

Appendix B. PINS Screening Matrices

B.1 Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 10 Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Matrices

Potential Effects

B.1.1 The potential effects upon the Europeans sites considered in this report are summarised in the table below.

Table B.13: Effects considered in the screening matrices

Designation	Effects described in submission information	Presented in screening matrices as
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA	Habitat impacts, through adverse changes in air quality along the affected road network, effecting the presence of and subsequent availability of prey species for SPA birds	Reduction in species density
	Disturbance to qualifying features through increased noise along the affected road network	Disturbance
	Increased collision risk to qualifying features along the affected road network	Reduction in species density
South Pennine Moors SAC	Habitat degradation through adverse changes in air quality along the affected road network	Degradation

Table Source: Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 10

Stage 1: Screening Matrices

B.1.2 The European Sites included within the screening assessment are:

- Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA: UK9007021 (Matrix 1); and
- South Pennine Moors SAC: UK0030280 (Matrix 2).

B.1.3 Evidence for, or against, LSE on the European Site(s) and its qualifying feature(s) is detailed within the footnotes that follow the screening matrices.

B.1.4 Matrix Key:

✓ = LSE cannot be excluded

X = SLE can be excluded

C = Construction

O = Operation

D = Decommissioning¹

¹ As the Scheme will be operational for the foreseeable future, no assessment of LSE has been made for decommissioning and the boxes greyed out.

Table B.24: HRA Screening Matrix 1: Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA

Name of European Site and designation: Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA									
EU Code: UK9007021									
Distance to NSIP: 2.2 km									
European site features	Disturbance			Reduction in species density			In-combination effects		
Stage of development	C	O	D	C	O	D	C	O	D
Short-eared owl (breeding)	Xa	Xb		Xc	Xd		Xe	Xf	
Merlin (breeding)	Xa	Xb		Xc	Xd		Xe	Xf	
Golden plover (breeding)	Xa	Xb		Xc	Xd		Xe	Xf	

Table Source: Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 10

Evidence supporting conclusions:

- The distance between the SPA and the Scheme [\(2.2 km\)](#) is sufficiently far to rule out any potential impacts from construction related disturbance impacts. [Further information regarding this European Site and associated potential impacts are provided in Table 5.1 and within paragraph 5.1.1. A location plan is provided in Appendix A.](#)
- The predicted noise levels originating from the affected road network in proximity of the SPA at the opening year have the potential to cause moderate to low behavioural changes on avifauna (such as alarm calls, heads up, change in feeding/ roosting activity), and these changes are possible with or without the Scheme. It should be noted that birds will generally habituate to regular ambient noise below 70dB and the resident populations will be habituated to the existing situation. Operational impacts of the Scheme from increased noise are therefore considered to be not significant in relation to SPA qualifying birds. [Further information regarding this European Site and associated potential impacts are provided in Table 5.1. Detailed noise assessments are provided within Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration \(TR010034\) paragraph 11.9.91, 11.9.97.](#)
- Construction works are situated sufficiently far from the SPA [\(2.2km\)](#) and, therefore, the roads immediately adjacent to the SPA will not be affected. [Other effects linked to traffic such as noise disturbance and the collision of vehicles with birds are considered unlikely](#)

[to result in significant effects due to these being existing roads already with a high level of use \(further information regarding this European Site is provided in Table 5.1\).](#)

- d. Golden plover typically breed on heather moorland, blanket bog, acidic grasslands and montane summits, where they prefer to nest on high, flat or gently sloping plateaux, away from the moorland edge and away from the existing road network. Merlin prefer undulating or folded landforms providing wide outlooks from ground perches or nest-sites, especially heads of upland stream valleys. Heather moorland (generally 30-70 cm in height) is a preferred breeding site, but they will breed in trees, copses and windbreaks in open country where suitable passerine populations are present. They are likely to be restricted locally to the extensive heather moorlands situated away from the affected road network. Numbers of breeding short-eared owl in any location can vary greatly from year to year, linked to cyclical variation in populations of voles, their principal food source. However, the species requires extensive open land in which to breed and is thus unlikely to breed in close proximity to existing roads. Qualifying species mortality from vehicular collision is not recognised as a vulnerability of the European Site and it is anticipated that such species will be habituated to the existing roads that are already heavily used. [Further information regarding this European Site and associated potential impacts are provided in Table 5.1.](#)
- e. As the Scheme was determined not to have any construction impacts on the SPA, primarily from lack of impact pathways due to the distance between the Scheme and the SPA, there is no scope for in-combination effects during construction.
- f. An in-combination assessment has been undertaken to identify plans and projects that may have combined operational air quality effects with the Scheme. No significant in-combination effects were identified, refer to Section 5.3.

Table B.35: HRA Screening Matrix 1: South Pennine Moors SAC

Name of European Site and designation: South Pennine Moors SAC						
EU Code: UK0030280						
Distance to NSIP: 2.2 km						
European Site features	Degradation			In-combination effects		
Stage of development	C	O	D	C	O	D
4030 European dry heaths	Xa	Xb		Xd	Xe	
7130 Blanket bogs (*if active bog) *Priority feature	Xa	Xb		Xd	Xe	
91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	Xa	Xc		Xd	Xe	
4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	Xa	Xb		Xd	Xe	
7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs	Xa	Xb		Xd	Xe	

Table Source: Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 10

Evidence supporting conclusions:

- The distance between the SAC and the Scheme ([2.2 km](#)) is sufficiently far to eliminate any construction related effects. The only pathway by which the SAC can be affected is via the ARN during operation. [Further information regarding this European Site and associated potential impacts are provided in Table 5.1 and within paragraph 5.1.1. A location plan is provided in Appendix A.](#)
- The maximum change in nitrogen deposition as a result of the Scheme in the SAC is 0.21 kg N/ha/yr, which is below the threshold of 0.4 kg N/ha/yr for significant impacts (i.e. required to reduce measured species richness by 1). [The air quality effects on designated sites is provided within Refer to Appendix D. Further detail regarding the air quality assessment is provided within Chapter 5: Air Quality \(TR010034\) paragraph 5.7.31 onwards.](#)
- This qualifying feature (old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles) is not situated within 200 m of the affected road network (i.e. the air quality study area) [and has therefore been screened out.](#)

- d. As the Scheme was determined not to have any construction impacts on the SAC, primarily from lack of impact pathways due to the distance between the Scheme and the SAC [\(2.2 km\)](#), there is no scope for in-combination effects during construction.
- e. An in-combination assessment has been undertaken to identify plans and projects that may have combined operational air quality effects with the Scheme. No significant in-combination effects were identified, refer to Section 5.3.