

Habitats Regulation Assessment

Regulation 19 Statement

Further to the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening report findings (Lepus Consulting, June 2017) and advice received from Natural England, the Council has begun an Appropriate Assessment of potential in combination air quality effects on the Peak District Sales SAC, South Pennine Moors SAC and South Pennine Moors SPA.

The HRA Screening Report concluded that, when considered in isolation, the Local Plan was not anticipated to result in an Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) increase of 1000 cars on roads within 200m of an EU designated site. However, it was not possible to state objectively that the in combination effects of the Council's Local Plan together with those being prepared in neighbouring districts would not lead to such an increase in traffic on roads within 200m of two Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and a Special Protection Area (SPA) located to the west of the District.

As part of the Appropriate Assessment, traffic modelling is underway to help predict more accurately the likely traffic increases on these roads. If an increase of more than 1000 AADT is forecast, air quality modelling will be required to determine if there will be an increase in nitrogen deposition of more than 1% against background levels. Traffic count results are expected by the end of February and air quality modelling will, if required, be complete in March 2018.

If significant adverse effects are identified, the Appropriate Assessment will explore suitable mitigation measures. The Council will continue to work closely with Natural England during this period. Findings from the HRA assessment process have been used to inform the sustainability appraisal and will continue to do so.