

Habitat Regulations Assessment

Stage 1 (Screening)

Iteration number	1
Date assessment completed	01/03/2024
Project location	Woodhouse Quarry, Woodhouse Lane, Holmbridge, Holmfirth, HD9 2QR
Relevant application number(s)	2023/91418
Assessment by	Gareth Hey

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
Woodhouse Quarry, Holmbridge, Ecological Appraisal Report	15/05/2023
Woodhouse Quarry, Holmbridge, Report to inform a Habitats Regulations Assessment	05/02/2024

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
	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.

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 site is located approximately 1.3km north of the South Pennine Moors SAC and Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA.

The application is for the formal restoration of the Site to address health and safety concerns, visual impact and available end use. The Proposed Restoration is considered in relation to its two phases: (1) Site Preparation Phase and (2) Restoration Phase.

Site Preparation Phase

Suitable existing worked materials will be re-claimed, and the void will be backfilled to an agreed landform using a combination of on-site materials and imported inert materials. This will result in the temporary removal of the habitats within the centre and north of the Site to facilitate the works ahead of final restoration (as shown on the Proposed Restoration and Reclamation Plan – Phase 4 Final Restoration Plan (Bright and Associates, 2023).

The habitats to the south of the quarry void (grassland and heathland) and areas adjacent to the northeast and southwest Site boundaries (pond P2 and scrub) will be retained in-situ. Selected habitats and the associated soils will temporarily be removed (stripped), stored within the Site and re-used as part of the ecological habitat creation elements of the restoration.

It is expected that the Site Preparation Phase will take up to 18 months to complete.

Restoration Phase

Once the Site Preparation Phase (including all habitat creation measures) is complete, the Site will be managed for the Restoration Phase in accordance with agreed measures detailed within an appropriate Landscape and Environmental Management Plan (LEMP). The production of the LEMP, or other suitably worded document, will be secured via a suitably worded planning condition, and will be required, post commencement.

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.

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

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

No impacts are predicted.

Where possible impacts are identified in the table above, identify any projects or plans with the potential for in combination effects with the assessed project.

The in-combination assessment has reviewed Kirklees Council⁸ and Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council⁹ planning applications online within 5 km of the Site which could result in an in-combination impact with the Proposed Restoration. The only identified in-combination impact relates to increases in HGV traffic on roads that are near to the European sites; the assessment has therefore sought to identify projects / developments that that in-combination with the Proposed Restoration might result in an increase of more than 200 AADT for HGVs.

Where possible impacts are identified for the assessed project, but these effects are not considered significant for the project in isolation, are in combination effects likely to be significant?

Use headings for each Natura 2000 site. Format headings as 'Strong' from the styles menu (Alt+Ctrl+Shift+S).

No plans or project have been identified that are likely to have a significant effect on the qualifying features of the South Pennine Moors SAC and Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA when considered in-combination with the Proposed Restoration. This conclusion has been reached taking into account the impact of the development on birds using functionally linked land.

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?

It can be objectively concluded that there are not likely to be significant effects on the Natura 2000 site.

Consultation

Consultation with Natural England is not necessary at the screening stage of Habitat Regulations Assessment. However, where Natural England has been consulted in relation to the potential for impacts to Sites of Special Scientific Interest and have provided comments, any opinion of Natural England relevant to this assessment should be summarised below.

When was Natural England consulted?

02/02/2024

On what date did Natural England formally respond?

Click here to enter a date.

Summarise Natural England's comments.

N/A