the areas of 5 local authorities. Each produces strategies and plans that cover a similar range of topics that affect the NL. Many of the policies are similar. All will need to be considered during the SEA process.

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### **SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

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## Appendix 6: Précis of consultation responses

Natural England

18<sup>th</sup> November 2024

### Identifying National Sites of interest

The HRA process states that a project should be considered in its entirety and the impact on the designated features. As the Cannock Chase Management Plan will contain a whole host of projects, you will need to look at each one of those projects and decide which sites to assess against each project. As you stated earlier, the plan will include recreational activities, heathland management, forestry operations, maintenance of tracks, upholding the CROW duty, infrastructure projects etc. The further away from the Cannock Chase SAC, the lesser the impact.

When considering the other SACs like the Humber, Ensor's pool, Midlands Meres and Mosses, it is important to understand what each one is notified for. For example, if fish are a feature, and those are migratory, the whole river system needs to be considered as functionally linked and works upstream can have an impact lower down.

The movement of sediment from forestry operations can have an impact on the river systems, but usually within a localised area.

Air quality from operations may be a factor, but it is unlikely air quality will impact those sites.

If it was management of the SSSI/SAC for heathland, and the operations were to graze, cut, the project would be screened out, as it is a beneficial to the site and a positive conservation action.

The main sites are going to be Cannock Chase and Cannock Canal Extension, and possibly Pasturefields and Motley meadows (if the sites are hydrologically linked and the operations have the potential to have an impact).

The other sites, I would imagine are just in the zone of influence for consideration but I would not have thought would be impacted by the MP.

Without looking at the MP, it is difficult to make that judgement, and it is a judgement that is subjective to the evidence available to the assessor.

Tracey Hill

Senior Manager West Midlands, Natural England

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025

We would normally not respond to a draft HRA at this stage and only become involved at Appropriate Assessment stage.

I have looked briefly through the HRA but really struggling to understand how the HRA can determine the management plan, because there are no detailed projects within the plan.

A HRA should look at each project, and determine if that project will have an impact on the features under the European designation.

The Management Plan does not outline any projects in any detail that could be assessed, as part of the HRA process.

I would expect the AONB to work with NE to look at each future project and gain consent, along with determining the HRA.

A project within the Management Plan would include reintroduction of grazing to parts of the Chase and the instillation of infrastructure that would be needed to support cattle welfare, e.g. fencing, water troughs, tracks etc.

We will be working the FC and FE to see where 3ha of new heathland could be created, how this can be done and the equipment, methods etc that will be needed to make this happen. This project will need a HRA but will be determined by the FC/FE and they will determine if NE permission is needed, if there will be a detrimental impact on the notified feature.

If the Management Plan set out the Where, How and When of each project to achieve the objectives of the plan, then a HRA could be determined, but I don't think it is appropriate at this stage, because the finer details of each project is not detailed in the plan.

Tracey Hill

Senior Manager West Midlands, Natural England