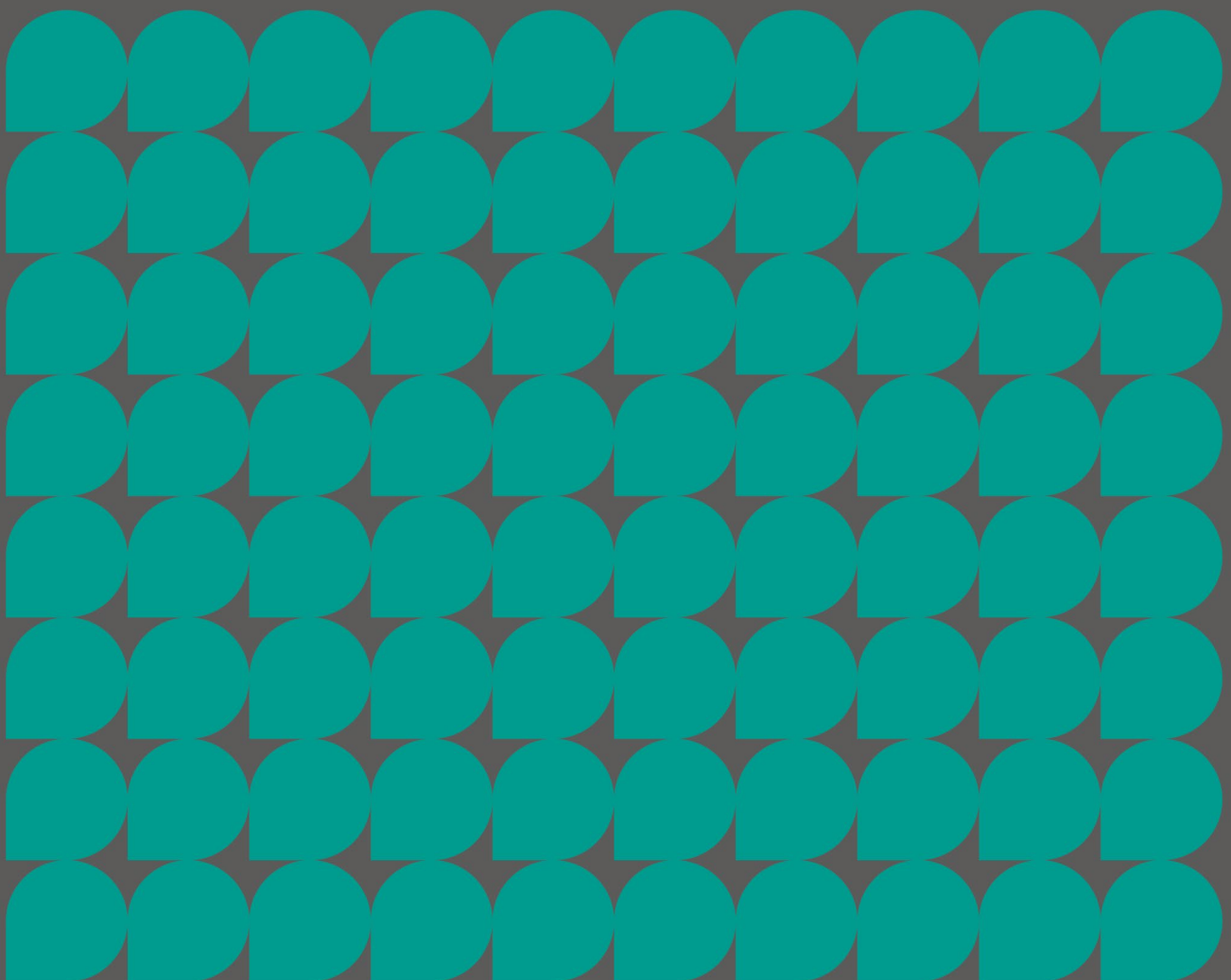


**Draft South Pennine Moors
Special Area of Conservation
(SAC) / Special Protection
Areas (SPA) Joint
Supplementary Planning
Document**

Equalities Impact Assessment Screening Statement

November 2024



1. Introduction

1.1. This is the Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) Screening Statement for the Draft South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which has been prepared jointly by three local authorities - Oldham Council, Rochdale Council and Tameside Council. This statement has been prepared in accordance with the Equalities Act 2010.

2. Requirements of the Equalities Act 2010

2.1. The Equality Act 2010 came into effect in October 2010 with the aim of harmonising all current discrimination law and strengthening the laws that prevent discrimination. It applies to the provision of services and public functions and includes the development of local authority policies and plans.

2.2. The Act maintains the protection provided by previous legislation and therefore prevents discrimination on the basis of nine protected characteristics: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

2.3. Inequality can exist in a number of forms and with regards to spatial planning, this can include inadequate provision of, and access to services (e.g. health, food stores, and education facilities), good quality housing, employment opportunities, a healthy living environment and transport infrastructure for all members of society.

2.4. The Equality Act 2010 does not outline how public authorities should assess the effects on equality of new policies and programmes, but doing so is an important part of complying with the general duty.

2.5. An EqIA seeks to improve the work of local authorities and ensures that the policies and plans it develops do not discriminate in the manner in which they provide services and employment. EqIA also aims to ensure that local authorities do all they can to advance equality of opportunity between the people who do, and the people who do not share a relevant protected characteristic.

3. Draft South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

- 3.1. Annex 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines SPDs as documents which add further detail to the policies in the Development Plan. As SPDs do not have the same status as policies contained within the Development Plan, they are not subject to independent examination.
- 3.2. The Places for Everyone (PfE) Plan was adopted by, Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan (the nine PfE Plan authorities) and took effect on 21 March 2024. The aim of the SPD is to provide further guidance on how criterion 7 of Policy JP-G5 of the PfE will be implemented, which seeks to ensure new development does not have an adverse impact on the protected habitats and species on the South Pennine Moors.
- 3.3. The PfE Plan is the “parent DPD”, which has already been subject to an EqIA through the Integrated Assessment of the PfE.
- 3.4. The importance of the South Pennine Moors is reflected in a range of international, national and local habitat designations. It supports important breeding bird populations and is classified as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and two Special Protection Areas (SPA).
- 3.5. The SPD relates to the:
- South Pennine Moors SAC;
 - Peak District Moors SPA; and
 - South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA.
- 3.6. The SAC and SPAs are European designated habitat sites which overlap each other. When referring to all three designations together, the SPD refers to the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPAs.
- 3.7. The SPD is applicable to the local authority areas of Oldham (not including the area covered by the Peak District National Park), Rochdale and Tameside.

4. Screening Assessment

- 4.1. The Draft South Pennine Moors SAC/SPAs SPD is not setting new policy; it will supplement an existing policy (JP-G5) in the PfE Plan (which came into effect on 21 March 2024). JP-G5 has already been subject to a full EqIA through the PfE Plan making process as part of the Integrated Assessment for the PfE. The EqIA, available on the [GMCA website](#), found that PfE Policy JP-G5 would not have a negative impact on any of the nine characteristics protected under the Equalities Act 2010: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.
- 4.2. As the SPD will only provide further guidance on the implementation of PfE Policy JP-G5 and will not introduce new policy or requirements over and above those that are already set out in the policy, then it is concluded that no further assessment of the Draft SPD is required under the Equalities Act 2010 beyond what has already been carried out in the EqIA for Policy JP-G5.