

Cannock Chase AONB Draft Management Plan 2009 SEA Compatibility of Objectives

The SEA process is being conducted alongside the management plan review and is intended to identify any negative impacts that the review could have on the environment. It is important to select data that is relevant to the topics and key issues that can be used effectively for future monitoring. The selection of data should in turn both inform and be informed by the choice of appropriate objectives and indicators. This document identifies the higher level objectives (HLO's) of the management plan and compares them to the environmental objectives set out in the SEA guidance.

The full version of the SEA scoping report will be available soon on the AONB website.

Management Plan High Level Objectives

In striving to achieve this vision, the Management Plan will aspire to meet the following high level objectives (HLOs). This is "*what we want*".

- HLO 1 Develop the sense of Cannock Chase AONB as a special place for everyone who lives in, works within or visits the area.**

- HLO 2 Conserve and enhance the distinctive Cannock Chase AONB landscape of local, national and international importance for its biodiversity.**

- HLO 3 Develop a place valued and understood by everyone who comes into contact with Cannock Chase AONB, so that they can contribute positively to the shaping of its future.**

- HLO 4 Ensure a high and sustainable quality of life is offered by a safe, clean and tranquil environment.**

- HLO 5 Maintain a working landscape where prosperity and opportunity increase while natural life flourishes and pressure upon natural resources diminish.**
- HLO 6 Create a place of enjoyment for everyone, providing opportunities for quiet recreation that contributes positively to physical and mental well being.**
- HLO 7 Maintain and develop a successful partnership, working together to manage Cannock Chase AONB effectively.**

Environmental objectives of the SEA

Below are the list of environmental objectives of the SEA set out in the Natural England guidance that are to be accessed in a screening matrix against the higher level objectives (HLO's) of the Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan.

- E1** To protect and where practical enhance biodiversity (habitats)
- E2** To protect and enhance fauna and flora (individual species)
- E3** To ensure no adverse effect arises on population (i.e. demographic balance)
- E4** To safeguard human health
- E5** To protect and enhance soil quality
- E6** To protect water
- E7** To protect air and climate
- E8** To maintain cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage)
- E9** To protect and enhance landscape

E10 To protect material assets including natural resources

E11 To avoid significant adverse effects between the above interrelationships

Screening Matrix

The table below compares the Management Plan 2009 HLO's against the SEA environmental objectives and the impact of the HLO's on the environment.

SEA OBJ	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
HLO 1	S+	S+	N	S+	N	N	N	N	S+	N	S+
2	S++	S++	N	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+	S+
3	S+	S+	N	S+	N	N	N	N	S+	N	S+
4	S+	S+	N	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	S+	S+	S+
5	N	N	N	S+	S+	S+	S+	N	S+	S+	S+
6	C-	C-	C-	S+	N	N	N	N	N	C-	S+
7	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

KEY

- S++ Strongly supports the SEA objective
- S+ Supports the SEA objective
- N Is neutral in effect
- C- Potentially works against the SEA objective
- C-- Strongly works against the SEA objective
- X Effects uncertain

HLO 6 conflicts with SEA objectives 1, 2, 3 and 10 as increasing the opportunities for enjoyment may have the negative impact of increasing the volume of visitors to the area, therefore potentially increasing erosion, litter and general damage to the environment. In the unlikely event that this may occur mitigation measures have been put into place (identified in the management plan) to ensure that visitors are located in areas that are able to absorb visitor pressure and have little or no effect on the environment. Appropriate signage and interpretation within the AONB ensures that people remain in these areas and if they do go into the more sensitive areas of heathland they are advised to remain on paths to reduce the environmental impact.