

Habitat Regulations Assessment

Stage 1 (Screening)

Iteration number	1
Date assessment completed	24/07/2018
Project location	land off, Netherley Drive, Marsden, Huddersfield, HD7 6HL
Relevant application number(s)	2018/92216
Assessment by	Tom Stephenson

Pre-screening step – Gathering Information

Only basic habitat information should be required for screening. If detailed information is needed this indicates that Appropriate Assessment should be undertaken.

State the information sources provided by the applicant.

Report title or other information source description	Date provided
	Click here to enter a date.
	Click here to enter a date.

State the information sources available for use in the following assessment, other than those provided by the applicant.

Report title or other information source description	Date obtained
Golden plover data set from Local Plan HRA	Between Dec. 2016 and Jan. 2017
	Click here to enter a date.

Describe information requested from the applicant, including clarification and update of reports and survey information.

Report title or other information source description	Date obtained
	Click here to enter a date.
	Click here to enter a date.

Step 1 – Management of the Site

Is conservation management of a Natura 2000 site the purpose of the project?

The project or plan is not necessary for or solely conceived for the purpose of conservation management of a Natura 2000 site, or is for such a purpose and has the potential to affect a Natura 2000 site that is not the target for management.

Step 2 – Description of the Project

Provide a brief description of the project.

The proposal is for the erection of 5 dwellings within an application area of approximately 0.5 ha. The site is surrounded on three sides by the South Pennine Moors SAC, which is approximately 250 m from the site at its closest point. The site is located approximately 470 m north of the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA and parts of the South Pennine Moors SPA lie to the east and west of the site (250 m at the closest point). The proposals will result in the loss of grassland habitats, but no ecological information has been submitted that would allow these habitats to be characterised.

Identify any projects or plans with the potential for in combination effects with the assessed project.

The following planning applications from the previous 5 year period may, will or have resulted in a net increase in dwellings within 1.25 km of the centre of the application area. The site is well connected to the SAC/SPA by existing public rights of way and the 1.25 km search radius has been chosen as an assumed reasonable distance to capture a regular recreational walking route, such as a dog walk. If all are constructed as proposed this will result in a net increase of 42 dwellings.

2013/92769	Change of use and alterations from disused barn to residential dwelling
2013/93305	Change of use from therapy centre to 1 no. dwelling (within a Conservation Area)
2014/91894	Erection of one dwelling (within a Conservation Area)
2014/93249	Alterations and extension to existing barn to form dwelling
2015/90495	Erection of detached building to create dwelling forming annex accommodation associated with Spring Hall Mount, Binn Lane, Marsden, Huddersfield, HD7 6NW (within the curtilage of a Listed Building)
2015/90497	Erection of one dwelling
2015/93549	Alterations and extension to barn to form dwelling (within a Conservation Area)
2015/93743	Alterations to convert office to 2 dwellings (within a Conservation Area)
2015/94072	Conversion of cellar to form annex accommodation associated with 17, Marsden Lane, Marsden, Huddersfield, HD7 6AF
2016/93196	Erection of extensions and alterations to convert barn to dwelling and replacement of roof structures and associated parking (modified proposal) (within a Conservation Area)
2017/90605	Change of use from office to dwelling (within a Conservation Area)
2017/91894	Erection of extensions and alterations to outbuilding to create dwelling
2017/92937	Erection of detached dwelling (within a Conservation Area)
2018/90198	Use of land for siting of caravan and container (within a Conservation Area)
2018/90735	Demolition of former fire station and erection of 24no. two bedroom flats, 2no. single bedroom flats and 1no. dwelling, associated parking, new vehicular access and landscaping (within a Conservation Area)
2018/91438	Change of use of dwellinghouse (C3) to cafe/restaurant (A3) (within a Conservation Area)

2018/92057	Erection of single and two storey extensions, internal and external alterations to convert one dwelling to two dwellings (Listed Building)
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Step 3 – Characteristics of the Natura 2000 Site(s)

Brief descriptions of the Natura 2000 sites likely to be affected by the above project. These descriptions should be used to inform Step 4 below.

South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation

The designation covers the major moorland blocks of the South Pennines, from Ilkley in the north to Matlock in the south. The designated area comprises a range of upland habitats including significant areas of wet heathland, and transition mires and quacking bogs, and some of the best examples of dry heathland, upland oak woodlands and blanket bogs in the United Kingdom.

Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) Special Protection Area

The designation covers the southern part of the South Pennine Moors, from Marsden in the north to Matlock in the south, and includes typical upland mires, heaths and oak woodlands. The designated area supports breeding populations of the following Birds Directive Annex I species:

- Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*)

A number of these species regularly forage in areas outside of the protected area.

South Pennine Moors Phase 2 Special Protection Area

The designation covers the northern part of the South Pennine Moors, from Ilkley in the north to Marsden in the south, and includes typical upland mires, heaths and oak woodlands. The designated area supports an internationally important breeding bird assemblage typical of upland habitats. The area supports:

- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*)
- Breeding bird assemblage including common sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*), curlew (*Numenius arquata*), dunlin (*Calidris alpina*), lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), redshank (*Tringa tetanus*), ring ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*), snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*), wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*), and whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*).

A number of the above species regularly forage in areas outside of the protected area.

Step 4 – Assessment of Significance

Based on the project description and characteristics of the Natura 2000 Site(s), identify any elements of the project with potential to impact Natura 2000 sites.

Possible impact	South Pennine Moors Special Area Conservation	Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) Special Protection Area	South Pennine Moors Phase 2 Special Protection Area

<i>Physical loss of habitat, including functionally linked habitat</i>	No impact predicted	Impact possible	Impact possible
<i>Non-physical disturbance, such as noise</i>	No impact predicted	Impact possible	Impact possible
<i>Air pollution</i>	Impact possible	Impact possible	No impact predicted
<i>Recreation and urban impacts</i>	Impact possible	Impact possible	Impact possible
<i>Water quantity and quality</i>	No impact predicted	No impact predicted	No impact predicted

Are any of the above impacts likely to result in significant effects?

South Pennine Moors SAC

An increase in vehicle movements resulting from an increase of 5 dwellings is not considered sufficient to result in significant effects on the habitats of the SAC.

The project site is directly connected to the SAC via numerous public rights of way. For this reason likely significant effects resulting from increased recreational use and resultant trampling cannot be ruled out at this stage.

Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA and South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA

No bird survey information is available, and such detailed survey information would not normally be considered at screening stage. The application site is close to both phases of the SPA and a record of a breeding golden plover is located approximately 380 m from the site. As the habitats present within and adjacent to the application area appear superficially suitable as foraging habitat for this and other SPA species, likely significant effects from loss of functionally connected land or disturbance of birds using functionally connected land cannot be ruled out.

An increase in vehicle movements resulting from an increase of 5 dwellings is not considered sufficient to result in significant effects on the habitats of the SAC.

The project site is directly connected to the SAC via numerous public rights of way. For this reason likely significant effects resulting from increased recreational use and resultant disturbance of breeding SPA birds cannot be ruled out at this stage.

Where possible impacts are identified in the table above but no likely significant effect is identified for the project in isolation, are in combination effects likely to be significant?

Not applicable as likely significant effects have not been ruled out for the project in isolation.

Conclusion of Stage 1 Assessment

Is the project, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, likely to result in a significant effect on any Natura 2000 site?

The information provided either suggests that significant effects are likely or that sufficient uncertainty remains to indicate that an appropriate assessment should be carried out.