

DORE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (DNP)- SEA SCOPING ASSESSMENT-
PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS ON
BIODIVERSITY

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1. Introduction

This statement provides an evidence base, with regard to biodiversity, for the conclusion in the Dore Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Draft Screening Report (April 2018) that “the impact of Dore Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects and therefore an SEA is not required.”

The likely impacts on Natura 2000 sites (the South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation, Peak District Moors Special Protection Area and Peak District Dales Special Area of Conservation) have already been assessed in the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report (April 2008) which concluded that “there is likely to be no significant effect, either alone or ‘in combination’ of the Dore Neighbourhood Plan on the European sites. Therefore an Appropriate Assessment is not required.” Natural England (letter 14 June 2018) have confirmed that they are in agreement with the conclusions and that in so far as their strategic environmental interests are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan. **The potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites are therefore deemed to be adequately covered by the HRA screening report and are not addressed further.**

Natural England’s strategic environmental interests also include the Eastern Peak District moors Site of Special Scientific Interest, which is contiguous with the Natura 2000 sites within the target area but covers a wider range of interest. **The potential impacts on the Eastern Peak District Moors SSSI are therefore deemed to be adequately covered by the SEA screening report and are not addressed further.**

Natural England’s response indicated, however, that an evidence base should be provided for the potential impacts on **protected species, local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats and local wildlife sites**, to support the conclusions of the SEA Screening Report. This document therefore provides that evidence base with regard to features within the Peak District National Park.

2. Geographical Scope of Assessment

The SEA Screening Report notes that “the projects and other activities (principally managing land-use and development) for which the Dore Neighbourhood Plan helps to set a framework, are local in nature” and that “the likely impact of the Plan is through the policies influencing planning application decisions.” It also notes that “the DNP has been found to be in general conformity with the adopted PDPNA Core Strategy and saved policies of the Local Plan.” In addition a substantial proportion of the DNP area falls within internationally designated Natura 2000 sites, for which the HRA Screening Report has concluded that there are unlikely to be significant effects (despite the fact that it is “on the doorstep” and therefore one of the most likely areas to be impacted by the consequences of any DNP policies, e.g. on recreational pressure). For these reasons it is deemed unlikely that the DNP policies will have a significant impact on features of biodiversity importance further afield.

The geographical scope of this assessment is therefore restricted to the very limited areas within the National Park which are:

- a) outside the Natura 2000 sites, and
- b) within or in close (1-2km) proximity to the DNP area

It also includes an assessment of features within the Natura 2000 sites which are within or in close (1-2km) proximity to the DNP area, but which are not one of the statutory interest features of the sites and therefore not covered by the HRA.

3. Identification of features of importance

The following datasets have been consulted:

- MAGIC website (<https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>)
- Peak District National Park Authority Ecological Database

Statutorily Designated Sites-

- South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Peak District Dales Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Peak District Moors Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Eastern Peak District Moors SSSI

The potential impacts on the SAC and SPA features are covered by the HRA Screening Report and the potential impacts on the SSSI features are covered by the SEA Screening Report. Neither is therefore considered further here.

Protected Species-

The following species are cited as SPA/SAC/SSSI features and are therefore already adequately covered by the HRA/SEA Screening Reports:

- Short-eared owl
- Merlin
- Adder

Other protected species recorded within the target area are:

- Badger- there are a small number of records, generally associated with woodland.
- Water Vole- the only contemporary population of any significant size appears to be associated with the Burbage Brook, particularly in the vicinity of Burbage Bridge. There are additionally several records from the Limb Valley and 2 records from the top (NW) end of Long Line, all of which relate to small numbers and date from the 1980s (the most recent is 1983).
- Common Lizard- several records on moorland within the SAC

Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats-

A map of BAP Priority Habitats, from the MAGIC website, is provided at Appendix 1. Areas of BAP habitat within the SAC/SSSI are already adequately covered by the HRA/SEA Screening Reports. Three additional areas of BAP Priority habitat were identified as follows:

- Area A- A limited area of **Deciduous Woodland** (not ancient) adjacent to Blacka Moor.
- Area B- A small area of **Acid Grassland** at the southern end of Houndkirk Moor.
- Area C- A small area of **Good Quality Semi-improved Grassland** adjacent to Totley Moor.

Biodiversity Action Plan Species-

The following BAP species are cited as SPA/SAC/SSSI features and are therefore already adequately covered by the HRA/SEA Screening Reports:

- Red Grouse
- Tree pipit
- Reed Bunting
- Twite
- Ring Ouzel
- Curlew
- Lapwing

Other BAP species recorded within the target area are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1- Biodiversity Action Plan Species recorded within target area

Species	Blacka Moor	Houndkirk Moor	Burbage Moor	Burbage Edge	Lady Cannings Plantation
Birds					
Skylark	1	2	6	3	1
Song Thrush	1				1
Linnet		2prs + 1			
Cuckoo				1	
Grey Partridge				1pr	
Butterflies					
Small Heath				✓	
Moths					
Buff Ermine	✓				
Mottled Rustic	✓				
Shoulder-striped Wainscot	✓				
Small Phoenix	✓				

All of these sites except Lady Cannings Plantation fall within the Natura 2000 and Eastern Peak District Moors SSSI designated sites.

Local Wildlife Sites-

There are no Wildlife Sites within the target area.

Blacka Moor is managed as a Nature Reserve by Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust, and lies wholly within the Eastern Peak District Moors SSSI and the Natura 2000 sites.

4. Assessment of Likely Impact of Policies on Features of Importance

Policies DN1-3 and DN7 support the conservation and enhancement of open space, the rural landscape and green infrastructure and are therefore generally likely to have a positive impact on biodiversity.

Policies DN5, 6 & 8 relate to small-scale development within the built-up area; policies 9 & 10 refer to conservation of community features within the built-up area; policies 11-14 support the conservation of features of cultural heritage importance; policy 15 refers to retention of park and ride facilities within the built-up area; and policy 16 supports public transport and refers to small-scale design of transport infrastructure but does not include new infrastructure proposals. All of these are unlikely to have a significant impact on biodiversity and any impacts should be adequately addressed through normal planning processes.

Policy 4 includes very modest infill development in a more rural setting, which could have a slight negative impact on habitat connectivity and on Water Vole. However this is very small scale and the impacts, if any, should be adequately addressed through normal planning processes.

Table 2 below provides an assessment of the impacts of each policy.

Table 2- Likelihood of impacts of each policy on features of biodiversity importance

DNP policy	Summary of policy	Likelihood of Significant Impact
DN1	No development on open access land that would restrict walkers	Limits development therefore small +ve impact likely
DN2	The land lying between the boundary of the Peak District National Park and the developed Dore Village which is conspicuous from the National Park and has landscape characteristics which flow within landscape character types appearing on both sides of the National Park boundary forms the natural setting of the National Park and will not be viewed as suitable for housing development except in very special circumstances.	Limits development therefore small +ve impact likely
DN3	The existing green infrastructure network in Dore, which is important to landscape quality, visual amenity, recreation and leisure, community use, townscape and areas of natural interest will be protected and enhanced. Development proposals will be supported that contribute to the value of the green infrastructure in the Green Belt adjoining the National Park and between Dore Village and Ecclesall Woods by . . .	Measures to conserve/enhance green infrastructure, therefore small +ve impact likely
DN4	In order to protect the landscape character of the countryside around Long Line new single dwellings will be permitted as infill on Long Line in the following locations: Properties Numbered 1-19, 57-63 and 139-175 Long Line.	Potential slight -ve impact on BAP habitat connectivity and Water Vole, but adequately dealt with through normal planning process due to small scale of proposals and very limited potential for Water Vole (old records; very few records; none in immediate vicinity of locations proposed; and limited habitat availability)
DN5	New infill housing development in the housing area. Due to environmental and housing area character constraints within Dore Village new dwellings will only be permitted on the existing frontage and not elsewhere in mature gardens . . .	Small scale, within built-up area. No known features impacted. No significant impact likely. Any impacts adequately dealt with through normal planning process.

DN6	The provision of smaller dwellings suitable for downsizing	Small scale, within built-up area. No known features impacted. No significant impact likely. Any impacts adequately dealt with through normal planning process.
DN7	Local Green Spaces	Maintains green infrastructure. Small +ve impact likely
DN8	Retail use in Dore Village Centre	Small scale, within built-up area. No known features impacted. No significant impact likely. Any impacts adequately dealt with through normal planning process.
DN9	Community uses in Dore village centre	Within built-up area. No significant impact likely.
DN10	Village centre environmental improvements	Within built-up area. No significant impact likely.
DN11	Sites of archaeological heritage significance	No significant impact likely.
DN12	Demolition in Dore Conservation Area	No significant impact likely.
DN13	Protection of heritage assets of archaeological significance in Dore Conservation Area	No significant impact likely.
DN14	Protection of non-designated heritage assets	No significant impact likely.
DN15	Protection of Dore and Totley Station park and ride	No significant impact likely.
DN16	Transport and Parking	No significant impact likely. Any impacts adequately dealt with through normal planning process.

5. Conclusions

The potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites are adequately covered by the HRA screening report and Natural England's response, concluding that there is likely to be no significant effect, either alone or 'in combination', of the Dore Neighbourhood Plan on the European sites.

Information on biodiversity supports the conclusion of the SEA that the impact of Dore Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects with regard to features of biodiversity importance.

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APPENDIX 1- BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN HABITATS

The Peak District Moors SAC is shown hatched pink and the National Park boundary as a blue line. BAP Priority Habitat within the National Park but falling outside the SAC is labelled.

