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Habitats  
Regulations  
Assessment  
Screening Report  
for the 2019/24  
AONB  
Management Plan

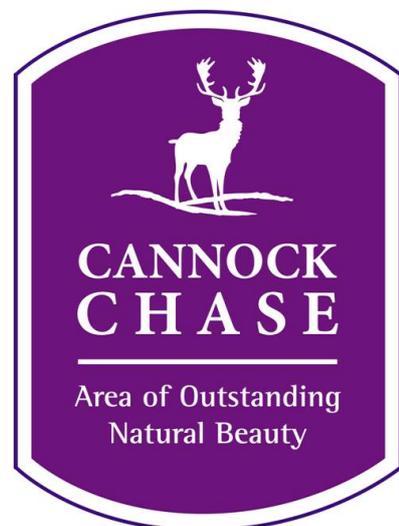
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**Cannock Chase  
AONB  
Partnership**

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Craggatak Consulting  
16 October 2018

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THE CRAGG, SATTERTHWAITE  
 Nr ULVERSTON, CUMBRIA  
 LA12 8LW  
 01229 860269  
 enquiries@craggatak.co.uk  
 www.craggatak.co.uk

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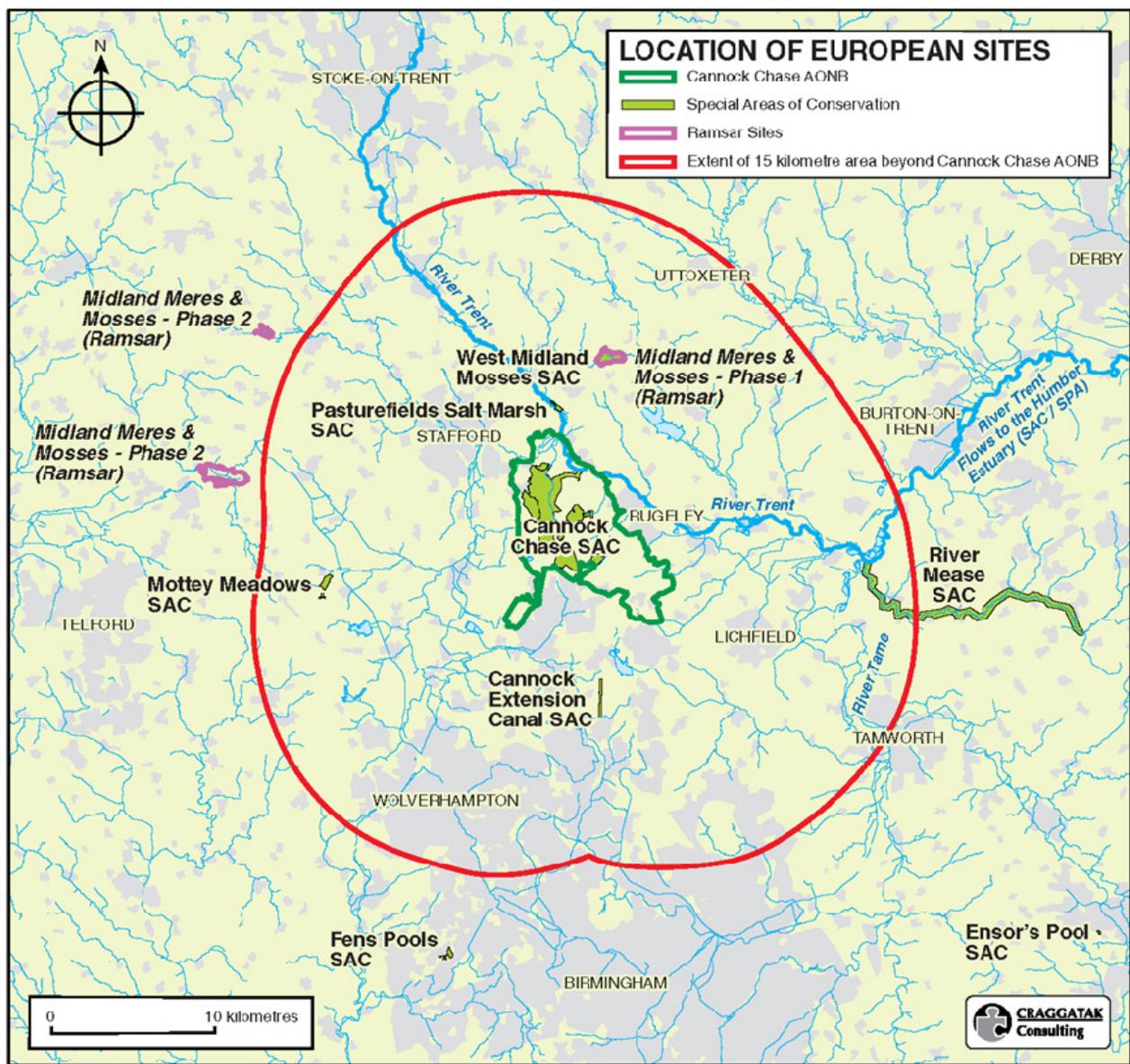
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**Acknowledgements**

This report has been written by Craggatak Consulting with the close support of staff from the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership.



**Map 1: Relationship between Cannock Chase AONB, the European Sites and hydrology**

## 1. Background

- 1.1. This is the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report prepared for the draft Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan. AONB Management plans are 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 AONB management plan process, with all three exercises proceeding jointly and in an iterative way. Unlike SEA and AONB 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. Habitat Regulations Assessment is a statutory requirement<sup>2</sup> to ensure that the protection of the integrity of European sites is a part of the planning process at a regional and local level. Under the European Habitats Directive, the Cannock Chase Joint Committee is required 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 (also known as 'Natura 2000' or European sites). 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>. Sites designated under the Ramsar<sup>5</sup> wetlands convention are also included in HRAs, as specified in Natural England guidance<sup>6</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 European site's 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. Articles 3 - 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest. In particular, 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

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

<sup>6</sup> Natural England 2009. Final Draft Guidance: The Habitats Regulations Assessment of Local Development Documents.

- 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 European site 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 European site 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 European site;
  - **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.
- 1.7. 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 the European site, there is no requirement to proceed further.

## Cannock Chase AONB

- 1.8. Designation of the Cannock Chase AONB was in 1958. It is the smallest mainland AONB, 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 AONB 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 AONB gives protection to the habitats. The AONB also has extensive areas of forest and woodland along with areas of designed parkland, quarrying and mixed agriculture. The AONB lies within the River Trent catchment and lies close to the river.
- 1.9. Nearly two million people live within 30 kilometres of the AONB. 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 AONB. Many footpaths and bridleways cross the Chase, including Forestry Commission trails and the Staffordshire Way.

## 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 places a duty on all public bodies to 'have regard' to 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. The Management Plan is a statutory document and presents an agreed

agenda for the AONB, setting out objectives and policies for the local authorities, statutory agencies and people who live and work in the area. The plan does not dictate actions within the designated area and does not control agriculture, business or economic development activities but seeks to manage change positively.

- 1.11. There are five relevant local authorities for the Cannock Chase AONB. They are 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, Cannock Chase AONB Advisory Partnership and the AONB Officer (vacant).
- 1.12. The current AONB Management Plan is for the 2014-19 period. CRoW requires a formal review of each Management Plan at intervals of not more than five years. The Partnership is now preparing the next 2019-24 Management Plan. Following consultation with local communities, public bodies and agencies with an interest in the area, the Management Plan will present the special qualities and features of the AONB and determine what policies and actions are required to ensure their conservation and enhancement.

## 2. HRA programme and methodology

### Introduction

- 2.1. The approach for carrying out the HRA of the AONB 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  |
|----------------|--|--|---------------------|
| <b>1</b>       | <b>Likely Significant Effects or 'Screening'</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i</b> Analyse the European site(s) and the reasons for designation, and the underlying trends affecting it (them)</li> <li><b>ii</b> Assess whether the policies and associated actions either alone or in combination with other plans are able to have a significant impact on the site(s).</li> </ul> | <i>Article 6(3)</i> |

| Where a significant impact is likely: |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>2</b>                              | <b>Appropriate Assessment</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i</b> Analyse the policy, including key components and how the actions would be implemented in practice</li> <li><b>ii</b> Analyse other plans and projects that could contribute to 'in combination' effects</li> <li><b>iii</b> Analyse how the policies and actions in combination with other plans and projects will 'interact' with implementation</li> <li><b>iv</b> Where applicable, propose and assess mitigation measures for addressing adverse effects</li> <li><b>v</b> Prepare an Appropriate Assessment Report for consultation with CCW and key stakeholders</li> </ul> |
| <b>3</b>                              | <b>Assessment of Alternative Solutions</b>   | - Reassess alternatives if effective mitigation proves impossible and develop / select a different alternative that does not harm site integrity.   |
| <b>4</b>                              | <b>Assessment where no alternative solutions remain and where adverse impacts remain</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i</b> At this stage actions which, even with mitigation, still have an adverse effect on the site(s) integrity should be dropped.</li> <li><b>ii</b> 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.</li> </ul>   |

*Article 6(4)*

### Step one – Pre-Screening

- 2.3. Gather information on the location of the AONB and the scope and intent of its draft Management Plan. This includes the location, conservation objectives and qualifying feature(s) for each European site 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 European site.

### 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 European site identified as subject to assessment in the evidence base. This includes all of 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>7</sup> on a European site at all;

<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)

**Category B:** elements of the plan that could have an effect but the likelihood is there would be no significant negative effect on a European site 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*

2.5. The European Court of Justice has ruled that only effects that could undermine the conservation objectives of a European site are likely to have significant effects. Therefore, the initial task is to identify those policies and actions that have no negative effects (Category A). There are likely to be five types of policies and actions in the plan that could have no negative effects at all on any European site (either alone or in combination with other policies, plans or projects). They include the general statements of policy that the EC has indicated could not have a significant effect on a site. The five types are as follows:

- 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 European site.
- A4** Options / policies that positively steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.
- A5** General policy statements or policies only expressing general intentions or political aspirations.

*After Tyldesley, D. CCW 2012*

2.6. 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 European site.

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

Those elements identified as having a potential negative impact upon any European site 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 European site (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 European site 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 European site.

**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

- 2.7. 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 principle stakeholders. As well as the formal consultation with the statutory agencies, there is regular informal support from Natural England throughout the process.
- 2.8. 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 European site. 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 European site. If the plan making authority amends the Management Plan, then there is a reappraisal of the impacts upon the integrity of any European sites under the Habitat Regulations using the methodology set out above.

## 3. European sites potentially affected

### List of Relevant European sites

- 3.1. The EU European 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 European Community. These sites, known as European sites, consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Offshore Marine Sites. It is common practice to treat RAMSAR sites (Internationally Important Wetlands) as if they were European sites. The guidance recommends taking into consideration European sites within the plan area and within 15km of its boundary. Through an analysis using MAGIC Map<sup>8</sup> it was determined that there is **1** European site within the AONB and **6** within 15km of its

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

boundary. Following the precautionary principle, another site is added to the assessment because of the importance of hydrological links. The relevant European sites for the Cannock Chase AONB are set out in **Table 2**.

**Table 2: Relevant European Sites**

| European Sites within the AONB boundary                            | European Sites within 15km of the AONB boundary   |                                       |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Special Areas of Conservation                                      | Special Areas of Conservation   | Special Protection Areas & RAMSAR     |
| Cannock Chase SAC  | Cannock Extension Canal SAC<br>Mottey Meadows SAC<br>Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC<br>River Mease SAC<br>West Midland Mosses SAC | Midland Meres & Mosses Phase 1 RAMSAR |
| <b>European Site of interest outside 15km of the AONB boundary</b> |   |                                       |
|  | Humber Estuary SAC  | Humber Estuary SPA & RAMSAR           |

- 3.2. Descriptions of each European site 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. **Map 1** shows the location and spatial relationship of the European sites to the AONB.

## 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 AONB.

#### The Vision for the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

By 2039, the landscapes, habitats and heritage of Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty will be in good condition through positive management, with standards and facilities befitting their national and international importance. There will be high levels of connectivity between the AONB and its surrounds through its landscapes, habitats, heritage and cultural landscapes and communities. The natural benefits of the AONB will have a positive impact on those who experience and enjoy the Chase whether from local communities or further afield and these communities will in turn care for, feel pride in and celebrate the AONB.

- 4.2. The Plan takes a landscape-based approach to describe the special qualities of the AONB. It has five themes, with text providing details of the priority objectives for each theme. Under each priority objective sits one or more policies. There is also reference to the actions that will help deliver each policy. The themes and objectives are:

| THEMES                           | OBJECTIVES   |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Landscape Character and Planning | Maintain quality and distinctiveness<br>Enhance the landscape setting                            |
| Wildlife and Nature              | Improve conditions for nature in the Chase<br>Enlarge and connect habitats                       |
| Historic Environment and Culture | Conserve the Chase's heritage assets<br>Connect communities with the Chase's history and culture |
| Experience and Enjoyment         | Treading lightly in the Chase<br>A greener experience  |
| Communities and Business         | Natural benefits for the community<br>Businesses Supporting the Special Qualities                |

- 4.3. The current draft of the Management Plan contains **31 policies**. These are set out in **Appendix 3**.

### Identifying potential adverse effects of Management Plan Policies

- 4.4. To understand whether the Management Plan may affect the European sites listed above it is necessary to identify those factors that will adversely affect the sites. Through Natural England, data is available for each European site 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**.

**Table 3: Pressures or threats on the integrity of European sites**

**Cannock Chase SAC** (priority ranking in Natural England SIP October 2014)

1. Under-grazing
2. Drainage
3. Hydrological changes
4. Disease
5. Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition
6. Wildfire / arson
7. Invasive species

**European sites within 15 km** (no ranking shown as different for each site)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition | Inappropriate scrub control                    |
| Change in land management                                | Inappropriate weirs, dams and other structures |
| Drainage   | Introduction of non-native plant species       |
| Eutrophication   | Invasive species                               |
| Forestry and woodland management                         | Overgrazing                                    |
| Game management: pheasant rearing                        | Siltation                                      |
| Habitat fragmentation                                    | Water abstraction                              |
| Hydrological changes                                     | Water pollution* (Priority 1 for all sites)    |

**Humber Estuary SAC/SPA** (priority ranking in Natural England SIP July 2015)

1. **Water Pollution**
2. Coastal squeeze
3. Changes in species distribution
4. Under-grazing
5. **Invasive species**
6. Natural changes to site conditions
7. Public access / disturbance
8. Fisheries: fish stocking
9. Fisheries: commercial marine and estuarine
10. Direct land-take from development
11. **Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition**
12. Shooting / caring
13. Direct impact from third party
14. Inappropriate scrub control

**Note:** only the three bold items (1, 5 & 11) can be affected by actions in Cannock Chase AONB

- 4.5. The SIP for Cannock Chase SAC provides an overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the SAC with the AONB. It also outlines the priority measures required to improve the condition of the features. It does not cover issues where

<sup>9</sup> There are Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) for each European site in England, developed as part of the Improvement Programme for England's European sites. They are live documents capable of updating to reflect changes in evidence / knowledge and as actions get underway. Ranking in the table is from the SIP.

remedial actions are already in place or ongoing management activities that are required for maintenance. **Appendix 2** sets out in detail the issues for the SAC in Table 3.

- 4.6. For every site outside the AONB, hydrology is a significant factor when considering the integrity of the European sites. Water pollution ranks as the highest pressure or threat. Hydrological changes and invasive species also feature highly. **Map 1** shows the hydrological links between the AONB and the European sites. Impacts on water flowing from the AONB may affect the European sites; this can include invasive species introduced into water channels. Less directly, any atmospheric nitrogen generated in the AONB may have an effect on the European sites.
- 4.7. The factors listed in the European site schedules frame the testing of policies within the AONB Management Plan when assessing their effect upon the each site.

### Results of the preliminary screening appraisal

- 4.8. **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 a European site (**Appendix 4**). The initial task was to identify those objectives and actions that have no negative effects (Category A).
- 4.9. 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 a European site.
- 4.10. The preliminary screening finds that no policies in the Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan are likely to have any effect on the integrity of any European site.

### Outcome of consultation

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Awaiting consultation

## 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 a European site, 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 Initial Screening:
  - **That no policy areas would have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European site.**
  - **There is no requirement to undertake an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitat Regulations.**

### Next steps:

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Awaiting consultation

## 7. Appendices

### Appendix 1: Location and description of the European sites

#### 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 Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. 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

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Country</b>  | England   |
| <b>Unitary Authority</b>  | Shropshire & Staffordshire  |
| <b>Centroid<sup>10</sup></b>  | SJ982188  |
| <b>Latitude</b>   | 52.76638889   |
| <b>Longitude</b>  | -2.026666667  |
| <b>SAC EU code</b>  | UK0030107   |
| <b>Status</b>   | Designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC)   |
| <b>Area (ha)</b>  | 1244.2  |
| <b>General site character</b>   |   |
| 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%)   |   |
| <b>Conservation Objectives (June 2014)</b>  | <b>Issues<sup>11</sup></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> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Undergrazing</li> <li>9. Drainage</li> <li>10. Hydrological changes</li> <li>11. Disease</li> <li>12. Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> <li>13. Wildfire / arson</li> </ul> |

<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.

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

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
|  | 14. Invasive species |
| <b>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site<sup>12</sup></b>            |                      |
| European dry heaths  |                      |
| <b>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</b> |                      |
| 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>                         |                      |
| n/a  |                      |
| <b>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</b> |                      |
| N/a  |                      |

### 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

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Country</b>  | England   |
| <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>   |   |
| 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%)   |   |
| <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 the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> </ul> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water pollution</li> <li>Overgrazing</li> <li>Invasive species</li> <li>Air pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen</li> </ol> |

<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.

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> | deposition |
| <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   |            |

### Motley 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>  |   |
| 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>   |
| <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>Water pollution</li> <li>Hydrological changes</li> <li>Water abstraction</li> <li>Change in land management</li> </ol> |
| <b>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</b>   |   |
| 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>   |   |

|   |
|---|
| 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

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Country</b>  | England                                       |
| <b>Unitary Authority</b>  | Staffordshire                                 |
| <b>Centroid</b>   | SJ992249                                      |
| <b>Latitude</b>   | 52.82138889                                   |
| <b>Longitude</b>  | -2.0125                                       |
| <b>SAC EU code</b>  | UK0012789                                     |
| <b>Status</b>   | Designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC) |
| <b>Area (ha)</b>  | 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 * <b>Priority feature</b>   |   |
| <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 *Austropotamoius 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><br>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>Water pollution</li> <li>Drainage</li> <li>Inappropriate weirs, dams and other structures</li> <li>Invasive species</li> <li>Siltation</li> <li>Water abstraction</li> </ol> |
| <b>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</b><br>n/a   |   |
| <b>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</b><br>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation  |   |
| <b>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</b><br>Spined loach <i>Cobitis taenia</i><br>Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i>  |   |
| <b>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</b><br>White-clawed crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i><br>Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>  |   |

## 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

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Country</b>  | <b>England</b>                                |
| <b>Unitary Authority</b>  | Cheshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire        |
| <b>Centroid</b>   | SK026282                                      |
| <b>Latitude</b>   | 52.85111111                                   |
| <b>Longitude</b>  | -1.961111111                                  |
| <b>SAC EU code</b>  | UK0013595                                     |
| <b>Status</b>   | 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>   |   |
| 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%) |   |
| <b>SAC</b>  |   |
| <b>Conservation Objectives (June 2014)</b>  | <b>Issues</b>                                 |
| Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate,   | 1. Water pollution                            |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 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>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>  |   |
| Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds<br>Transition mires and quaking bogs   |   |
| <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.<br><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).  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eutrophication</li> <li>2. Introduction of non-native plant species</li> </ol>  |
| <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 AONB 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.

A number of 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> </ol> |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | 13. Direct impact from third party<br>14. Inappropriate scrub control |
| <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<br>Glasswort <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand<br>Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</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>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> |   |
| <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>   |   |
| Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i><br>River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i><br>Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>  |   |
| <b>SPA</b>   |   |
| <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>   |   |
| 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>   |   |
| <b>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</b>   |   |
| 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  |   |

## Appendix 2: Prioritised issues for the European site within the AONB

| Prioritised issues for the Cannock Chase SAC <sup>13</sup> |                             |  |   |
|--|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Priority   | Issue                       |  | Measure   |
| 1  | <b>Under-grazing</b>        | 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 a number of 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  | <b>Drainage</b>             | 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  | <b>Hydrological changes</b> | 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  | <b>Disease</b>              | 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 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.<br><br>The disease outbreak on Cannock Chase is the worst in the country and with 5 years-worth of disease monitoring and treatment data on  | Extend <i>Phytophthora pseudosyringae</i> monitoring to all Special Area of Conservation land to gather more data to aid understanding about the disease and long-term impacts. |

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

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
|   |   | 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. |  |
| 5 | <b>Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</b> | 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.   | Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts on the whole of Cannock Chase SAC  |
| 6 | <b>Wildfire / arson</b>   | 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.  | 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 | <b>Invasive species</b>   | 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.               | Continue to monitor and control Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)   |

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

| Theme                            | Objective                            | Policy Topics                                     | Policy ref | Policy (31)   | Action   |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|------------|---|--|
| Landscape Character and Planning | Maintain quality and distinctiveness | High standards of design in the built environment | LCP1       | Development proposals within the AONB 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. | <i>A.1: Prepare guidance note on 'Building and Infrastructure Design in Cannock Chase AONB' which Local Planning Authorities which will be invited to adopt.</i>   |
|                                  |                                      | The impacts of traffic in the AONB                | LCP2       | The impact of traffic travelling through the Chase on its tranquillity and other special qualities should be reduced where possible by encouraging alternative routes and by reducing speed, noise and air pollution.   | <i>B.1: Explore with SCC Highways Department the practical steps that can be taken to reduce traffic impacts through the AONB.</i>   |
|                                  |                                      | Woodland management                               | LCP3       | Opportunities will be taken to enhance the contribution that woodland makes to the character of the AONB  | <i>B.2: Support the work of the Forestry Commission and other woodland owners and managers to deliver both long term forestry/woodland design plans and short term woodland management operations in ways which enhance the AONB's special qualities.</i>  |
|                                  |                                      | Agri-environment incentives                       | LCP4       | Agri-environment scheme measures should be aligned to deliver the outcomes and objectives of this Plan.   | <i>A.12: Work with local partners to ensure suitable agri-environment scheme incentives are available and suitably targeted to farms and smallholdings in the AONB.</i>  |
|                                  |                                      | Non-farming land uses                             | LCP5       | Advice and practical guidance should be made available to new landowners and those planning changes of use of their land, such as the keeping of horses, to conserve and enhance the Chase's natural beauty.  | <i>A.5: Re-engage and draw up a new updated database of interested parties in the AONB and maintain regular contact with them on matters of interest.<br/>B.3: Prepare and publicise leaflets, and offer advisory events, for rural non-farming landowners in the AONB on how they can help conserve and enhance the special qualities of the Chase.</i> |
|                                  |                                      | High quality recreational infrastructure          | LCP6       | The quality, location and usage of recreation infrastructure maintained by all major landowners in the  | <i>A.8: Develop a shared design protocol for recreation and leisure facilities, signage and</i>  |

|                     |  |  |      |   |  |
|---------------------|--|--|------|---|--|
|                     |  |  |      | Chase should be consistent and appropriate to landscape character.  | <i>promotional material, aimed at producing consistent high standards for use by all providers in the Chase.</i>   |
|                     | Enhance the landscape setting              | Protecting views                         | LCP7 | Development that detracts from landscape character or impacts on the natural beauty of the Chase, by obscuring or intruding on significant public views into and out of the AONB, should be resisted.   | <i>B.4: Map and describe the main view points and views accessible to the public into and out of the AONB.</i>   |
|                     |  | Softening the boundary                   | LCP8 | In the immediate vicinity of the AONB, the character of the public realm (e.g. landscaping around roads and buildings, public lighting and signage) should be designed and maintained so that it reinforces and complements the landscape character and quality of the Chase and provides a welcoming experience for those entering the AONB. | <i>A.1: Prepare guidance note on 'Building and Infrastructure Design in Cannock Chase AONB' which Local Planning Authorities will be invited to adopt.</i>   |
|                     |  | Strategic landscape links                | LCP9 | Opportunities should be promoted to enhance the character and quality of the countryside and public open spaces surrounding the AONB so as to reduce its isolation and create strong visual and aesthetic links with surrounding landscapes.  | <i>A.13: Identify and promote projects that enhance the landscape connectivity, biodiversity resilience and heritage value of countryside and public open space around the Chase.<br/>B.9: Through the Sow Parklands and Cannock Chase AONB HS2 Group, develop design principles and environmental enhancement measures for HS2 that conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB.</i>   |
| Wildlife and Nature | Improve conditions for nature in the Chase | Recognition of the importance of the SAC | WN1  | The international significance of the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and the fragility and needs of its biodiversity, should be fully taken into account in all forms of public policy and private practice that will affect the condition of the SAC.   | <i>A.9: Draw-up and co-ordinate dissemination of consistent messages about the significance and conservation requirements of priority sites in the AONB to key decision-making bodies and networks.<br/>A.10: Review and influence the content and delivery of visitor management plans and open space strategies surrounding the AONB to ensure they identify and promote sites, facilities and activities outside the AONB boundary that will reduce the negative impacts of recreation on sensitive sites in the Chase.</i> |

|  |                              |  |     |   |  |
|--|------------------------------|--|-----|---|--|
|  |                              | Effective management of heathland            | WN2 | The preferred form of management for most areas of heathland and associated habitats (potentially including wood pasture) should be grazing by livestock. Steps will be taken to build consensus and introduce the necessary sensitive infrastructure to enable this to happen gradually. | <i>B.5: Work with stakeholders and local communities to develop a phased reintroduction of livestock grazing to key sites to support sustainable management.</i>   |
|  |                              | Key species                                  | WN3 | A coordinated approach across landholdings will be taken to monitoring and managing populations of key species living in the Chase.   | <i>A.2: Agree the list of key species for which individual monitoring and management action plans will be drawn up, and then coordinate these plans.<br/>B.6: Draw up a strategy and action plan for monitoring and managing the deer population in the Chase.</i> |
|  |                              | Invasive weeds, pests and diseases           | WN4 | The incidence, spread and impacts of invasive species in the AONB must be better understood, and where information is available, it should be used to inform land management decisions.   | <i>B.7: Monitor invasive species (summarised in a short annual report to the JC) and support collaborative and targeted management to address them where required.</i>   |
|  |                              | Ground water levels and the valley mires     | WN5 | Investigate and address factors impacting on valley mires and wetlands to bring them into favourable condition.   | <i>B.17: Develop a project to research and monitor long term changes in ground water levels in the Sherbrook and Oldacre Valleys, investigate causes and determine any necessary action.</i>   |
|  | Enlarge and connect habitats | Restoration of heathland                     | WN6 | Explore and develop opportunities to restore heathland from forestry plantation in the Chase.   | <i>B.8: Develop a project to identify suitable heathland restoration areas on conifer plantations acquiring land for compensation planting and planning a phased approach to delivery.</i>   |
|  |                              | Bridges for nature outside the AONB          | WN7 | The AONB Partnership will actively support opportunities to build connected networks of wildlife sites extending beyond the AONB, as a means of enhancing the resilience and viability of wildlife populations currently concentrated in the Chase.                                       | <i>A.13: Identify and promote projects that enhance the landscape connectivity, biodiversity resilience and heritage value of countryside and public open space around the Chase.</i>  |
|  |                              | National leadership in biodiversity net gain | WN8 | The AONB Partnership will take a leading role in supporting and facilitating practical delivery of biodiversity net gain, through the identification of   | <i>A.13: Identify and promote projects that enhance the landscape connectivity, biodiversity resilience and heritage value of countryside and public open space</i>  |

|                                  |  |   |     |   |  |
|----------------------------------|--|---|-----|---|--|
|                                  |  |   |     | suitable areas of new habitat that enhance the resilience and recovery of wildlife living in the AONB.  | <i>around the Chase.</i>   |
| Historic Environment and Culture | Conserve the Chase's heritage assets                     | Improving knowledge of heritage                 | HC1 | Improve understanding of the significance and condition of heritage assets within the AONB.   | <i>A.14: Assess updated historic environment information and through this develop and implement interpretation and management strategies, prioritising key sites for survey, condition assessment and management.</i>  |
|                                  |  | Improving the condition of heritage             | HC2 | Work with landowners, managers, decision makers and local communities to positively manage the historic environment to ensure its successful conservation and enhancement.  | <i>B.18: Monitor the condition of all designated heritage assets within the AONB and take action where necessary to address risks and harm.<br/>B.19: Raise awareness of the historic environment and its significance with land owners, managers, decision makers and local communities and provide support and guidance to help them develop and deliver sustainable management regimes.</i> |
|                                  | Connect communities with the Chase's history and culture | Inspire through the Chase's history and culture | HC3 | Engage and inspire local communities and visitors to enjoy and appreciate the AONB's historic environment through education, interpretation and events.   | <i>B.11: Develop a project building on the success of the Chase through Time to engage local communities in historic environment research, field survey and management and in the celebration of the AONB's cultural heritage.</i>   |
| Experience and Enjoyment         | Treading lightly in the Chase                            | Recreation Management                           | EE1 | Wherever possible, recreational activity should be moved away from the most sensitive parts of the AONB, ensuring that suitable measures are in place to reduce the negative impacts of an increase in visitors (both within and outside the AONB boundary).                        | <i>A.10: Review and influence the content and delivery of visitor management plans and open space strategies surrounding the AONB to ensure they identify and promote sites, facilities and activities outside the AONB boundary that will reduce the negative impacts of recreation on sensitive sites in the Chase.</i>  |
|                                  |  | Creation of Alternative Recreational Resources  | EE2 | Improvements to the quality and connectivity of existing, and development of new, Green Infrastructure and Open Space outside of the AONB boundary should be supported. This should involve working with Partners to help reduce recreational and visitor pressure within the AONB. | <i>A.10: Review and influence the content and delivery of visitor management plans and open space strategies surrounding the AONB to ensure they identify and promote sites, facilities and activities outside the AONB boundary that will reduce the negative impacts of recreation on sensitive sites in the Chase.</i>  |

|  |                      |   |     |  |   |
|--|----------------------|---|-----|--|---|
|  |                      | Group visits                                      | EE3 | Visitors and organisers of groups coming to the AONB, and in particular the SAC, should be made more aware of the wealth of wildlife and sensitive habitats in the area, their role in conserving it and the need to seek permission before organising events. | <i>A.11: Develop the on-line/social media presence for the Chase, using this to promote its special qualities, co-ordinate information from partners and signpost to appropriate websites and other sources.</i>  |
|  | A greener experience | Creating a Green Identity                         | EE4 | High qualities of visitor infrastructure and provision, using best practice environmental design standards, should be adopted throughout the AONB, including a common approach to branding and interpretation.   | <i>A.8: Develop a shared design protocol for recreation and leisure facilities, signage and promotional material, aimed at producing consistent high standards for use by all providers in the Chase.</i><br><i>B.12: Improve facilities at key visitor sites such as Marquis Drive to develop an enhanced visitor experience appropriate to a nationally important protected landscape.</i>  |
|  |                      | Relationship between Visitors and the Environment | EE5 | Increase awareness and encourage visitors to play a positive role in conserving and enhancing the AONB and to be 'good environmental ambassadors'.   | <i>A.11: Develop the on-line/social media presence for the Chase, using this to promote its special qualities, co-ordinate information from partners and signpost to appropriate websites and other sources.</i><br><i>B.13: Develop the 'Love Cannock Chase' project to promote the ways in which visitors and local businesses can protect and enhance the AONB's special qualities.</i>  |
|  |                      | Sustainable Travel                                | EE6 | The use of alternative means of transport by visitors to the Chase should be explored and actively promoted.   | <i>A.3: Work with local authority transport and Green Infrastructure teams to design and provide safe, connected cycle and pedestrian routes into the AONB.</i><br><i>B.14: Work with facility providers and attractions within the AONB to encourage visitors to arrive by sustainable means of transport through provision of information, incentives such as discounts and the provision of facilities such as secure bicycle parking.</i> |
|  |                      | A Clear Message                                   | EE7 | Communication with the public about the AONB, activities and events should be consistent, coordinated and streamlined.   | <i>A.11: Develop the on-line/social media presence for the Chase, using this to promote its special qualities, co-ordinate information from partners and signpost to appropriate websites and</i>   |

|                          |                                    |                              |     |   |  |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----|---|--|
|                          |                                    |                              |     |   | <p><i>other sources.</i></p> <p><i>A.9: Draw-up and co-ordinate dissemination of consistent messages about the significance and conservation requirements of priority sites in the AONB to key decision-making bodies and networks.</i></p>  |
| Communities and Business | Natural benefits for the community | Meeting Community Needs      | CB1 | <p>Ways should be developed to ensure that the natural benefits that the AONB delivers are fully taken advantage of by local communities and help meet the needs of those communities, whilst conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the AONB.</p> | <p><i>A.4: Support the establishment of the Cannock Chase Landscape Trust (CIO) and, through its business plan, develop ways of proactively engaging local businesses and community groups with delivery of this Management Plan.</i></p> <p><i>B.15: Work with healthcare providers to develop and promote activity and wellbeing programmes suitable for different groups, based on key visitor sites.</i></p>   |
|                          |                                    | Giving Communities a Voice   | CB2 | <p>Efforts should be made to fully engage stakeholders, businesses, community and other interested groups with the work going on in the AONB, helping them to shape and influence it.</p>   | <p><i>A.4: Support the establishment of the Cannock Chase Landscape Trust (CIO) and, through its business plan, develop ways of proactively engaging local businesses and community groups with delivery of this Management Plan.</i></p> <p><i>A.5: Re-engage and draw up a new updated database of interested parties in the AONB and maintain regular contact with them on matters of interest.</i></p> <p><i>A.7: Use the Annual Conference to report to partners and the local community on the progress of actions contained within this Management Plan. Use this platform to fully engage with these groups and take account of their views.</i></p> <p><i>B.13: Develop the 'Love Cannock Chase' project to promote the ways in which visitors and local businesses can protect and enhance the AONB's special qualities.</i></p> |
|                          |                                    | Coordination of Volunteering | CB3 | <p>Coordinate volunteer activities throughout the AONB and draw on the skills developed by different organisations; Increase involvement by local communities and businesses in activities that support the special qualities</p>                             | <p><i>A.6: Work in Partnership with organisations currently using volunteers in the AONB and local area to identify ways that the promotion and recruitment of volunteers can be coordinated, and their inputs made best use of for</i></p>  |

|  |   |                       |     | of the AONB.   | <i>different activities on the Chase.</i>   |
|--|---|-----------------------|-----|--|---|
|  | Businesses Supporting the Special Qualities | Harnessing Enterprise | CB4 | Local businesses should be encouraged and supported to develop high quality products and services, and growth and innovation, that support the special qualities and the AONB brand. | <p><i>A.4: Support the establishment of the Cannock Chase Landscape Trust (CIO) and, through its business plan, develop ways of proactively engaging local businesses and community groups with delivery of this Management Plan.</i></p> <p><i>B.16: Explore the development of an AONB quality mark for businesses within the AONB and wider local economy that support and help deliver the special qualities of the AONB.</i></p> |

Draft

## Appendix 4: Cannock 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 European Site  |             |             |  |
| A4   | Options / policies that positively steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas   |             |             |  |
| A5   | General policy statements or policies that only express general intentions or political aspirations.   |             |             |  |
| Draft Policy (18 10 02)  |  | Category A? | Next stage? | Comment  |
|  | Policy LCP1: Development proposals within the AONB 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. | A1          | NO          | Design and qualitative criteria  |
|  | Policy LCP2: The impact of traffic travelling through the Chase on its tranquillity and other special qualities should be reduced where possible by encouraging alternative routes and by reducing speed, noise and air pollution.   | A2          | NO          | The intent is to protect the natural environment   |
|  | Policy LCP3: Opportunities will be taken to enhance the contribution that woodland makes to the character of the AONB  | A3          | NO          | The intent is to enhance the natural environment in ways that enhance the special qualities                                |
|  | Policy LCP4: Agri-environment scheme measures should be aligned to deliver the outcomes and objectives of this Plan.   | A5          | NO          | A general policy statement that expresses an aspiration  |
|  | Policy LCP5: Advice and practical guidance should be made available to new landowners and those planning changes of use of their land, such as the keeping of horses, to conserve and enhance the Chase's natural beauty.  | A1          | NO          | Will eventually lead to statements that will not in themselves lead to development   |
|  | Policy LCP6: The quality, location and usage of recreation infrastructure maintained by all major landowners in the Chase should be consistent and appropriate to landscape character.   | A5/A1       | NO          | A general policy statement that expresses an aspiration supported by the action to prepare design and qualitative guidance |
|  | Policy LCP7: Development that detracts from landscape character or impacts on the natural beauty of the Chase, by obscuring or intruding on significant public views into and out of the AONB, should be resisted.   | A5          | NO          | A general policy statement that expresses an aspiration  |

|  |  |              |           |   |
|--|--|--------------|-----------|---|
|  | Policy LCP8: In the immediate vicinity of the AONB, the character of the public realm (e.g. landscaping around roads and buildings, public lighting and signage) should be designed and maintained so that it reinforces and compliments the landscape character and quality of the Chase and provides a welcoming experience for those entering the AONB. | <b>A5/A1</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general policy statement that expresses an aspiration supported by the action to prepare design and qualitative guidance  |
|  | Policy LCP9: Opportunities should be promoted to enhance the character and quality of the countryside and public open spaces surrounding the AONB so as to reduce its isolation and create strong visual and aesthetic links with surrounding landscapes.  | <b>A5/A3</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general policy statement that expresses an aspiration supported by the action to enhance landscape connectivity, biodiversity resilience and heritage of the AONB |
|  | Policy WN1: The international significance of the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and the fragility and needs of its biodiversity, should be fully taken into account in all forms of public policy and private practice that will affect the condition of the SAC.  | <b>A4</b>    | <b>NO</b> | The policy and its actions can positively steer development away from the SAC   |
|  | Policy WN2: The preferred form of management for most areas of heathland and associated habitats (potentially including wood pasture) should be grazing by livestock. Steps will be taken to build consensus and introduce the necessary sensitive infrastructure to enable this to happen gradually.  | <b>A5/A3</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general policy statement that expresses an aspiration supported by the action to introduce sustainable land management  |
|  | Policy WN3: A coordinated approach across landholdings will be taken to monitoring and managing populations of key species living in the Chase.  | <b>A2</b>    | <b>NO</b> | Policy and actions intended to protect the natural environment  |
|  | Policy WN4: The incidence, spread and impacts of invasive species in the AONB must be better understood, and where information is available, it should be used to inform land management decisions.  | <b>A5/A3</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general policy statement that expresses an aspiration supported by the action to monitor and report   |
|  | Policy WN5: Investigate and address factors impacting on valley mires and wetlands to bring them into favourable condition.  | <b>A3</b>    | <b>NO</b> | The action is to bring the habitat back into favourable condition   |
|  | Policy WN6: Explore and develop opportunities to restore heathland from forestry plantation in the Chase.  | <b>A3</b>    | <b>NO</b> | The action is to restore a BAP priority habitat   |
|  | Policy WN7: The AONB Partnership will actively support opportunities to build connected networks of wildlife sites extending beyond the AONB, as a means of enhancing the resilience and viability of wildlife populations currently concentrated in the Chase.  | <b>A3</b>    | <b>NO</b> | Action to enhance landscape connectivity, biodiversity resilience and heritage of the AONB  |

|   |           |           |  |
|---|-----------|-----------|--|
| Policy WN8: The AONB Partnership will take a leading role in supporting and facilitating practical delivery of biodiversity net gain, through the identification of suitable areas of new habitat that enhance the resilience and recovery of wildlife living in the AONB.                      | <b>A3</b> | <b>NO</b> | Action to enhance landscape connectivity, biodiversity resilience and heritage of the AONB |
| Policy HC1: Improve the understanding of the significance and condition of heritage assets within the AONB.   | <b>A1</b> | <b>NO</b> | Design and qualitative criteria  |
| Policy HC2: Work with landowners, managers, decision makers and local communities to positively manage the historic environment to ensure its successful conservation and enhancement.  | <b>A3</b> | <b>NO</b> | Action to address risk and harm to designated heritage assets                              |
| Policy HC3: Engage and inspire local communities and visitors to enjoy and appreciate the AONB's historic environment through education, interpretation and events.   | <b>A5</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general intent that will not lead to any development                                     |
| Policy EE1: Wherever possible, recreational activity should be moved away from the most sensitive parts of the AONB, ensuring that suitable measures are in place to reduce the negative impacts of an increase in visitors (both within and outside the AONB boundary).                        | <b>A4</b> | <b>NO</b> | The policy and its actions can positively steer development away from any European Site    |
| Policy EE2: Improvements to the quality and connectivity of existing, and development of new, Green Infrastructure and Open Space outside of the AONB boundary should be supported. This should involve working with Partners to help reduce recreational and visitor pressure within the AONB. | <b>A1</b> | <b>NO</b> | Design and qualitative criteria  |
| Policy EE3: Visitors and organisers of groups coming to the AONB, and in particular the SAC, should be made more aware of the wealth of wildlife and sensitive habitats in the area, their role in conserving it and the need to seek permission before organising events.                      | <b>A2</b> | <b>NO</b> | The intent is to protect biodiversity  |
| Policy EE4: High qualities of visitor infrastructure and provision, using best practice environmental design standards, should be adopted throughout the AONB, including a common approach to branding and interpretation.  | <b>A1</b> | <b>NO</b> | Design and qualitative criteria  |
| Policy EE5: Increase awareness and encourage visitors to play a positive role in conserving and enhancing the AONB and to be 'good environmental ambassadors'.  | <b>A3</b> | <b>NO</b> | Actions to encourage the conservation and enhancement of the special qualities of the AONB |
| Policy EE6: The use of alternative means of transport by visitors to the Chase should be explored and actively promoted.  | <b>A5</b> | <b>NO</b> | A general policy statement that expresses an aspiration; it will be for others to act      |

|  |  |           |           |  |
|--|--|-----------|-----------|--|
|  | Policy EE7: Communication with the public about the AONB, activities and events should be consistent, coordinated and streamlined.   | <b>A1</b> | <b>NO</b> | Cannot lead to development   |
|  | Policy CB1: Ways should be developed to ensure that the natural benefits that the AONB delivers are fully taken advantage of by local communities and help meet the needs of those communities, whilst conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the AONB. | <b>A3</b> | <b>NO</b> | Actions to encourage the conservation and enhancement of the special qualities of the AONB |
|  | Policy CB2: Efforts should be made to fully engage stakeholders, businesses, community and other interested groups with the work going on in the AONB, helping them to shape and influence it.   | <b>A1</b> | <b>NO</b> | Cannot lead to development   |
|  | Policy CB3: Coordinate volunteer activities throughout the AONB and draw on the skills developed by different organisations; Increase involvement by local communities and businesses in activities that support the special qualities of the AONB.                | <b>A3</b> | <b>NO</b> | The intent is to engage volunteers in support of the special qualities.                    |
|  | Policy CB4: Local businesses should be encouraged and supported to develop high quality products and services, and growth and innovation, that support the special qualities and the AONB brand.   | <b>A3</b> | <b>NO</b> | The intent is to engage businesses in support of the special qualities.                    |

## Appendix 5: List of relevant plans and policies

### INTERNATIONAL

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International importance, especially waterfowl habitat (1971)  
Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979) (came into force on 1 June 1982)  
Bonn Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (1979)  
Rio Declaration of Environment and Development 1992  
The Convention on Biological Diversity (The Rio Convention) (Adopted June 1992, entered into force December 1993)  
The World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg (2002), Commitments arising from the Johannesburg Summit  
Paris Agreement United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2015)

### EUROPEAN

The Birds Directive (Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds) (79/409/EEC) (Adopted 1979)  
The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention) Council of Europe (121) 1985  
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised 1985)  
Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) (1991)  
The Habitats Directive (Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora) (Directive 92/43/EC) (1992)  
The Landfill Directive (99/31/EC) (1999)  
The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) (2000)  
The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC) (2001)  
The Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC) (2002)  
The Public Access to Environmental Information Directive (2003/4/EC) (2003)  
Aarhus Convention (1998, ratified February 2005)  
The Landscape Convention 20 October 2000 (ratified by UK in November 2006)  
Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (June 2006)  
The Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EEC) (2008)  
Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020, European Commission (2011)

### NATIONAL

#### Legislation

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979  
The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)  
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (as amended)  
The Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) Order 1994 SI 1381  
Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000  
Sustainable Energy Act 2003  
Secure and Sustainable Buildings Act 2004  
Traffic Management Act 2004  
Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006  
Climate Change Act 2008  
Localism Act 2011  
European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Act 2017  
The Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 (Habitats Regulation) as amended in 1997, 2000 (in England only) and 2017  
Rights of Way Circular (1/09) Guidance for Local Authorities (Defra 2009)  
Agricultural Waste Regulations Defra (2006)  
National Policy Statements for Energy Infrastructure (DECC 2011)  
National Planning Policy Framework (CLG 2018)

#### Policies, Strategies and Plans

Securing the Future – UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (Defra 2005)  
The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland Defra (2007)

Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (English Heritage 2008)  
Future Water The Government's water strategy for England Defra (2008)  
Water for people and the environment - Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales, Environment Agency 2009  
The Rural Development Programme 2015-2020 (Defra amended 2017)  
Safeguarding our Soils - A Strategy for England (Defra 2009)  
Green Infrastructure Guidance (Natural England 2009)  
Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network, (Chaired by Professor Sir John Lawton CBE FRS) Defra 2010  
Mainstreaming sustainable development – The Government's vision and what this means in practice (Defra 2011)  
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (Defra 2011)  
Government Review of Waste Policy in England 2011 (Defra 2011)  
Water for Life, the Water White Paper (Defra 2011)  
Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon – Making Sustainable Local Transport Happen (DfT 2011)  
The Carbon Plan (DECC 2011)  
Strategic Framework for Tourism in England 2010 – 2020 (Visit England 2011)  
Enabling Development and the Conservation of Significant Places English Heritage (2008 -revised 2012)  
Local Authority Heritage Assets: Current Issues and Opportunities - Report to English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund - by *Green Balance with Grover Lewis Associates Ltd* 2012  
UK Forestry Standard (Forestry Commission 2011)  
UK Bioenergy Strategy (DECC 2012)  
Creating a sporting habit for life, A new youth sport strategy (DCMS 2012)  
'The Natural Choice', the Natural Environment White Paper (Defra 2012)  
Healthy lives, healthy people: Improving outcomes and supporting transparency (DH 2012)  
Independent Panel on Forestry Final report, Defra (2012)  
Natural Capital Committee How to do it: a natural capital workbook NCC 2012  
Realising nature's value: The Final Report of the Ecosystem Markets Task Force Defra (March 2013)  
Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement - Forestry Commission (Defra 2013)  
National Character Area Profile: 67 Cannock Chase and Cank Wood (NE347) (Natural England 2012)  
Heritage 2020: strategic priorities for England's historic environment 2015-2020 Historic Environment Forum, March 2015  
Tourism Action Plan, DCMS (August 2016)  
Conservation 21: Natural England's conservation strategy for the 21st century – Natural England 2016  
Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment Historic England Advice Note 8, Historic England, December 2016  
BEIS The Clean Growth Strategy Leading the way to a low carbon future HMSO BEIS (October 2017)  
Fixing our broken housing market Cm Paper 9352 HMSO, DCLG, February 2017  
The Setting of Heritage Assets Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Second Edition) Historic England December 2017  
*A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment*, HMSO, Defra (2018)  
Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit, Cmd paper 9577, HMSO, Defra, February 2018

## REGIONAL

West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership, Enhancing Biodiversity Across the West Midlands, 2008  
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The West Midlands Combined Authority Strategic Economic Plan (date note clear)  
Growing our future: West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework (Forestry Commission 2004)  
West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework GROWING OUR FUTURE 2007-2010 Delivery Plan (Forestry Commission 2007)  
Cannock Chase Forest Design Plan 2015 – 2025  
Water for life and livelihoods: River Basin Management Plan Humber River Basin District (Environment Agency 2015)  
Water for people and the environment Water Resources Strategy & Regional Action Plan for Midlands region (Environment Agency 2009)  
Staffordshire Trent Valley CAMS Staffordshire Trent Valley abstraction licensing strategy Environment Agency February 2013

Water Resources Management Plan, South Staffs Water 2014  
Putting the historic environment to work A strategy for the West Midlands 2010-2015 The West Midlands  
Historic Environment Forum (English Heritage) 2010  
National Forest Strategy 2004-2014 (National Forest Company 2004)  
Cannock Chase SAC Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Measures 2017 (SAMMM)  
Cannock Chase, Staffordshire: The Chase Through Time: Historic England Contribution Historic England,  
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## LOCAL

Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022 Creating a Bright Future, Staffordshire County Council  
Sustainable Community Strategy (Staffordshire) 2008-2023  
Local Transport Plan for Staffordshire LTP3, SCC (2011)  
Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Local Plan 2010-2026, adopted March 2013  
2013 Refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent,  
Staffordshire Waste Partnership  
Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Minerals Local Plan 2015 - 2030 – adopted 2017  
Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan Part 1 – Strategy 2014-  
2030 (2014)  
The Staffordshire County Council Rural Declaration and supporting strategy are due to be announced in  
March 2013.  
Cannock Chase Country Park Strategy 1999  
Staffordshire County Council Tourism Strategy 2012-2014 (2012)  
Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Staffordshire 2018-2023  
Cannock Chase DC Local Plan June 2014  
Lichfield DC Local Plan 2008 - 2029 Adopted 17 February 2015  
South Staffordshire Council Local Plan adopted December 2012  
Local Plan, Right Place, Right Time: A Blueprint for Local Development, Site Allocations Document South  
Staffordshire Council adopted 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
The plan for Stafford Borough 2011 -2031 adopted 2014

**Appendix 6: Text of consultation letters**

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**Awaiting consultation**

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