Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report

for

Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan 2019 - 2024

May 2019

Introduction

The Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 requires relevant local authorities with part of their administrative area to jointly produce and adopt a plan which formulates policy for the management of the area. The Forest of Bowland Management Plan published in 2014 is now due for review under the periodic review timetable as set out in the Act. This review has been carried out by the AONB Partnership during 2018/19. Alongside a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Plan, there is also a requirement under European and UK legislation to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment on the Plan.

The Habitats Regulations Assessment is a test of the effect of the plan on the integrity of European nature conservation sites (referred to from this point on as 'European sites')[1]. In this sense the objectives of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process initiated by this report are simply to test whether the AONB Management Plan will have a significant effect on European Nature Conservation Sites and, if it does, if that effect can be reduced to levels that are below 'significant'.

This report sets out the methodology for undertaking the Habitats Regulations Assessment, and it also sets out to describe which European sites will be considered in this assessment and the ways in which they may be sensitive to changes in the environment.

Finally, the report also establishes whether the AONB Management Plan is likely to have a significant effect on European sites and establishes whether it is possible to reduce impacts on those sites to non-significant levels.

Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan

As a nationally important landscape, the Forest of Bowland AONB experiences a variety of management pressures on its landscape, such as changing demands on agricultural land, telecommunication and energy infrastructure, tourism facilities and the need to develop a sustainable rural economy. The Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan seeks to provide a strategic context within which the problems and opportunities that these pressures present are addressed and guided in a way that safeguards the national importance of this special landscape.

The purpose of the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan is to provide a positive and pro-active management framework; highlighting the special qualities of the designated area, the importance of the relevant landscape features and identifying those features which are vulnerable to change.

The Management Plan outlines an integrated vision for future development of the AONB, based on a high level of shared aspirations for the area, taking into account relevant international, national, regional and local policies. It presents objectives specific to the AONB that will enable this vision to be pursued effectively and allocates responsibility for each objective and related actions to relevant partners.

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[1] In this report European Nature Conservation Sites, namely Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation are considered alongside international Ramsar Wetland Sites, consistent with UK Government Policy.

The Habitats Directive and the Requirement to Undertake Appropriate Assessment

The United Kingdom and its Overseas Territory of Gibraltar are subject to Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora, which is often referred to as the Habitats Directive. The principal aim of the Directive is to promote biodiversity *'by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species listed in the Annexes to the Directive at a favourable conservation status'* (JNCC, 2012a)[2]. Amongst the measures the Directive requires to achieve this is the creation of *'a coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation'*. This network also includes Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds, designated under Directive 79/409/EEC ('The Birds Directive') and is termed the European designated sites network.

Article 6(3) of the Directive puts in place requirements on certain plans and projects:

"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the 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"* (European Commission, 1992)[3].

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations

The Habitats Directive was transposed into UK law in 1994 as the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations, 1994. These Regulations have been amended on a number of occasions since 1994 and in 2010 the Government chose to consolidate the various amendments to the Regulations via 'the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2010'. Paragraph 61 sets out the requirements for the undertaking of appropriate assessment where a plan '*is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site or a European Offshore Marine Site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects)'*.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2017 is the latest update of the Regulations by Government[4].

The Regulations also provide clarity on what is meant by 'European Site' under Regulation 8. This includes both terrestrial and marine Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Sites of Community Importance (SCIs)[5] potential SACs (pSACs) and potential SPAs (pSPAs).

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[2] http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1374.
[3] European Commission, 1992. Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31992L0043:EN:HTML].
[4] The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents/made
[5] SCIs are sites that have been adopted by the European Commission but are not yet formally designated by the government of the country within which the site is situated.

What is a 'European Site'?

According to the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, which is the public body that advises the UK Government on UK-wide and international nature conservation, European sites include:

Special Areas of Conservation – *'strictly protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive. Article 3 of the Habitats Directive requires the establishment of a European network of important high quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the 189 habitat types and 788 species identified in Annex 1 and II of the Directive (as amended)'.*

Special Protection Areas – *'strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Birds Directive, which came into force in April 1979. They are classified for rare and vulnerable birds (as listed on Annex I of the Directive), and for regularly occurring migratory species'.*

Although not designated under European legislation **Ramsar Sites** are also considered as European sites in this assessment. These are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands that was established in Iran in 1971.

A Staged Approach to Appropriate Assessment: Habitats Regulations Assessment

The Habitats Regulations refer to the undertaking of 'appropriate assessment' in relation to plans and projects. However, in practice many organisations have addressed the requirement to undertake appropriate assessment via a series of steps. For instance, it is necessary to first determine the extent to which plans require appropriate assessment before the assessment can practically proceed, and to do this it is necessary to assess whether significant effects on European sites are likely and to establish what the 'appropriate assessment' itself should focus on. Following this an appropriate assessment report may be drafted that considers the effects of the plan on the integrity of European sites.

Since the appropriate assessment proper is a discrete stage of a potentially multi-staged process, to avoid confusion the process as a whole is usually referred to as Habitats Regulations Assessment. In this assessment we have divided the full Habitats Regulations Assessment process, including appropriate assessment, into 4 key stages, as illustrated by Table 1, below.

This report documents the undertaking of Stages 1 and 2 of this Habitats Regulations Assessment process.

Table 1: Habitats Regulations Assessment: Key stages

Stage 1		**Progress**
Pre-screening	1) Establish the outline methodology for undertaking the Assessment. 2) Identify whether the plan is subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment.	Undertaken in this report.
Stage 2		
Scoping and initial screening for likely significant effects	1) Identify international sites in and around the plan area. 2) Identify the conservation objectives and threats to site integrity of European sites. 3) Identify potential effects on European sites and the possible ways in which this might affect conservation objectives. 4) Examine other plans and programmes that could contribute to 'in combination' effects. 5) Make a high level assessment of whether likely significant effects can be ruled out as the plan stands now. *If no effects are likely – report no significant effects and consult Natural England on the findings.* *If effects are judged likely or any uncertainty exists – the precautionary principle applies - proceed to Stage 3. Taking into account the People Over Wind judgement (Case C-323/17 People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta)*	Undertaken in this report.
Stage 3		
Assessment under Regulation 61 of the Habitat Regulations, 2017: Appropriate Assessment	Consider how the elements of the plan identified as potentially having likely significant effects alone or 'in combination' with other plans and projects will cause direct and indirect effects on the integrity of European sites in light of their conservation objectives (the 'Appropriate Assessment'). 1) Consider how any effects on the integrity of a site could be avoided by changes to plan and the consideration of alternatives. 2) Develop mitigation measures (including timescale and mechanisms). 3) Report outcomes of Appropriate Assessment including mitigation measures, consult with Natural England, the Environment Agency and wider (public) stakeholders as necessary.	This would be undertaken prior to the finalisation of the Management Plan if, and where necessary.

	If plan will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of European sites alone or in combination with other sites (the AEoI[6] decision) proceed without further reference to Habitat Regulations. *If effects or any uncertainty remains following the consideration of alternatives and development of mitigation measures proceed to* ***Stage 4.***	
Stage 4		
Procedures where significant effect on integrity of international site remains (Derogations)[7]	If impacts remain, a plan or programme can only proceed provided a series of 'sequential tests' (Habitat Directive's article 6 (4) derogation requirements) are satisfied. These are: Test 1: There must be no feasible alternative solutions to the plan or project which are less damaging to European Sites; Test 2: There must be 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI) for the plan or project to proceed; Test 3: All necessary compensatory measures must be secured to ensure that the overall coherence of the network of European Sites is protected.	This would be undertaken prior to adoption of the Management Plan if, and where necessary.

'Source – Pathway – Receptor' Approach

While Table 1 sets out the broad steps that will be undertaken in this assessment, an underlying principle of the assessment is that a '*source – pathway –receptor*' approach will be followed to establish whether significant effects will occur or are likely.

A 'source-pathway-receptor' approach is often used in environmental risk management. It is a way of developing a conceptual understanding of how environmental harm can occur.

It stands to reason that if environmental or any other form of hazard is to occur it must come from somewhere. For instance a water pollution incident wouldn't occur unless there is some source or causal agent for that pollution (e.g. agricultural run-off or an industrial facility). This is the **source.**

Environmental hazards would not present any problems unless there were a **receptor**, or a place that would be vulnerable to damage, that would be damaged when exposed to whatever hazard originates from the source. So an already sterile water body would be unlikely to be significantly affected by a pollution incident, whereas a freshwater ecosystem that relies on high water quality may be significantly affected by water pollution. However, there may also be secondary environmental effects if the water body drains to a location which is sensitive to pollution. In this

[6] 'The AEoI decision' is used in Defra's draft guidance and refers to deciding whether or not the Plan will result in 'adverse effects on integrity'.

[7] Derogation is a provision that often features in EU legislation that allows part or all of a legal measure to be applied differently or not at all. In the case of the Habitats Directive the satisfaction of the three tests (outlined in Table 1) enable plans or projects to be adopted in spite of a likely effect on European Sites.

assessment receptors are the European sites themselves or features (such as species) that may be functionally linked with those sites.

If, however, a sump or interceptor collected the pollution before it entered the water body receptor then significant effects on any ecosystem would be unlikely to occur. This is because there is no **pathway** by which the hazard (in this case pollution) can reach the receptor (the freshwater ecosystem).

Where the European sites are considered vulnerable to certain impacts those impacts can only be considered possible where there is a source for that impact and a pathway to the receptor.

Stage 1, Task 2: Identification of whether the plan is subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment

The Habitats Regulations give information on the types of plans that should be subject to Appropriate Assessment by stating:

"A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission, or other authorisation for, a plan or project which:

(a) Is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and;

(b) Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site, must make an appropriate assessment of the implications for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives"[8].

While the definition of what constitutes a plan is not made clear under the Habitats Directive or the Regulations, the term 'plan'. Here it is considered that, as the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan influences the strategic direction for future project work, including land management and positions taken on future development proposals (which could have an environmental effect) it meets the definition of a plan consistent with the guidance.

A second consideration required by the regulations is whether or not the 'plan' is 'directly connected with or necessary to the management of [a European Site]'. As the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan is concerned with sustainable development within the AONB as a whole, rather than being necessary to the management nature conservation sites, it can be considered to be subject to the Regulations. In addition, guidance[9] states that AONB Management Plans which may have significant effects on sites covered by the Habitats Regulations must be assessed for these effects. The decision as to whether the Plan should then be subject to Appropriate Assessment will depend on the identification of any significant negative effects throughout this screening process.

[8] The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents/made

[9] Natural England, Landscapes for Life, The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Defra, 2012. Advice Note to AONB Partnerships, the Conservation Boards and Relevant Authorities on Management Plan Reviews.

It is not possible to determine whether the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan is 'likely to have a significant effect on a European Site' without first examining both the objectives and actions of the Plan alongside the conservation objectives of European sites in the Plan area. This is the purpose of stage 2 of this Habitats Regulations Assessment methodology.

Therefore in conclusion, such an assessment is necessary for the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan, and this assessment methodology should proceed until it can demonstrate that no significant effects are likely to result from the Plan, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

Stage 2, Task 1: Identification of international sites in and around the plan area

The following European sites (both within the AONB and adjacent sites which are potential receptors) were identified as relevant to this assessment:

European Site	Location
Calf Hill and Cragg Wood SAC	Wholly within AONB
Ingleborough Complex SAC	Not in AONB, but adjoining western boundary
Morecambe Bay SAC	Not in AONB, but upper river catchments of Lune, Ribble and Wyre rise and/or pass through the AONB
North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC	Partially within AONB, with majority in North Pennines AONB and Yorkshire Dales NPA
Bowland Fells SPA	Wholly within AONB
Morecambe Bay & Duddon Estuary SPA	Not in AONB, but upper river catchments of Lune, Ribble and Wyre rise and/or pass through the AONB
Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA	Not in AONB, but upper river catchments of Lune, Ribble and Wyre rise and/or pass through the AONB
Morecambe Bay Ramsar Site	Not in the AONB, but upper river catchments of Lune, Ribble and Wyre rise and/or pass through the AONB
Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar Site	Not in the AONB, but upper river catchments of Lune, Ribble and Wyre rise and/or pass through the AONB

Appendix 1 lists these sites in detail and describes the "Qualifying Features" for these European Designated Sites.

Stage 2, Task 2: Identifying the Conservation Objectives and Threats to the Integrity of European sites

Conservation objectives are broad objectives that define the key aims of the designated status (SPA/SAC/Ramsar) of a site. While additional conservation objectives may exist to support other designations at the site, the Habitats Regulations Assessment is concerned with implications on the European status of the site and whether the features of interest that contribute to that status are likely to be maintained in favourable condition. The conservation objectives are listed as those pertaining to these sites[10] and can be found in Appendix 1.

Stage 2, Tasks 3 - 5: Identify potential effects and 'in combination' effects on European sites and the possible ways in which this might affect conservation objectives

The Management Plan, including the Objectives and Actions, will be screened for likely significant impacts on European sites in this Habitats Regulations Assessment. Because the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan is a strategic document in many cases it will not exhibit specific direct impacts on individual European Sites as it will not show the specific type of intervention that would, or would not occur at a specific location. However, these will still be included as part of the screening assessment, as there still exists the potential for these more strategic AONB Management Plan actions to steer local interventions in a direction that may result in the conservation objectives of European sites being compromised.

Additionally, the Habitats Directive requires that all significant effects of plans and projects, whether they be alone or in combination with other plans and projects, be assessed in view of European Sites' conservation objectives. This means that, even where an effect of the plan is deemed not to be significant on its own, it could be significant when added to the effects of one or more other plans and projects.

By the same token, it is important that in-combination assessment remains a manageable exercise. Therefore, the focus of in-combination assessment in this HRA will be on plans that direct future land management or development as these plans are considered to be the key sources of potential impacts. The following plans will be reviewed for possible 'in-combination effects':

Craven District Council Local Plan (adopted 1999)
Craven Local Plan (Submission Draft, 2018)
Lancaster District Local Plan (adopted 2004) & emerging local plan
Lancaster District Core Strategy (adopted 2008)
Replacement Pendle Local Plan 2001 – 2016 (adopted 2001)
Pendle Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (adopted 2015)
Preston Local Plan 2012 – 2026 (adopted 2015)
Central Lancashire Core Strategy for Preston, South Ribble and Chorley (adopted 2012)
Central Lancashire Rural Development Supplementary Planning Document (adopted 2012)
Central Lancashire Design Supplementary Planning Document (adopted 2012)

[10] Conservation objectives in this Habitats Regulations Assessment report have been mainly drawn from those produced as a result of Defra's Report of the Habitats and Wild Birds Directive Implementation Review, as published on Natural England's website (See Natural England, undated. Conservation Objectives)
http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/sac/conservationobjectives.aspx

Ribble Valley Districtwide Local Plan (adopted 1998)
Ribble Valley Core Strategy (adopted 2014)
Wyre Local Plan (Submission Draft 2018)
Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Development Framework (2009)
Joint Minerals and Waste Plan for North Yorkshire, North York Moors National Park and City of York (Submission Draft, 2017)
Lancashire Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2015 - 2025
North Yorkshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2015 - 2025
Local Transport Plan 2011- 2021 - A Strategy for Lancashire
North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan, 2016 - 2045

All objectives and actions will be screened for their likely impacts alone or in combination with European Sites, shown in Table 3 overleaf.

Potential effects from all objectives and actions will also be categorised as follows, following Tyldesley 2009:

- No negative effect: these are elements of the plan that would have no negative effect on any European Site;
- No likely significant effect: these are 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 plans or projects.
- Likely significant effect alone: these elements of the plan will require full appropriate assessment unless the plan can be modified in a way that reduces the effect to no significant negative effect or no negative effect;
- Likely to have a significant effect in combination: as with the above category, elements of the strategy categorised in this way will be subject to appropriate assessment unless the effect made by the strategy alone can be reduced to no significant negative effect or no negative effect.

Table 3: Assessment of Likely Significant Effects (alone and in-combination) from the AONB Management Plan in relation to European Sites

European Sites Considered (e.g. all SPA, SAC Ramsar sites)	**Potential Effects on Site Integrity** (see Appendix 1 of HRA Screening Report)					
Objective	**Possible impact of objective/action on European Site (sources/pathways)**	**Which European Sites could be affected (receptors)**	**Are the effects significant?**	**Other plans and projects which might act in combination**	**Risk of a significant in combination effect**	**References/notes**
[1.1] Landscape Apply the guiding principles of the European Landscape Convention and use landscape characterisation as the basis for policy- and decision-making to manage landscape change which conserves and enhances natural beauty	Objective relates to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the landscape. The actions detailed under the objective are consistent with the objectives of the European designated sites.	Calf Hill and Cragg Woods SAC, North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC, Bowland Fells SPA	No likely significant effect	Local Plans Local Minerals and Waste Plans	No likely significant effect	European designated sites within the AONB are generally remote and isolated and less likely to be subject to significant development pressures. In addition, responsibility for consent for development lies with local planning authorities, with advice and guidance on landscape-related matters provided by the AONB Partnership. The Management Plan may be a material consideration in determining any such consent, but it has no legal powers to over-

						ride or otherwise influence the relevant planning authority.
[1.2] Habitats and Species Conserve, enhance and restore the AONB's characteristic mosaic of habitats by improving their connectivity, taking targeted action to conserve key species and improving understanding of the biodiversity of the AONB	Objective seeks to conserve, restore and create priority habitats and associated key species within the AONB Objective includes actions relating to positive actions for river catchment management	Calf Hill and Cragg Woods SAC, Morecambe Bay SAC, North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC, Bowland Fells SPA, Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA, Morecambe Bay Ramsar site, Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA, Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar site	No likely significant effect.	None	No likely significant effect	In particular, conservation and restoration activity is planned for blanket bog, upland hay meadow, wet grassland and woodland habitats. This work will be consistent with the conservation objectives outlined for the European designated sites within the AONB. The wider landscape is likely to benefit from buffering and connecting European sites to other features within the AONB.
[1.3] Historic Environment Support the conservation, restoration and management of the historic environment and wider cultural landscape	Objective is about conserving and enhancing historic assets and is likely to have little or no effect on European designated sites.	None	No likely significant effect	None	No likely significant effect	

[1.4] Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Seek to better understand and promote the value of the natural capital of the AONB landscape and the public benefits derived from these assets; helping to manage landscape change which conserves and enhances natural beauty	Objective is focused on co-ordination and information gathering to better understand and support landscape-scale conservation and management to benefit natural capital and ecosystem services in the AONB	All	No likely significant effect	None	No likely significant effect	
[2.1] Farming and Land Management Encourage, promote and support farming and land management practices that help to conserve and enhance natural beauty.	This objective seeks to ensure that land management practices do not have a detrimental impact on the AONB's landscape character and biodiversity	None	No likely significant effect	None	No likely significant effect	
[2.2] Sustainable Tourism Develop, co-ordinate and promote sustainable tourism activity within and close to the AONB.	Objective seeks to support development of tourism only where it is sustainable and consistent with the conserving and enhancing the natural and cultural heritage of the AONB.	None	No likely significant effect	None	No likely significant effect	Whilst sustainable tourism development within the AONB seeks to increase visitor numbers, the AONB Partnership does not seek to promote mass-tourism involving large numbers of visitors.

[2.3] Local Economy and Rural Services Promote and support rural services and the socio-economic development of the area, particularly where such activity helps to conserve and enhance natural beauty.	Objective seeks to promote sustainable business development and support for local services within the AONB and is likely to have little or no effect on European designated sites	None	No likely significant effect	Local Transport Plans	No likely significant effect	
[2.4] Community Engagement and Volunteering Support local communities and businesses to become more involved in activities and projects to conserve, enhance and celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of the AONB.	This objective will enable people to become more engaged in work to protect the landscape and natural environment of the AONB.	None	No likely significant effect	None	No likely significant effect	
[3.1] Countryside Access Maintain and improve access to the countryside in a sustainable way for a diverse range of people and that promotes responsible, safe and quiet enjoyment.	This objective relates to extending countryside access to a wider range of people and management and maintenances of the public rights of way network. Route upgrades are not generally within European designated sites and where they are permissions would be	None	No likely significant effect	Rights of Way Improvement Plans	No likely significant effect	

	sought from Natural England. Maintenance of the PROW network will to include small-scale projects that are likely to prevent wider environmental damage through erosion and disturbance.					
[3.2]Visitor Management and Information	Objective relates to actions for sustainable management of popular visitor sites and provision of visitor information, of which none have any significant effect on European designated sites	None	No likely significant effect	None	No likely significant effect	Principal 'honey pots' are: Beacon Fell County Park; Pendle Hill; Stocks and Gisburn Forest. All are outside European designated sites
[3.3] Discovering and Learning Provide opportunities to discover and learn about the special qualities of the AONB by connecting people with nature, culture and the landscape	This objective relates to knowledge promotion enabling people to become more engaged in work to conserve and enhance the landscape and natural environment of the AONB.	None	No likely significant effect	None	No likely significant effect	
[3.4] Health and Well-being Provide opportunities for people to improve their health and wellbeing by connecting	This objective relates to knowledge promotion only.	None	No likely significant effect	None	No likely significant effect	

with nature, culture and the landscape						
Can the objectives be changed to avoid significant effects? Do residual effects remain?	Not applicable as no likely significant effects identified					
Is an appropriate assessment required?	No					

Conclusions of the Screening Assessment

This assessment has concluded that there are **no likely significant effects on European designated sites, alone or in combination with other plans and projects**. The final draft Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan 2019 - 2024, like its predecessor, establishes a broad framework for conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the AONB. This framework shares implicit similarities with many of the objectives of the European designated sites network.

Appendix 1 – Conservation Objectives for European Designated Sites studied

Type	Name of Site	Conservation Objectives and Qualifying Features
SAC	Calf Hill and Cragg Wood	With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated ("the Qualifying Features" listed below): **Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.** Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: ➢ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ➢ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ➢ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; ➢ The populations of qualifying species; ➢ The distribution of qualifying species within the site. **Qualifying Features:** H91A0. Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles; Western acidic oak woodland H91E0. Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae*); Alder woodland on floodplains
SAC	Ingleborough Complex	With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated ("the Qualifying Features" listed below): **Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.** Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: ➢ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;

		➢ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ➢ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; ➢ The populations of qualifying species; ➢ The distribution of qualifying species within the site. **Qualifying Features:** H5130. *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands H6210. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone H6410. *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*); Purple moor-grass meadows H7130. Blanket bogs H7220. Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*); Hard-water springs depositing lime* H7230. Alkaline fens; Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens H8210. Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks H8240. Limestone pavements H9180. *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines; Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes
SAC	Morecambe Bay	With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated („the Qualifying Features" listed below); **Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.** Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: ➢ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ➢ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ➢ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; ➢ The populations of qualifying species; ➢ The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

		Qualifying Features: H1110. Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Subtidal sandbanks H1130. Estuaries H1140. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats H1150. Coastal lagoons H1160. Large shallow inlets and bays H1170. Reefs H1220. Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves H1310. *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand H1330. Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) H2110. Embryonic shifting dunes H2120. Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes"); Shifting dunes with marram H2130. Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); Dune grassland H2150. Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*); Coastal dune heathland H2170. Dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. *argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*); Dunes with creeping willow H2190. Humid dune slacks S1166. *Triturus cristatus*; Great crested newt
Ramsar	Morecambe Bay	With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated ("the Qualifying Features" listed below): **The site is subjected to a wide range of pressures such as reclamation for agriculture, over-grazing, dredging, over-fishing, industrial uses and unspecified pollution. However, overall the site is relatively robust and many of those pressures have only slight to local effects and are being addressed through Management Plans. The breeding tern interest is very vulnerable and the colony has recently moved to the adjacent Duddon Estuary. Positive management is being secured through management plans for non-governmental organisation reserves, English Nature Management Statements, European Marine Site Management Scheme, and the Morecambe Bay Partnership.** **Qualifying features:** **Ramsar criterion 4** – The site is a staging area for migratory waterfowl including internationally important number of passage Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* **Ramsar criterion 5** – Internationally important waterfowl assemblage (greater than 20,000 birds) **Ramsar criterion 6** – Over winter the site regularly supports internationally important populations of: Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica,* Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina,* Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Knot

		Calidris canutus, Eurasian oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Shelduck *Tadorna tandorna*, Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*.
SAC	North Pennine Dales Meadows	With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated ("the Qualifying Features" listed below): **Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.** Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: ➢ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ➢ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ➢ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; ➢ The populations of qualifying species; ➢ The distribution of qualifying species within the site. **Qualifying Features:** H6410. *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*); Purple moor-grass meadows H6520. Mountain hay meadows
SPA	Bowland Fells	With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified ("the Qualifying Features" listed below): **Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive.** Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features; The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features; The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely; The populations of the qualifying features; The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

		Qualifying Features: A082 *Circus cyaneus*; Hen harrier (Breeding) A098 *Falco columbarius*; Merlin (Breeding) **Additional Qualifying Features Identified by the 2001 UK SPA Review:** A183 *Larus fuscus*; Lesser black-backed gull (Breeding)
SPA	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary	With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified ("the Qualifying Features" listed below): **Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive.** Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: ➢ The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features; ➢ The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features; ➢ The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely; ➢ The populations of the qualifying features; ➢ The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. **Qualifying Features:** A040 *Anser brachyrhynchus*; Pink-footed goose (Non-breeding) A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding) A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (Non-breeding) A063 *Somateria mollissima*; Common eider (Breeding) A130 *Haematopus ostralegus*; Eurasian oystercatcher (Non-breeding) A137 *Charadrius hiaticula*; Ringed plover (Non-breeding) A140 *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (Non-breeding) A141 *Pluvialis squatarola*; Grey plover (Non-breeding) A143 *Calidris canutus*; Red knot (Non-breeding) A149 *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (Non-breeding) A157 *Limosa lapponica*; Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding) A160 *Numenius arquata*; Eurasian curlew (Non-breeding) A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding) A169 *Arenaria interpres*; Ruddy turnstone (Non-breeding) A183 *Larus fuscus*; Lesser black-backed gull (Breeding)

		A184 *Larus argentatus*; Herring gull (Breeding) A191 *Sterna sandvicensis*; Sandwich tern (Breeding) A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding) A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding) Waterbird assemblage **Additional Qualifying Features Identified by the 2001 UK SPA Review:** A144 *Calidris alba*; Sanderling (Non-breeding) Seabird assemblage
SPA	Ribble and Alt Estuaries	With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified ("the Qualifying Features" listed below): **Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive.** Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: ➢ The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features; ➢ The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features; ➢ The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely; ➢ The populations of the qualifying features; ➢ The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. **Qualifying Features:** A037 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; Bewick's swan (Non-breeding) A038 *Cygnus cygnus*; Whooper swan (Non-breeding) A040 *Anser brachyrhynchus*; Pink-footed goose (Non-breeding) A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding) A050 *Anas penelope*; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding) A052 *Anas crecca*; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding) A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (Non-breeding) A130 *Haematopus ostralegus*; Eurasian oystercatcher (Non-breeding) A137 *Charadrius hiaticula*; Ringed plover (Non-breeding) A140 *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (Non-breeding) A141 *Pluvialis squatarola*; Grey plover (Non-breeding) A143 *Calidris canutus*; Red knot (Non-breeding) A144 *Calidris alba*; Sanderling (Non-breeding)

		A149 *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (Non-breeding) A151 *Philomachus pugnax*; Ruff (Breeding) A156 *Limosa limosa islandica*; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding) A157 *Limosa lapponica*; Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding) A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding) A183 *Larus fuscus*; Lesser black-backed gull (Breeding) A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding) Waterbird assemblage Seabird assemblage
Ramsar	Ribble and Alt Estuaries	With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified ("the Qualifying Features" listed below): **Coastal erosion is a factor with and estimated loss of 4 m per year. It is a concern because pine woodland on the sand dunes is causing coastal squeeze and therefore preventing sand dune habitats from rolling back; as such dune slack habitats for Natterjack toads are declining or being lost. English Nature have made efforts to restore dune habitat; an EIA has been carried out with a view to submitting a felling licence application in February 2005.** **Qualifying features:** **Ramsar criterion 2** – The site supports up to 40% of the Great Britain population of Natterjack toads *Bufo calamita*. As plant speies: *Petalophyllum ralfsii* (Conservation status: European Red List: Vulnerable: EC Habitats Directive: Annex II) **Ramsar criterion 5** – Internationally important waterfowl assemblage (greater than 20,000 birds) **Ramsar criterion 6** – During the breeding season the site regularly support international important populations of: Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica, Redshank Tringa totanus,* Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina,* Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Red Knot *Calidris canutus islandica*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Sanderling *Calidris alba.* Over winter the site regularly supports internationally important populations of: Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica,* Eurasian oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*, Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Tundra swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, Whooper swan *Cygnus Cygnus.*