



Assessment of plans and projects under regulations 21 and 61 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 as amended ('Habitats Regulations Assessment')

Casework Tracker/
Application reference

Case/Application title

Assessment made by Date:

European Site(s): **North Pennines SAC (UK0030033) & SPA (UK9006272)**

Component SSSI(s): **Lune Forest**

Assessment Contents:

Summary (*where appropriate*)

- Part A – Introduction and information about the plan or project and initial assessment of credible risk to sites**
- Part B – Information about the European Site(s) likely to be affected**
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References to science/evidence

Document Control

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Assessment Summary

- The Wemmergill Estates Ltd Management Agreement (2017 – 2042) sets out a shared vision and multiple outcomes for grouse moor management, farming, biodiversity and the natural environment. It also includes a programme of moorland infrastructure and management/restoration works across the Estate.
- Although a number of works in the Management Agreement are directly connected with and necessary for the conservation \ restoration of SAC and SPA features to favourable conservation status, there are elements of the plan which cannot be screened out as specifically for these purposes and further Habitats Regulations Assessment was required.
- Although the proposed operations are considered unlikely to have a significant effect on the SPA (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) some of the proposed works could not be screened out at this stage with regard to the SAC and an appropriate assessment of these elements was undertaken by Natural England
- Because the plan/project is not wholly directly connected with or necessary to the management of the European site and is likely to have a significant effect on that site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), Natural England carried out an Appropriate Assessment as required under Regulation 21 or 61 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 to ascertain whether or not it is possible to conclude that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of a European Site. Natural England has concluded that it can be ascertained that the plan or project will not have an adverse impact on the integrity of the North Pennine Moors SAC either alone or in combination and permission can be given without conditions.
- A separate and additional consideration of the plan or project's likely impacts on those features of special interest for which the relevant SSSI(s) has been notified has concluded that the plan is consistent with furthering the conservation and enhancement of the special interest of the SSSI.
- On the basis of these assessments, and on the understanding that the moorland infrastructure and vegetation management \ restoration works are undertaken by the estate in strict accordance with the principles and specifications in Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the Management Agreement, the operations in the Management Plan may be consented.



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PART A:

Introduction and Information about the plan or project and an initial assessment of credible risk to European Sites

A1. Introduction

This is a record of the Habitats Regulations Assessment ('HRA') undertaken by Natural England in its role of competent authority and in accordance with the assessment and review provisions of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) ('the Habitats Regulations').

The plan/project requires Natural England as a statutory regulator to make [or to review] a consent decision under section 28E(1)(a) of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) on whether an SSSI owner or occupier can carry out, cause or permit to be carried out an operation or operations listed by a SSSI notification and which:

- a) does not fulfil the conditions in section 28E(3)(b) or (c) and,
- b) appears to be either a 'project' or part of a 'plan or project' which may affect a European Site (hereby referred to as either 'the plan' or 'the project').

Where such a proposal may affect a European Site, **Regulation 21** of the Habitats Regulations requires an assessment to be made of such proposals.

In making this HRA as competent authority, Natural England may only undertake or give its consent, permission, assent or authorisation to the plan or project where it is able to ascertain *either*:

- a) that it will not have a likely significant effect on a European site (either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects), or;
- b) that it will have no adverse effect on the integrity of a European Site following an appropriate assessment.

If such effects cannot be ruled out, the proposal cannot proceed unless the further tests given in Regulations 62 and 66 of the Habitats Regulations can be satisfied (see Natural England's [HRA Operational Standard](#) for further details on how to proceed further).



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A2. Details of the plan or project

Location (including grid references):

Central Point on Wemmergill Estate NY 870 220. See map in Management Agreement and enlarged map attached to Wemmergill Estates Ltd Management Plan Agreement 2016

Name of applicant: Wemmergill Moor Ltd

Description of the plan or project and its constituent elements:

Section 1 of the Management Plan sets out a shared vision and multiple outcomes for grouse moor management, farming, biodiversity and the natural environment over a 25 year period from 2017 – 2042 and Section 2 highlights the sensitive features across the site.

More specifically, the Management Plan includes a programme of moorland infrastructure and management/restoration works across the Estate (most of which require Natural England's consent) as laid out in Sections 3,4 and 5 of the document and itemised in the list below:

Section 3: Sustainable infrastructure specifications

Standard plastic mesh tracks for argocats, quad bikes and pedestrians
Supported plastic mesh tracks for argocats, quad bikes and pedestrians
Standard boardwalks for argocats, quad bikes and pedestrians
Raised boardwalks for argocats, quad bikes and pedestrians

Stone tracks on acid grassland (but not on sensitive features)

Stone infill in small areas of wet acid grassland or rush gutters (not on sensitive features)

Sunken and semi-sunken butts
Hurdle butts
Temporary free standing butts

Water scrapes

Grit stations

Translocation of small areas of dry heath or acid grassland vegetation

Post and wire fencing (for grazing management or grazing exclosures)

Section 4: Heather management principles

Mechanical cutting for restoration purposes on active and modified blanket bog
Burning for restoration purposes on active and modified blanket bog
Burning on a rotation for the maintenance of dry heath



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Heather beetle management on blanket bog

Section 5: Bare peat and grip blocking specifications (see Annexes 1a, 1b & 1c)

Fencing for livestock exclusion to prevent erosion and encourage re-vegetation of peat
Sediment traps and barriers to prevent erosion of peat and vegetation by water
Re-profiling of steep slopes, hags and gullies to prevent erosion of peat and vegetation
Heather brushing of bare peat to prevent erosion and drying out of peat
Application of lime and fertiliser and inoculation with moorland seed mix \ Sphagnum mosses to re-vegetate peat
Unblocking of erroneously blocked natural water courses in rush mires adjacent to localised blanket bog areas

Section 6: Monitoring

Establishment of permanent fixed point photography monitoring plots
Establishment of heather protection trial plots

Has the plan or project, or any aspect of it, already been subject to assessment under the Habitats Regulations by another competent authority? No

A.3 Initial assessment of risks to European Sites

This section sets out the potential ways in which the plan or project might credibly affect European Site(s) based on a rapid assessment of location, proximity, type, scale, extent, duration, frequency and timing of the operations / activities which might take place if implemented.

The available advice provided by Natural England's [Impact Risk Zones](#) for terrestrial sites and /or statutory [Advice on Operations for European Marine Sites](#) should be considered as appropriate to inform this risk assessment.

With reference to the information above and before undertaking a more detailed screening assessment, **on the basis of professional judgment**; Natural England has concluded;

- There is or may be a credible risk that the plan or project subject to an assessment might undermine the conservation objectives of a European Site. Further Habitats Regulations assessment is therefore necessary [***continue to Part B***]

**PART B:
Information about the European Site(s) which could be affected**

B1. Brief description of the European Sites(s) and their Qualifying Features

There is or may be a credible risk that the plan or project subject to an assessment might undermine the conservation objectives of the following European Sites;

North Pennine Moors SAC & SPA

Priority habitats or species are denoted by an asterisk (*)

The qualifying features potentially affected by the proposal are underlined.

North Pennine Moors SAC

Designated under Article 4(4) of the Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna Directive for the following natural habitats and/or species listed in Annex I and II of the Directive:

Habitats

4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>
<u>4030</u>	<u>European dry heaths</u>
5130	<i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands
6130	Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i>
6150	Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)
<u>7130</u>	<u>Blanket bogs*</u>
<u>7220</u>	<u>Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)*</u>
<u>7230</u>	<u>Alkaline fens</u>
8110	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>)
8210	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation
8220	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation
91A0	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles

Species

1528	<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i> ; Marsh saxifrage
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North Pennine Moors SPA

Classified under Article 4.1 of the Wild Birds Directive for:

<u>A082</u>	<u><i>Circus cyaneus</i>; Hen Harrier (breeding population)</u>
<u>A098</u>	<u><i>Falco columbarius</i>; Merlin (breeding population)</u>
<u>A103</u>	<u><i>Falco peregrinus</i>; Peregrine Falcon (breeding population)</u>
<u>A140</u>	<u><i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>; European Golden Plover (breeding population)</u>

B2. European Site Conservation Objectives (including supplementary advice)

Natural England provides advice about the Conservation Objectives for European Sites in England in its role as the statutory nature conservation body. These Objectives (including any Supplementary Advice which may be available) are the necessary context for all HRAs.

The overarching Conservation Objectives for every European Site in England are to ensure that the integrity of each site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and that each site contributes to achieving the aims of the Habitats and/or Wild Birds Directive, by either maintaining or restoring (as appropriate):

- The extent and distribution of their qualifying natural habitats,
- The structure and function (including typical species) of their qualifying natural habitats,
- The supporting processes on which their qualifying natural habitats rely,
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of their qualifying features rely,
- The population of each of their qualifying features, and
- The distribution of their qualifying features within the site.

Where Conservation Objectives Supplementary Advice is available, which provides further detail about the features' structure, function and supporting processes mentioned above, the implications of the plan or project on the specific attributes and targets listed in the advice will be taken into account in this assessment.

In light of the European Sites which could be affected by the plan or project, this assessment will be informed by the following site-specific Conservation Objectives, including any available supplementary advice;

The current Conservation Objectives for the North Pennines SAC and SPA are available at:
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6361191412662272>
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6079716435951616>



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PART C: Screening of the plan or project

To check whether a detailed appropriate assessment is necessary, there are two screening tests required by the assessment provisions of the Habitats Regulations;

C1. Is the plan or project directly connected with or necessary to the (conservation) management (of the European Site's qualifying features)? No

The Wemmergill Estates Ltd Management Agreement sets out a shared vision and multiple outcomes for grouse moor management, farming, biodiversity and the natural environment. It also includes a programme of moorland infrastructure and management\restoration works across the Estate. Although a number of these are directly connected with and necessary for the conservation \ restoration of SAC and SPA moorland features to favourable conservation status, there are elements of the plan which cannot be screened out as specifically for these purposes and which are capable of having a likely significant effect on these features (see items in **red font** in Table C1).



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Table C1. Test: Necessary for Management of the European Site

Proposed activity \ element of the project	European site qualifying feature	Necessary for management?	Reasons for decision	Carry forward to LSE test?
3 Sustainable Infrastructure Specifications				
Standard and supported plastic mesh tracks and standard and raised boardwalks for argocats, quad bikes and pedestrians (12.4km)	Blanket bog Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) Alkaline Fens European Dry heath Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	No	Not specifically required for restoration \ conservation of SAC features or SPA supporting habitat or SPA breeding bird populations	Yes
Stone tracks on acid grassland but not on sensitive features (2.9km)	Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	No	Not specifically required for restoration \ conservation of SPA supporting habitat or SPA breeding bird populations	Yes
Stone infill in small areas of wet acid grassland or rush gutters (but not on sensitive	Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine	No	Not specifically required for restoration \ conservation of SPA supporting habitat or SPA breeding bird populations	Yes



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features)	Falcon, Hen Harrier			
Sunken and Semi – sunken butts, hurdle butts and temporary free standing butts (9 lines)	Blanket bog European Dry heath Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	No	Not specifically required for restoration \ conservation of SAC features or SPA supporting habitat or SPA breeding bird populations	Yes
Water scrapes	European Dry heath Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	No	Not specifically required for restoration \ conservation of SAC features or SPA supporting habitat or SPA breeding bird populations	Yes
Grit stations	Blanket bog SAC European Dry heath Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	No	Not specifically required for restoration \ conservation of SAC features or SPA supporting habitat or SPA breeding bird populations	Yes
Translocation of small areas of dry heath or acid grassland vegetation	European Dry heath SAC Breeding populations of SPA	No	Not specifically required for restoration \ conservation of SAC features or SPA supporting habitat or SPA breeding bird populations	Yes



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	birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier			
Post and wire fencing (for grazing management or grazing exclosures)	Blanket bog SAC Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) Alkaline Fens European Dry heath Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	Yes	Required for restoration \ conservation of SAC features, SPA supporting habitat and SPA breeding bird populations by exclusion of livestock to allow regeneration of vegetation. See Section 3 of Management Agreement for details. Regeneration of vegetation will provide increased opportunities for typical blanket bog, dry heath, alkaline fen and spring plants to flourish and will provide diversification of habitat structure to support SPA bird populations through improved breeding and feeding opportunities and cover.	No
4 Vegetation Management Principles				
Mechanical cutting of vegetation	Blanket bog Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	Yes	Required for restoration of less active, inactive and modified blanket bog to a functioning blanket bog system with increased Sphagnum cover and reduced heather cover. See Section 4 of Management Agreement for details. Regeneration of vegetation will provide increased opportunities for typical blanket bog plants to flourish and will provide diversification of habitat structure to support SPA bird populations through improved breeding and feeding opportunities and cover. Representative areas subject to such one-off cutting will be carefully monitored afterwards in accordance with Section 6 of the	No



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			<p>Management Agreement and follow up interventions such as Sphagnum inoculation and seeding with bog plant species will be conducted as appropriate. If evidence of successful restoration is not apparent at subsequent monitoring times in the future further inoculation \ seeding interventions will be applied.</p> <p>Required to maintain or restore supporting habitat for SPA breeding bird populations.</p>	
Burning of vegetation as a single burn for restoration purposes	<p>Blanket bog SAC</p> <p>Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier</p>	Yes	<p>Required for restoration of less active, inactive and modified blanket bog to a functioning blanket bog system with increased Sphagnum cover and reduced heather cover. See Section 4 of Management Agreement for details. Regeneration of vegetation will provide increased opportunities for typical blanket bog plants to flourish and will provide diversification of habitat structure to support SPA bird populations through improved breeding and feeding opportunities and cover. Representative areas subject to such one-off restoration burns will be carefully monitored afterwards in accordance with Section 6 of the Management Agreement and follow up interventions such as Sphagnum inoculation and seeding with bog plant species will be conducted as appropriate. If evidence of successful restoration is not apparent at subsequent monitoring times in the future further inoculation \ seeding interventions will be applied.</p> <p>Required to maintain or restore supporting habitat for SPA breeding bird populations.</p>	No
Burning of vegetation on a rotation	<p>European Dry heath</p> <p>Breeding populations of SPA</p>	Yes	<p>Required for maintenance of quality, diversity and structural variety of dry heath. See Section 4 of management Agreement for details.</p>	No



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	birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier		Required to maintain or restore supporting habitat for SPA breeding bird populations through improved breeding and feeding opportunities and cover.	
Heather beetle Management on blanket bog	Blanket bog SAC Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	No	Not specifically required for restoration \ conservation of blanket bog or maintenance of breeding SPA bird populations.	Yes
Moorland restoration works on acid grassland	Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	Yes	Required for restoration \ conservation of SPA supporting habitat and SPA breeding bird populations by regeneration of semi-natural vegetation to provide increase breeding and feeding opportunities and cover. See Section 4 of Management Agreement for details.	No
5 Bare Peat and Grip Blocking Specifications (see Annexes 1a, 1b & 1c)				
Fencing for livestock exclusion	Blanket bog Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	Yes	Required for restoration of active and modified blanket bog to a functioning blanket bog system. See Section 5 and Annexes 1a, 1b & 1c of Management Agreement for details. Regeneration of vegetation will provide increased opportunities for typical blanket bog plants to flourish and peat formation to increase. Required to maintain or restore supporting habitat for SPA breeding bird populations. Regeneration of vegetation will provide increased opportunities for typical blanket bog plants to flourish and will provide diversification of habitat structure to support SPA bird populations through improved breeding and feeding opportunities and cover.	No



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Sediment traps and barriers to prevent erosion of peat and vegetation by water	Blanket bog Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	Yes	Required for restoration of active and modified blanket bog to a functioning blanket bog system. See Section 5 and Annexes 1a, 1b & 1c of Management Agreement for details. Regeneration of vegetation will provide increased opportunities for typical blanket bog plants to flourish and peat formation to increase. Required to maintain or restore supporting habitat for SPA breeding bird populations. Regeneration of vegetation will provide increased opportunities for typical blanket bog plants to flourish and will provide diversification of habitat structure to support SPA bird populations through improved breeding and feeding opportunities and cover.	No
Re-profiling of steep slopes, hags and gullies to prevent erosion of peat and vegetation	Blanket bog SAC Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	Yes	Required for restoration of active and modified blanket bog to a functioning blanket bog system. See Section 5 and Annexes 1a, 1b & 1c of Management Agreement for details. Regeneration of vegetation will provide increased opportunities for typical blanket bog plants to flourish and peat formation to increase. Required to maintain or restore supporting habitat for SPA breeding bird populations. Regeneration of vegetation will provide increased opportunities for typical blanket bog plants to flourish and will provide diversification of habitat structure to support SPA bird populations through improved breeding and feeding opportunities and cover.	No
Heather brushing of bare peat to prevent erosion and drying out of peat	Blanket bog SAC Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine	Yes	Required for restoration of active and modified blanket bog to a functioning blanket bog system. See Section 5 and Annexes 1a, 1b & 1c of Management Agreement for details. Regeneration of vegetation will provide increased opportunities for typical blanket bog plants to flourish and peat formation to increase.	No



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	Falcon, Hen Harrier		Required to maintain or restore supporting habitat for SPA breeding bird populations. Regeneration of vegetation will provide increased opportunities for typical blanket bog plants to flourish and will provide diversification of habitat structure to support SPA bird populations through improved breeding and feeding opportunities and cover.	
Application of lime and fertiliser and inoculation with moorland seed mix \ Sphagnum mosses to re-vegetate peat	Blanket bog SAC Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	Yes	Required for restoration of active and modified blanket bog to a functioning blanket bog system. See Section 5 and Annexes 1a, 1b & 1c of Management Agreement for details. Regeneration of vegetation will provide increased opportunities for typical blanket bog plants to flourish and peat formation to increase. Required to maintain or restore supporting habitat for SPA breeding bird populations. Regeneration of vegetation will provide increased opportunities for typical blanket bog plants to flourish and will provide diversification of habitat structure to support SPA bird populations through improved breeding and feeding opportunities and cover.	No
Unblocking of erroneously blocked natural water courses in localised rush mires adjacent to blanket bog	Blanket bog SAC Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	Yes	Required for restoration of active and modified blanket bog to a functioning blanket bog system. See Section 5 – these works will rectify excessive artificial waterlogging and disturbance of peat and blanket bog vegetation. Required to maintain or restore supporting habitat for SPA breeding bird populations. See section 5 of management agreement – the regeneration of natural blanket bog vegetation will provide	



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			increased opportunities for typical blanket bog plants to flourish and will provide diversification of habitat structure to support SPA bird populations through improved breeding and feeding opportunities and cover.	
6 Monitoring				
Establishment of permanent fixed point photographic monitoring plots to inform future management initiatives	Blanket Bog SAC Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	Yes	Required for restoration of active and modified blanket bog to a functioning blanket bog system. See Section 5 and Annexes 1a, 1b & 1c of Management Agreement for details. Studies of the regeneration of vegetation will provide site-specific data to inform future management activities and enable typical blanket bog plants to flourish and peat formation to increase. Required to maintain or restore supporting habitat for SPA breeding bird populations. Studies of the regeneration of vegetation will provide site-specific data to inform future management activities. This will enable increased opportunities for typical blanket bog plants to flourish and will provide diversification of habitat structure to support SPA bird populations through improved breeding and feeding opportunities and cover.	No
Establishment of two heather protection trial plots (20 x 20m)	Blanket Bog SAC Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	No	Not specifically required for restoration \ conservation of blanket bog or maintenance of breeding SPA bird populations.	Yes

Conclusion:

- As the plan or project is not directly connected or necessary to the management of all of the European site(s)’s qualifying features, further Habitats Regulations assessment is required **[continue to C2]**

C2. Is there a likelihood [or risk] of significant [adverse] effects (‘LSE’)?

This section details whether those constituent elements of the plan or project which are (a) not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the European Site(s) features and (b) could conceivably adversely affect a European site, would have a **likely significant effect**, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, upon the European sites.

In accordance with European case law, this HRA has considered an effect to be ‘likely’ if it ‘cannot be excluded on the basis of objective information’ and is ‘significant’ if it ‘undermines the conservation objectives’. In accordance with Defra guidance on the approach to be taken to this decision, in plain English, the test asks whether the plan or project ‘may’ have a significant effect (i.e. there is a risk or possibility of such an effect).

Each of the project elements has been tested against each of the relevant European site qualifying features. An assessment of potential effects using best available evidence and information has been made in the following sections below.

Measures that would avoid or reduce the risk or likelihood of significant effects arising and which are already integral to the nature of the plan or project as submitted have been taken into account at this stage.

C2.1 Risk of Significant Effects Alone

The first step is to consider whether any elements of the project are likely to have a significant effect upon a European site ‘alone’ (that is when considered in the context of the prevailing environmental conditions at the site but in isolation of the combined effects of any other ‘plans and projects’). Such effects do not include those deemed to be so insignificant as to be trivial or inconsequential.

The results of this assessment for each qualifying feature are shown in Table C2.1.

Elements capable of having a likely significant effect are shown in **red font**.



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Table C2.1 Likelihood of Likely Significant Effects (LSE) alone

Proposed activity \ element of the project	Qualifying feature likely to be affected	Potential effect	The mechanism / pathway of effect	Does the project include measure which would mitigate the potential effects? (Y/N) If yes provide details	Likely Significant Effect (LSE?) (Yes /No /Uncertain)
3 Sustainable Infrastructure Specifications					
Standard and supported plastic mesh tracks and standard and raised boardwalks for argocats, quad bikes and pedestrians (12.4km)	Blanket bog SAC	Loss and/or degradation from damage from vehicles used during installation of boardwalk and mesh track sections.	Compaction, rutting and exposed peat as a result of vehicle movement.	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details.	Uncertain
	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)		Damage/destruction of vegetation as a result of vehicle movement.		
	Alkaline Fens	Loss and/or degradation from damage from vehicles used during installation of boardwalk and mesh tracks potentially disrupting hydrology.	Compaction and rutting by vehicles may affect the hydrological functioning of the peat.	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2& 3 of Management Agreement for details.	Uncertain
European Dry heath SAC	Loss and/or degradation underneath the mesh and timber				



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		boardwalk footprint (e.g. light interception by boardwalk).		Agreement for details.	
		Loss and/or degradation from vehicles using the mesh route.	Repeated vehicle use could result in degradation of the vegetation and prevent regeneration. The pounding effect could result in increased areas of bare peat and loss through erosion.	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details.	Uncertain
		Loss and/or degradation vehicle damage along the mesh route disrupting adjacent hydrology (e.g. mesh sinks into peat).	Repeated vehicle use could result in mesh sinking into the peat.	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details.	Uncertain
		Degradation due to vegetation flailing and spreading of arising's.	Physical damage to the vegetation and potentially inappropriate regeneration (may not result in desired species regeneration).	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details.	Uncertain
		Degradation due to potential leaching of	Leaching from tanalised timber could alter the	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable	Uncertain



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		chemicals from treated timber used for boardwalk sections.	chemical composition of water in the peat and indirectly affect vegetation growth and composition.	infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details.	
	Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	Loss and/or degradation of nesting habitat along the route.	Potential direct loss of habitat available for nesting or breeding birds.	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details. Area of habitat affected is 12,400m length x 2.5m width = 3.1 ha within a SPA > 140,000Ha. This is considered inconsequential and unlikely to impact on the breeding success of the SPA breeding bird assemblage.	No
		Disturbance to breeding birds from use of the route.	Disturbance through vehicle usage.	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details. Shooting activities occur from August to November and therefore avoid disturbance impacts to SPA bird assemblage.	No
		Disturbance to breeding birds during construction of the route.	Construction works and vehicle use could disturb or displace breeding birds.	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details. To avoid	No



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				disturbance or damage impacts on breeding birds or their nests all construction works will take place between 1 July to 1 April and providing that there are no nesting birds in the location of the works.	
Stone tracks on acid grassland but not on sensitive features (2.9km)	Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	Loss and/or degradation of nesting habitat along the route.	Potential direct loss of habitat available for nesting or breeding birds.	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details. Area of habitat affected is 2900m x 3m (maximum) = 0.87 ha within a SPA >140,000 ha. This is considered inconsequential and unlikely to impact on the breeding success of the SPA breeding bird assemblage.	No
		Disturbance to breeding birds from use of the route.	Disturbance through vehicle usage.	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details. Shooting activities occur from August to November and therefore avoid disturbance impacts to SPA bird assemblage.	No
		Disturbance to breeding birds during construction of the	Construction works and vehicle use could disturb or displace breeding birds.	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See	No



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		route.		Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details. To avoid disturbance or damage impacts on breeding birds or their nests all construction works will take place between 1 July to 1 April and providing that there are no nesting birds in the location of the works.	
Stone infill in small areas of wet acid grassland or rush gutters (but not on sensitive features)	Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	Loss and/or degradation of nesting habitat at infill sites.	Potential direct loss of habitat available for nesting or breeding birds.	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details. Area of habitat affected is several hundred square metres maximum. This is considered negligible within a SPA >140,000 ha and unlikely to impact on the breeding success of the SPA breeding bird assemblage.	No
		Disturbance to breeding birds from use of the route where infill sites occur.	Disturbance through vehicle usage.	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details. Shooting activities occur from August to November and therefore avoid disturbance impacts to SPA bird assemblage.	No
		Disturbance to	Construction works and	Yes, avoidance measures and/or	No



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		breeding birds during construction of the infill sites.	vehicle use could disturb or displace breeding birds.	mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details. To avoid disturbance or damage impacts on breeding birds or their nests all construction works will take place between 1 July to 1 April and providing that there are no nesting birds in the location of the works.	
Sunken and Semi – sunken butts, hurdle butts and temporary free standing butts (7 lines)	Blanket bog SAC European Dry heath SAC	Loss of habitat by butt construction	Construction of the butt footprint may cause permanent loss of habitat	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details.	Uncertain
		Loss of or degradation of habitat by butt drainage	Drainage of the butts may result in disruption of hydrological processes within the peat leading to degradation of habitat	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details.	Uncertain
		Loss of or degradation of habitat by drainage pipe installation	Pipe installation may result in disruption of hydrological processes within the peat leading to degradation of habitat	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details.	Uncertain
		Loss of or degradation of	Access routes to the butts (from pedestrians and	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable	Uncertain



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		habitat by access to butts	vehicles accessing the butts) may cause loss of or degradation of habitat	infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details.	
		Loss of or degradation of habitat by access to butts as a result of disruption of hydrological processes	Access routes to the butts (from pedestrians and vehicles accessing the butts) may cause loss of or degradation of habitat by disrupting hydrology	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details.	Uncertain
		Loss of or degradation of habitat by access to butts from vehicles used during construction of the butts.	Access to the butts from vehicles used to install the butts may cause loss of or degradation of habitat	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details.	Uncertain
		Loss and/or degradation from damage from vehicles used during construction of the butts disrupting hydrology	Loss of or degradation of habitat by access to butts as a result of disruption of hydrological processes by construction vehicles during installation of butts	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details.	Uncertain
	Breeding populations of SPA birds: European	Loss and/or degradation of	Potential direct loss of habitat available for	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable	No



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	Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	nesting habitat at butt locations.	nesting or breeding birds.	<p>infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details. Area of habitat affected is as follows:</p> <p>1.8 x 1.8 = 3.24 m² 9 lines of butts with 10 butts each</p> <p>Total area of habitat affected = 292 square metres.</p> <p>This is considered inconsequential and unlikely to impact on the breeding success of the SPA breeding bird assemblage.</p>	
		Disturbance to breeding birds from use of the route where butts occur.	Disturbance through vehicle usage.	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details. Shooting activities occur from August to November and therefore avoid disturbance impacts to SPA bird assemblage.	No
		Disturbance to breeding birds during construction of the butts.	Construction works and vehicle use could disturb or displace breeding birds.	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details. To avoid	No



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				disturbance or damage impacts on breeding birds or their nests all construction works will take place between 1 July to 1 April and providing that there are no nesting birds in the location of the works.	
Water scrapes	European Dry heath SAC	Loss of habitat by scrape construction	Construction of the scrape footprint may cause permanent loss of habitat	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details. All machinery used in the construction of scrapes will be low ground pressure vehicles of 2-5 psi to reduce any impacts to the ground and vegetation. Translocated turves will be used to re-vegetate areas of bare peat nearby to avoid any loss of habitat.	No
	Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	Disturbance to breeding birds during construction of the scrapes.	Construction works and vehicle use could disturb or displace breeding birds.	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details. Operations will avoid sensitive locations and/or be undertaken from 1 July to 1 April to avoid the bird breeding season.	No
Grit stations	Blanket bog SAC European Dry heath	Loss of habitat by grit station placement	Grit station footprint may cause permanent loss of habitat	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See	No



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	SAC			Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details. Grit is laid into a small tray laid on the ground to avoid any permanent loss of habitat.	
		Loss of or degradation of habitat by access to grit stations	Access to the grit stations (from pedestrians and vehicles) for topping up purposes may cause loss of or degradation of habitat	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details. Grit is laid into a small tray laid on the ground to avoid any permanent loss of habitat.	No
	Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	Disturbance to breeding birds during topping up of the grit stations.	Topping up works and vehicle use could disturb or displace breeding birds.	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details. Operations will avoid sensitive locations and/or be undertaken from 1 July to 1 April to avoid the bird breeding season.	No
Translocation of small areas of dry heath or acid grassland vegetation	European Dry heath SAC	Loss of habitat by translocation method	Translocation may cause permanent loss of habitat	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details. Heathland turves will be translocated into nearby areas of acid grassland in accordance with the careful storage, transport and placement specifications in the Management Agreement to reduce	No



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				potential failure of turves to re-establish. Areas likely to be translocated will to very small, totalling several hundred square metres or less within a SAC > 100,000 Ha. This is considered inconsequential given the likely success of the translocation methodology with this habitat type.	
	Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	Disturbance to breeding birds during translocation works	Translocation works and vehicle use could disturb or displace breeding birds.	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in sustainable infrastructure specifications. See Sections 2 & 3 of Management Agreement for details. Operations will avoid sensitive locations and be undertaken from 1 July to 1 April to avoid the bird breeding season.	No
4 Vegetation Management Principles					
Heather beetle Management on blanket bog	Blanket bog SAC	Loss and/or degradation of habitats	Degradation of Sphagnum layer and peat in fully – functioning very active bogs	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in vegetation management principles. See Section 4 of Management Agreement for details. On areas of very active blanket bog showing no signs of recovery any heather beetle management proposals will considered on an individual basis by Natural England and will be subject to agreement by Natural England before any works commence. All machinery used will be low ground pressure	No



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				vehicles with 2-5psi to reduce impacts on the habitat.	
	Breeding populations of SPA birds: European Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier	Loss and/or degradation of nesting habitat at heather beetle management sites.	Potential direct loss of habitat available for nesting or breeding birds.	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in vegetation management principles. See Section 4 of Management Agreement for details. On areas of very active blanket bog showing no signs of recovery any heather beetle management proposals will be considered on an individual basis by Natural England and will be subject to agreement by Natural England before any works commence. All machinery used will be low ground pressure vehicles of 2-5 psi to reduce impacts on the habitat. Any burning of heather beetle damaged sites agreed with Natural England on an individual basis will take place between 1 October and 15 April to avoid the most sensitive period of the bird nesting season. Alternatively, cutting for the regeneration of such beetle damaged areas will take place between 1 July and 1 April to avoid impacts on breeding birds.	No
6 Monitoring					
Establishment of two heather protection	Blanket bog SAC	Loss and/or degradation of	Degradation of Sphagnum layer and peat in fully –	Yes, avoidance measures and/or mitigation included in Section 6 of	No



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trial plots (each 20 x 20m)		habitats	functioning very active bogs	Management Agreement. All machinery used will be low ground pressure vehicles with 2-5psi to reduce impacts on the habitat. In addition, the creation of ridges in the trial plots will be done to avoid impacts on existing blocked grips. The two trial plots only cover an area of 800 square metres and this this considered inconsequential in a European site totalling 103,000 Ha.	
				Yes, avoidance measures are secured. The works will take place between 1 July and 1 April to avoid the bird nesting season.	No

Conclusion:

- The plan or project alone is likely to have a significant effect (or *may* have a significant effect) on the following qualifying features of the European Site; *[List Features and then go to C.3]*

North Pennines Moors SAC qualifying features

4030 European dry heaths

7130 Blanket bogs*

7220 Petrifying Springs with tufa formation (Cratoneureon)*

7230 Alkaline Fens

Priority habitats or species are denoted by an asterisk (*)

(The plan or project alone is unlikely to have a significant effect on the qualifying features of the North Pennines SPA)

C2.2 Risk of Significant Effects in-combination with effects from other plans and projects

Not applicable.

C3. Overall Screening Decision for the Plan/Project

On the basis of the details submitted, Natural England has considered the plan or project under Regulation 21(1) or 61(1)(a) of the Habitats Regulations and made an assessment of whether it will have a likely significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

In light of sections C1 and C2 of this assessment above, Natural England has concluded:

- As the plan or project is likely to have significant effects (or *may* have significant effects) on some or all of the Qualifying Features of the European Site(s) ‘alone’, further Habitats Regulations assessment of the project ‘alone’ is required **[go to Part D]**.

PART D: Appropriate Assessment and Conclusions on Site Integrity

D1. Scope of Appropriate Assessment

In light of the screening decision above in section C3, this section contains the appropriate assessment of the implications of the plan or project in view of the conservation objectives for the European Site(s) at risk.

The Sites and the Qualifying Feature for which significant effects (whether ‘alone’ or ‘in combination’) are likely or cannot be ruled out and which are initially relevant to this appropriate assessment are;

4030 European dry heaths

7130 Blanket bogs*

7220 Petrifying Springs with tufa formation (Cratoneureon)*

7230 Alkaline Fens

Priority habitats or species are denoted by an asterisk (*)

Where likely significant effects have been identified ‘alone’ the appropriate assessment will initially be undertaken ‘alone’ (**Go to D.2**). Any residual effects might *subsequently* need to be considered in combination.

D.1.1 Contextual statement on the current status, influences, management and condition of the European Site and those Qualifying features affected by the plan or project

The North Pennines Moors SAC covers large areas of the uplands in the North Pennines (SAC: >103,000 ha). These large areas support a range of habitat types, but predominantly comprise heather moorland, either as blanket bog or drier heathland, with smaller associated areas of wetland, grassland, bracken, scrub, woodland and cliff. There are also a range of land uses, although grazing and driven grouse shoots are the predominant types.

The Management Agreement covers the Wemmergill Estate which is owned and managed by Wemmergill Moor Ltd. The Estate is approximately 7,000 hectares in size and run as an intensive grouse shoot and used for livestock production. It occupies most of the Lune Forest SSSI.



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The land is currently within two Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) Agreements. A key feature of these agreements has been the funding of extensive grip blocking works across large areas of blanket bog and the site has been assessed as mainly in unfavourable recovering condition. Under these agreements approximately 1100 ha of blanket bog is subject to burning on a rotation of 15 – 17 years. Other areas of blanket bog have also been impacted by vehicle movements to access shooting butts and for general estate management purposes.

The Wemmergill Estates Ltd Management Agreement (2017 – 2042) subject to this assessment sets out a shared vision and multiple outcomes for grouse moor management, farming, biodiversity and the natural environment. It also includes a programme of moorland infrastructure and management/restoration works across the Estate.

The new Management Agreement looks to deliver further grip blocking works and to cease any rotational burning on blanket bog by shifting management for restoration purposes by one-off cutting or burning. It also includes proposals for strategically placed sustainable infrastructure works such as mesh and wooden boardwalk tracks to reduce the impact of vehicles on sensitive blanket bog features. It is envisaged that these works will assist with the maintenance or restoration of qualifying features of the site.

D2 Assessment of potential adverse effects considering the plan or project 'alone'

D2.1 Assessment of potentially adverse effects without additional mitigation measures

The results of this assessment are shown in Table D2.1



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Table D2.1 Appropriate Assessment of sustainable infrastructure specifications – Mesh and timber boardwalks for vehicles and pedestrians

Qualifying feature	Potential effect	Magnitude of impact / residual effect	Adverse Effect on Site Integrity?	Degree of uncertainty	Avoidance and/or reduction measures (mitigation) to include who will implement checks/controls	Residual effects?
Blanket Bog	Loss and/or degradation from damage from vehicles used during installation of boardwalk and mesh track sections.	<p>There is a limited risk that the use of Argocats with low ground pressure tyres of 2-5 psi could cause some compaction of the upper layers of the peat and possibly some erosion of the peat surface. However, the impact is considered very small in the context of current levels of vehicle use and the condition of existing routes in the area.</p> <p>The risk of compaction of the peat and damage to the vegetation caused during the installation of the mesh is considered to be inconsequential.</p>	<p>Low</p> <p>The installation does not require the use of heavy vehicles or repeated visits. This low level of access is unlikely to have an adverse effect on integrity.</p> <p>All vehicles used will be low ground pressure vehicles such as argocats and quad bikes with 2-5 psi to reduce impacts on peat structure and hydrological integrity and/or vegetation to a minimum. In addition, no exact same area will be passed over by such traffic.</p>	Low	<p>The installation does not require the use of heavy vehicles or repeated visits.</p> <p>The installation works will be self-monitored by the head gamekeeper of Wemmergill Moor Ltd. Checks by Natural England will be carried out in accordance with Section 6 of the Management Agreement to ensure that no operations likely to adversely affect site integrity take place.</p>	None



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Blanket Bog	Loss and/or degradation from damage from vehicles used during installation of boardwalk and mesh tracks potentially disrupting hydrology.	<p>There is a limited risk that the use of Argocats could cause some compaction of the upper layers of the peat and possibly some erosion of the peat surface thus affecting localised hydrological functioning. However, the impact is considered very small in the context of current levels of vehicle use and the condition of existing routes in the area.</p> <p>The risk of compaction of the peat and adverse impacts on hydrological functioning caused during the installation of the mesh is considered to be inconsequential.</p> <p>Any slight residual impact would be offset by the gains in the condition that the mesh track would provide by protecting the hydrology of the wider area from further impacts into the future.</p>	<p>Low</p> <p>The installation does not require the use of heavy vehicles or repeated visits. This low level of access is unlikely to have an adverse effect on integrity.</p> <p>All vehicles used will be low ground pressure vehicles of 2-5 psi such as argocats and quad bikes to reduce impacts on peat structure and hydrological integrity and/or vegetation to a minimum. In addition, no exact same area will be passed over by such traffic.</p>	Low	<p>The installation does not require the use of heavy vehicles or repeated visits.</p> <p>The installation works will be self-monitored by the head gamekeeper of Wemmergill Moor Ltd. Checks by Natural England will be carried out in accordance with Section 6 of the Management Agreement to ensure that no operations likely to adversely affect site integrity take place.</p> <p>No drainage is required for the route therefore reducing likelihood of an adverse effect on integrity.</p>	None
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Blanket Bog	Loss and/or degradation underneath the mesh and timber boardwalk footprint (e.g. light interception by boardwalk).	<p>There is a limited risk that the use of Argocats travelling on the mesh and boardwalk could cause some compaction of the upper layers of the peat and possibly some erosion of the peat surface. However, the impact is considered very small in the context of current levels of vehicle use and the condition of existing routes in the area.</p> <p>The risk of compaction of the peat and damage to the vegetation caused during the usage of the mesh is considered to be inconsequential.</p> <p>The mesh is open to light and rainfall but the potential loss of vegetation directly below the plastic mesh and boardwalk could amount to 50%. With regard to the mesh, this is likely to be an overestimate as plants should ultimately grow up through the mesh and cover a greater area.</p>	<p>Low</p> <p>Extensive areas of bog are currently being impacted by vehicle movements. These are currently unquantified but likely to be in the order of 20-30 ha approximately.</p> <p>The proposed mesh would eliminate the above impacts and would equate to:</p> <p>12,400 x2.5 = 31,000m squared under mesh and boardwalk. This is 3.1ha and represents a significantly smaller area of blanket bog habitat being impacted by vehicles compared to the current situation.</p> <p>A previously consented mesh track at Parish (2014) was visited several times by Natural England during 2016 and showed that growth of</p>	Low	<p>The use of vehicles on the mesh and boardwalk will be restricted to Argocats and quad bikes.</p> <p>The mesh and boardwalk will be subject to a 5 year time limit. Progress will be reviewed by NE and the Estate during this period and remedial measures will be considered if the expected outcomes are not being achieved.</p>	None
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		<p>The short boardwalk sections are less open to light and rainfall. However, they are designed with large gaps and are predominantly raised above the surface. This increases light penetration and water flow to surface vegetation and peat. Although the impacts of boardwalk sections may be greater than the mesh the boardwalk is restricted to very short, localised sections and the impacts are considered inconsequential.</p> <p>Any slight residual impact would be offset by the gains in the condition that the mesh track would provide by protecting the wider area from further impacts into the future.</p>	<p>bog plants through the plastic mesh was good after two years of installation and usage by argocats over two shooting seasons.</p>			
Blanket Bog	Loss and/or degradation from vehicles using the mesh route.	<p>There is a limited risk that the use of Argocats travelling on the mesh and boardwalk could cause some localised degradation of the surface vegetation. This risk is negated by the measures of mitigation proposed in column 6.</p>	<p>Low</p> <p>Repeated vehicle use along the mesh could result in the compounding of peat and subsequent peat erosion and loss of vegetation or disruption of blanket bog development. However this is an improvement on the</p>	Low	<p>The number of passes by the low ground pressure vehicles will be restricted to reduce impacts to a minimum. The other primary purpose of the works is to provide adequate pedestrian access.</p> <p>The mesh and boardwalk will be subject to a 5 year time limit. Progress will be reviewed by NE and the Estate during this period and remedial measures will</p>	None



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			<p>current impacts – please see section above.</p> <p>The routes have been selected to avoid the wetter and most sensitive areas of blanket bog and it is considered that the drier areas selected are likely to be more sustainable in supporting limited vehicle access to the butts. The 5 year time limit acts as a safeguard if this prediction proves incorrect.</p>		<p>be considered if the expected outcomes are not being achieved.</p>	
Blanket Bog	<p>Loss and/or degradation vehicle damage along the mesh route disrupting adjacent hydrology (e.g. mesh sinks into peat).</p>	<p>Some sections of boardwalk are elevated across gullies and therefore not disrupting water movement.</p> <p>The mesh routes avoid the wettest depressions within blanket bog and also run perpendicular to the natural slope which limits down slope hydrological impacts on the blanket bog.</p> <p>Some compaction of the peat directly below the mesh may occur;</p>	<p>Low</p> <p>The routes have been selected to avoid the wetter and most sensitive areas of blanket bog and it is considered that the drier areas selected are likely to be more sustainable in supporting limited vehicle access to the butts. The 5 year time limit acts as a safeguard if this prediction proves incorrect.</p>	Low	<p>The number of passes by the low ground pressure vehicles will be restricted to reduce impacts to a minimum. The other primary purpose of the works is to provide adequate pedestrian access.</p> <p>The mesh and boardwalk will be subject to a 5 year time limit. Progress will be reviewed by NE and the Estate during this period and remedial measures will be considered if the expected outcomes are not being achieved.</p>	None



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		<p>this may affect water movement through the peat in the upper layers (acrotelm) of the bog in the immediate vicinity of the mesh. However, the mesh should help to spread the weight of any vehicles and prevent areas of rutting or uneven surfaces which would lead to greater disruption of the hydrology of the area.</p> <p>The installation of the mesh and associated restrictions on vehicle type and frequency are considered to be an improvement from the current vehicle access situation.</p> <p>The plastic mesh could potentially sink into the blanket bog. However, it is currently unknown at what level of usage the mesh would actually sink. It is considered that the low frequency of vehicle use will avoid this situation – please see proposed mitigation in section 4.</p>				
Blanket Bog	Degradation due to vegetation flailing and	If positioned too low the cutter could damage vegetation mounds and kill the component species. The spreading of arising's could result in	Low The natural vegetation of the blanket bog areas are	Low	Mitigation not required – see column 4.	None



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	spreading of arising's.	the increased establishment of heather as opposed to other blanket bog species.	<p>Cottongrass, Sphagnum mosses and a lower cover of Heather. Therefore it is anticipated that a substantial proportion of vegetation re-establishment would comprise desirable blanket bog species rather than heather.</p> <p>The cutting of the vegetation will only be conducted where absolutely necessary to ensure that the mesh is laid correctly. It is considered that any impacts would be very localised and short term and therefore inconsequential.</p>			
Blanket Bog	Degradation due to potential leaching of chemicals from treated timber used for boardwalk sections.	There is a limited risk that chemicals in the tantalised timber used for the short boardwalk sections could leach into the blanket bog. However, given the small scale and localised nature of these structures it is considered that any such impacts are likely to be small scale, transient and inconsequential over the long-term.	<p>Low</p> <p>Given the small scale and localised nature of these structures it is considered that any such impacts are likely to be small scale, transient and inconsequential over the long-term.</p>	Low	Mitigation not required – see column 4.	None
Petrifying	Loss and/or	Compaction, rutting and exposed	Low	Low	Mitigation not required – see column 4.	None



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springs	degradation from damage from vehicles used during installation of raised boardwalk.	soil as a result of vehicle movement. Damage/destruction of vegetation as a result of vehicle movement.	The installation does not require the use of heavy vehicles or repeated visits. This low level of access is unlikely to have an adverse effect on integrity.			
Petrifying springs	Loss and/or degradation underneath raised timber boardwalk footprint (e.g. light interception by boardwalk).	Possible temporary/permanent loss of some vegetation under raised boardwalk footprint	Low Only very small areas of vegetation may be covered by raised timber boardwalk. These structures have large gaps which will allow light and rainfall penetration. The impacts are therefore considered inconsequential.	Low	The boardwalks will be subject to a 5 year time limit. Progress will be reviewed by NE and the Estate during this period and remedial measures will be considered if the expected outcomes are not being achieved.	None
Petrifying springs	Loss and/or degradation from vehicles using the boardwalk.	Repeated vehicle use could result in degradation of the vegetation and prevent regeneration. The pounding effect could result in increased areas of bare soil and loss through erosion.	Low The boardwalk is a rigid structure and unlikely to result in the pounding effect. It is considered that vehicle access on the boardwalk is	Low	The use of vehicles on the boardwalks will be restricted to Argocats and quad bikes. The boardwalk will be subject to a 5 year time limit. Progress will be reviewed by NE and the Estate during this period and	None



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			likely to be sustainable. The time limit acts as a safeguard if this prediction proves incorrect.		remedial measures will be considered if the expected outcomes are not being achieved.	
Alkaline Fens	Loss and/or degradation from damage from vehicles used during installation of raised boardwalk.	Compaction, rutting and exposed soil as a result of vehicle movement. Damage/destruction of vegetation as a result of vehicle movement.	Low The installation does not require the use of heavy vehicles or repeated visits. This low level of access is unlikely to have an adverse effect on integrity.	Low	Mitigation not required – see column 4.	None
Alkaline Fens	Loss and/or degradation underneath raised timber boardwalk footprint (e.g. light interception by boardwalk).	Possible temporary/permanent loss of some vegetation under raised boardwalk footprint	Low Only very small areas of vegetation may be covered by raised timber boardwalk. These structures have large gaps which will allow light and rainfall penetration. The impacts are therefore considered inconsequential.	Low	The boardwalks will be subject to a 5 year time limit. Progress will be reviewed by NE and the Estate during this period and remedial measures will be considered if the expected outcomes are not being achieved.	None
Alkaline Fens	Loss and/or degradation	Repeated vehicle use could result in degradation of the vegetation and	Low	Low	The use of vehicles on the boardwalks will be restricted to Argocats and quad	None



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	from vehicles using the boardwalk.	prevent regeneration. The pounding effect could result in increased areas of bare soil and loss through erosion.	The boardwalk is a rigid structure and unlikely to result in the pounding effect. It is considered that vehicle access on the boardwalk is likely to be sustainable. The time limit acts as a safeguard if this prediction proves incorrect.		bikes. The boardwalk will be subject to a 5 year time limit. Progress will be reviewed by NE and the Estate during this period and remedial measures will be considered if the expected outcomes are not being achieved.	
European Dry Heaths	Loss and/or degradation from damage from vehicles used during installation of boardwalk and mesh track sections.	Compaction, rutting and exposed soil as a result of vehicle movement. Damage/destruction of vegetation as a result of vehicle movement.	Low The installation does not require the use of heavy vehicles or repeated visits. This low level of access is unlikely to have an adverse effect on integrity.	Low	Mitigation not required – see column 4.	None
European Dry Heaths	Loss and/or degradation underneath the mesh and timber boardwalk	Possible temporary/permanent loss of some vegetation under mesh footprint	Low Only very small areas of heath will be covered by mesh or timber boardwalk. These structures have large gaps	Low	The mesh and boardwalk will be subject to a 5 year time limit. Progress will be reviewed by NE and the Estate during this period and remedial measures will be considered if the expected outcomes are not being achieved.	None



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	footprint (e.g. light interception by boardwalk).		which will allow light and rainfall penetration. The impacts are therefore considered inconsequential.			
European Dry Heaths	Loss and/or degradation from vehicles using the mesh route.	Repeated vehicle use could result in degradation of the vegetation and prevent regeneration. The pounding effect could result in increased areas of bare soil and loss through erosion.	Low Dry Heath can support more frequent vehicle access than blanket bog. It is considered that vehicle access on the mesh is likely to be sustainable. The time limit acts as a safeguard if this prediction proves incorrect.	Low	The use of vehicles on the mesh and boardwalk will be restricted to Argocats and quad bikes. The mesh and boardwalk will be subject to a 5 year time limit. Progress will be reviewed by NE and the Estate during this period and remedial measures will be considered if the expected outcomes are not being achieved.	None



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Table D2.1 Appropriate Assessment of sustainable infrastructure specifications – Sunken and semi-sunken butts, hurdle butts and temporary free standing butts

Qualifying feature	Potential effect	Magnitude of impact / residual effect	Adverse effect on Site Integrity	Degree of uncertainty	Avoidance and/or reduction measures (mitigation) to include who will implement checks/controls	Residual effects?
Blanket Bog	Loss of habitat by butt construction	Assuming all butts are on deep peat and of sunken or semi – sunken type: Butt footprint = 1.8 x 1.8 = 3.24 m ² 9 lines of butts with 10 butts each Total area of habitat affected = 292 square metres.	Low These impacts should be considered in relation to the large scale of the site. Butt dimensions totalling an area of 292 square metres for the nine lines of butts within a site of 103,000 Ha. This is considered inconsequential.	Low	Works will be subject to supervision by head gamekeeper and compliance checks by Natural England in accordance with Section 6 of the Management Agreement. Remedial measures will be implemented if required.	None. The translocation associated with sunken and semi sunken butts is to existing blanket bog (albeit degraded) so will facilitate restoration, but does not create new habitat, i.e. it is not complete mitigation, but the impacts are considered inconsequential.
Blanket Bog	Loss of or degradation of habitat by butt drainage	Assuming all butts are on deep peat and of sunken or semi –	Low	Low	All butts to be drained with a	None.



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		<p>sunken type:</p> <p>Probably the main impact is that there will be a local depression of the water table around each butt. In order to quantify the magnitude of this effect it is assumed that a zone of 5 m surrounding each butt is impacted.</p> <p>Total area of habitat impacted beyond the immediate 292m affected (see previous row) = 90 x 5 = 450 square metres</p>	<p>Drainage can reduce the water table across a wide area, if it removes large volumes of water. It is considered that the scale of drainage from the nine lines of butts (450 square metres) is insignificant impacts and inconsequential in relation to the large scale of the site (103,000 Ha).</p>		<p>buried pipe (up to 25 m long for each butt but usually shorter than this) fitted with a plastic collar to promote seepage of water into the local peat rather than promote water flow. The pipes will be discharged only into a natural hollow or grip (not a water course) to avoid net export of water from the bog.</p> <p>Also installation of impermeable membrane around butts and plastic collar around pipes to encourage water to disperse into local peat and to</p>	
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					avoid water flow. Works will be subject to compliance checks by Natural England and remedial measures implemented if required.	
Blanket Bog	Loss of or degradation of habitat by drainage pipe installation	Length of drainage pipe given as a maximum of 25 m, but generally will be much shorter. Assuming average length of 12.5 m and a 1 m width: $12.5 \times 1 = 12.5 \text{ m}^2$ Ninety butts: $90 \times 12.5 = 1125 \text{ m}^2$	Low These impacts should be considered in relation to the large scale of the site. Drainage pipe dimensions totalling an area of 1125 square metres for the nine lines of butts within a site of 103,000 Ha. This is considered inconsequential.	Low	The original peat will be backfilled and topped with original turves. Works will be subject to compliance checks by Natural England and remedial measures implemented if required.	None. Surface vegetation should remain largely intact and the acrotelm is only likely to be disrupted in the short term. Long term there should be no residual impact.
Blanket Bog	Loss of or degradation of habitat by access to butts	There is considerable variability in how much traffic (pedestrian and vehicular) Blanket Bog vegetation can support before being damaged, ranging from total and permanent	Low These impacts should be considered in relation to the large scale of the site.	Low	A suspension clause for ongoing vehicle use such that if access to the butts from	None



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		<p>loss of vegetation to localised and temporary rutting.</p> <p>Based on the current impact of vehicles on these lines of butts and the suspension clause offered it is considered most likely that only very small, localised areas of peat may be rutted on occasions. This is difficult to quantify.</p>	<p>Small temporary areas of rutting within a site of 103,000 Ha is considered inconsequential.</p>		<p>shooting activities creates any stretches of bare peat (more than 5 square metres in a continuous stretch) then use of vehicles for shooting party purposes will be suspended for the remainder of the shooting season.</p> <p>If required, cotton grass and Sphagnum species will be planted on areas on bare peat to speed recovery.</p> <p>Works will be subject to compliance checks by Natural England and remedial measures implemented if required.</p>	
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Blanket Bog	Loss of or degradation of habitat by access to butts as a result of disruption of hydrological processes	<p>There is considerable variability in how much traffic (pedestrian and vehicular) Blanket Bog vegetation can support before being damaged, ranging from total and permanent loss of vegetation to localised and temporary rutting.</p> <p>Based on the current impact of vehicles on these lines of butts and the suspension clause offered it is considered most likely that only very small, localised areas of peat may be rutted on occasions. This is difficult to quantify.</p>	<p>Low</p> <p>These impacts should be considered in relation to the large scale of the site. Small temporary areas of rutting within a site of 103,000 Ha is considered inconsequential.</p>	Low	<p>A suspension clause for ongoing vehicle use such that if access to the butts from shooting activities creates any stretches of bare peat (more than 5 square metres in a continuous stretch) then use of vehicles for shooting party purposes will be suspended for the remainder of the shooting season.</p> <p>If required, cotton grass and Sphagnum species will be planted on areas on bare peat to speed recovery.</p> <p>Works will be</p>	None
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					subject to compliance checks by Natural England and remedial measures implemented if required.	
Blanket Bog	Loss of or degradation of habitat by access to butts from vehicles used during construction of the butts.	<p>There is considerable variability in how much traffic (pedestrian and vehicular) Blanket Bog vegetation can support before being damaged, ranging from total and permanent loss of vegetation to localised and temporary rutting.</p> <p>Based on the current impact of vehicles on these lines of butts and the suspension clause offered it is considered most likely that only very small, localised areas of peat may be rutted on occasions. This is difficult to quantify.</p>	<p>Low</p> <p>These impacts should be considered in relation to the large scale of the site. Small temporary areas of rutting within a site of 103,000 Ha is considered inconsequential.</p>	Low	<p>All machinery to be used in the butt construction will be low ground pressure vehicles and no exact same area of land will be passed over by any construction traffic.</p> <p>If required, cotton grass and Sphagnum species will be planted on areas on bare peat to speed recovery.</p> <p>Works will be subject to compliance checks by Natural England</p>	None



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					and remedial measures implemented if required.	
Blanket Bog	Loss and/or degradation from damage from vehicles used during construction of the butts disrupting hydrology	<p>There is considerable variability in how much traffic (pedestrian and vehicular) Blanket Bog vegetation can support before being damaged, ranging from total and permanent loss of vegetation to localised and temporary rutting.</p> <p>Based on the current impact of vehicles on these lines of butts and the suspension clause offered it is considered most likely that only very small, localised areas of peat may be rutted on occasions. This is difficult to quantify</p>	<p>Low</p> <p>These impacts should be considered in relation to the large scale of the site. Small temporary areas of rutting within a site of 103,000 Ha is considered inconsequential.</p>	Low	<p>All machinery to be used in the butt construction will be low ground pressure vehicles and no exact same area of land will be passed over by any construction traffic.</p> <p>If required, cotton grass and Sphagnum species will be planted on areas on bare peat to speed recovery.</p> <p>Works will be subject to compliance checks by Natural England and remedial measures</p>	None



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					implemented if required.	
European dry heath	Loss of habitat by butt construction	<p>If all butts are on dry heath and of sunken or semi – sunken type:</p> <p>· Butt footprint = 1.8 x 1.8 = 3.24 m² 9 lines of butts with 10 butts each</p> <p>Total area of habitat affected = 292 square metres.</p>	<p>Low</p> <p>These impacts should be considered in relation to the large scale of the site. Butt dimensions totalling an area of 292 square metres for the nine lines of butts within a site of 103,000 Ha. This is considered inconsequential.</p>	Low	<p>Works will be subject to supervision by head gamekeeper and compliance checks by Natural England in accordance with Section 6 of the Management Agreement. Remedial measures will be implemented if required.</p>	<p>None. The translocation associated with sunken and semi sunken butts is to existing acid grassland habitat or other site fabric so will facilitate restoration.</p>
European dry heath	Loss of or degradation of habitat by access to butts	<p>Depending on how much traffic (pedestrian and vehicular) occurs in a particular location dry heath vegetation is usually more robust than blanket bog and can support higher levels of traffic before being damaged.</p> <p>Based on the current impact of vehicles on these lines of butts and the suspension clause offered it is</p>	<p>Low</p> <p>These impacts should be considered in relation to the large scale of the site. Small temporary areas of rutting within a site of 103,000 Ha is considered inconsequential.</p>	Low	<p>All machinery to be used in the butt construction will be low ground pressure vehicles and no exact same area of land will be passed over by any construction traffic.</p>	None



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		considered most likely that only very small, localised areas of may be impacted on occasions. This is difficult to quantify			Works will be subject to compliance checks by Natural England and remedial measures implemented if required.	
European dry heath	Loss of or degradation of habitat by access to butts from vehicles used during construction of the butts.	<p>Depending on how much traffic (pedestrian and vehicular) occurs in a particular location dry heath vegetation is usually more robust than blanket bog and can support higher levels of traffic before being damaged.</p> <p>Based on the current impact of vehicles on these lines of butts and the suspension clause offered it is considered most likely that only very small, localised areas of may be impacted on occasions. This is difficult to quantify</p>	<p>Low</p> <p>These impacts should be considered in relation to the large scale of the site. Small temporary areas of rutting within a site of 103,000 Ha is considered inconsequential.</p>	Low	<p>All machinery to be used in the butt construction will be low ground pressure vehicles and no exact same area of land will be passed over by any construction traffic.</p> <p>Works will be subject to compliance checks by Natural England and remedial measures implemented if required.</p>	None



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D2.2 Where necessary, assessment of potentially adverse effects with additional mitigation measures underpinned by legally enforceable conditions/restrictions

Not necessary. The management Agreement contains a series of principles, specifications and legal terms and conditions to avoid potentially adverse effects. Therefore no additional mitigation measures underpinned by legally enforceable conditions/restrictions are required.

Following D.2.1 - D.2.2, where a conclusion of no adverse effect on integrity 'alone' can be ascertained, any residual effects from the project (those which are 'likely' but which are not 'significant' alone will need to be considered 'in combination' with other plans and projects (**Go to D.3**).

D3 Assessment of potentially adverse effects considering the project 'in combination' with other plans and projects [*complete only where applicable*]

D3.1 Assessment of potentially adverse effects without additional mitigation measures

Not required as no potentially adverse residual effects have been identified. The Management Agreement contains a series of principles, specifications and legal terms and conditions to avoid potentially adverse effects.

D3.2 Where necessary, assessment of potentially adverse effects with additional mitigation measures underpinned by legally enforceable conditions/restrictions

Not required as no potentially adverse residual effects have been identified. The Management Agreement contains a series of principles, specifications and legal terms and conditions to avoid potentially adverse effects. Therefore no additional mitigation measures underpinned by legally enforceable conditions/restrictions are required.



Assessment of plans and projects under regulations 21 and 61 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 as amended ('Habitats Regulations Assessment')

D4. Conclusions on site Integrity

Because the plan/project is not wholly directly connected with or necessary to the management of the European site and is likely to have a significant effect on that site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), Natural England carried out an Appropriate Assessment as required under Regulation 21 or 61 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 to ascertain whether or not it is possible to conclude that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of a European Site(s).

Natural England has concluded that:

- It **can be ascertained** that the plan or project will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the following site(s), either alone or in combination with other plans and projects; *a permission can be given without conditions*

North Pennine Moors SAC

PART E:

Permission decision with respect to European Sites

As the relevant competent authority, Natural England has carried out a HRA of the submitted plan or project as required by Regulation 21 or 61 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 and has decided that, with regard to European Sites and their qualifying features;

Consent may be given*

The reasons for this decision are as follows:

- The Wemmergill Estates Ltd Management Agreement (2017 – 2042) sets out a shared vision and multiple outcomes for grouse moor management, farming, biodiversity and the natural environment. It also includes a programme of moorland infrastructure and management/restoration works across the Estate.
- On the understanding that the moorland infrastructure and vegetation management \ restoration works are undertaken by the estate in strict accordance with the principles and specifications in Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the Management Agreement.
- Although a number of works in the Management Agreement are directly connected with and necessary for the conservation \ restoration of SAC and SPA features to favourable conservation status, there are elements of the plan which cannot be screened out as specifically for these purposes and further Habitats Regulations Assessment was required.
- Although the proposed operations are considered unlikely to have a significant effect on the SPA (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) some of the proposed works could not be screened out at this stage with regard to the SAC and an appropriate assessment of these elements was undertaken by Natural England
- Because the plan/project is not wholly directly connected with or necessary to the management of the European site and is likely to have a significant effect on that site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), Natural England carried out an Appropriate Assessment as required under Regulation 21 or 61 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 to ascertain whether or not it is possible to conclude that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of a European Sites. Natural England has concluded that it can be ascertained that the plan or project will not have an adverse impact on the integrity of the North Pennine Moors SAC either alone or in combination and permission can be given without conditions.

* Where it has been concluded that a permission may be given, the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the implications of this plan or project on European Sites has been completed. **Written permission should not be issued by Natural England until there has been a separate and additional consideration of the plan or project's likely impacts on those features of special interest for which the relevant SSSI(s) has been notified (SEE SECTION F)**

References to Evidence

Not Applicable



Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Regulations 21 and 61 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 (as amended)

Appendices

Not Applicable

PART F: SSSI Consideration

F1. SSSI Designated Interest Features

The Lune Forest SSSI interest features are listed below. The interest features potentially affected by this proposal are underlined:

Bogs	<u>M2, M3 Bog pools</u> <u>M18, M19 M20 Blanket mire</u> M21 Valley mire M25 Degraded wet heath, blanket bog
Dwarf shrub heath (upland)	<u>H9, H12 European dry heath</u>
Wet heath (upland)	M15 North Atlantic wet heath with <i>Erica tetralix</i>
Fen, marsh and swamp	<u>M10 Mire</u> <u>M23 Rush mire</u> <u>M37, M38 Flushes</u> M6 Short sedge acidic fen
Calcareous grassland	CG10 Calcareous grassland
Acid Grassland (upland)*	<u>U1, U4, U5, U6 Acid grassland*</u> U20 Bracken
Vascular plants	<i>Gentiana verna</i> Spring gentian** <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i> Marsh saxifrage**

* denotes habitats which are not notified for specific habitat interest (under the relevant designation) but because they support notified species (i.e. acid grassland used as breeding habitat by assemblages of breeding birds)

** denotes species not occurring on the site of the proposed works.

Assemblage of breeding birds

The table below shows the species of breeding birds which are considered when assessing the favourability of SSSIs where the 'breeding bird assemblage associated with upland moorland and grassland' is an interest feature. The species likely to be present on Lune Forest SSSI are highlighted in **bold**:

Teal	Redshank
Hen harrier	Greenshank
Buzzard	Wood sandpiper
Golden eagle	Great skua
Merlin*	Arctic skua
Peregrine Falcon	Snowy owl
Red grouse	Short-eared owl
Black grouse	Whinchat
Golden plover*	Stonechat
Temminck's stint	Wheatear
Dunlin	Ring ouzel
Snipe	Chough
Whimbrel	Raven
Curlew*	Twite

* Denotes species with specific 'Species Population Objectives'

F2. SSSI Interest Features already considered as part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment

The following SSSI interest features are also EU qualifying features. The impacts of the proposals on these features have already been considered as part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment and there are no further comments to make:

- Blanket mire (M2, M3, M18, M19, M20)
- European Dry Heath (H9, H12)
- Petrifying springs and Alkaline Fens (M37, M10, M23)
- Acid grassland upland – SPA bird supporting habitat (U1, U4, U5, U6)

F3. Effect of proposals on SSSI Interest Features not already considered as part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment

Assemblage of breeding birds

The SSSI breeding assemblage includes the SPA Qualifying species Golden Plover, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon and Hen Harrier and these have been considered in the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). This assessment has concluded that some elements of the plan are required for the conservation of SPA supporting habitat and SPA breeding bird populations whilst other elements are unlikely to have a significant effect on these qualifying species due to the avoidance and mitigation measures built into the Wemmergill Estates Ltd Management Agreement (see Sections 2,3,4 &5). These measures will also ensure that there will be no significant effect on any interest feature or site fabric habitat which will affect its potential to support the assemblage of breeding birds in the Lune Forest SSSI.

F4. SSSI consent decision

Natural England has considered the potential effects of the project on the designated interest features of the SSSI, and has concluded that the plan is consistent with furthering the conservation and enhancement of the special interest of the SSSI such that:

- Consent may be given (see Part G)**

PART G: HRA & SSSI consent decision

- Consent may be given**

The reasons for this decision are as follows:

- The management plan is consistent with furthering the conservation and enhancement of the special interest of the SSSI



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Document Control

Assessment prepared and completed by	██████████	<i>Lead Adviser - Field Unit Ecologist & Regulation \ Enforcement, Northumbria Area Team</i>
Date	30 May 2017	
Peer-reviewed by	██████████	<i>Area Manager Northumbria Area Team</i>
Date	05 June 2017	
FOR HIGH-RISK CASES AND/OR REFUSED OR CONDITIONED SSSI CONSENTS ONLY [see User Notes]		
HRA checked and referred to Protected Sites Team by:	<i>Insert name</i>	Team Leader
Date		
Advice given by Protected Sites Team:	<i>Insert name</i>	Protected Sites Team, Terrestrial Biodiversity
Date		
Case referred to High Risk Casework Panel by	<i>If necessary</i>	<i>Insert role / job title and Team</i>
Date		
Consent/Assent/ Permission/ Authorisation issued by:	<i>Insert name</i>	<i>Insert role / job title and Team</i>
Date		

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