

Quality information

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Acronyms

(AMR)	Annual Monitoring Report(s)			
(DEFRA)	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs			
DPD	Development Plan Document			
(EA)	Environment Agency			
(GVA)	Gross Value Added			
(MHCLG)	Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government			
(IMD)	Index of Multiple Deprivation			
(LEP)	Local Economic Partnership			
(LNP)	Local Nature Partnership			
(LNR)	Local Nature Reserves			
(LSOAs)	Lower Super Output Areas			
(LTP)	Local Transport Plan			
(NNR)	National Nature Reserve			
(NPPF)	National Planning Policy Framework			
(ONS)	Office for National Statistics			
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment			

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1. As illustrated in Figure 1.1, the Green Hammerton / Cattle New Settlement is a broad location earmarked for future strategic growth through draft Policy DM4 of the emerging Harrogate Borough Local Plan.
- 1.1.2. The New Settlement presents an opportunity for transformational long term growth comprising of a new mixed use development, including up to 3,000 new homes, around 5 hectares of employment land and ancillary transport and social infrastructure.
- 1.1.3. In order to support the delivery of the New Settlement, Harrogate Borough Council is in the process of producing a Development Plan Document (DPD). It has been determined that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) needs to be undertaken to assess the environmental impacts of the emerging Plan (alongside any reasonable alternatives).
- 1.1.4. AECOM has been commissioned by Harrogate Borough Council to prepare a Scoping Report for the New Settlement DPD; which is the first step in the SEA process.

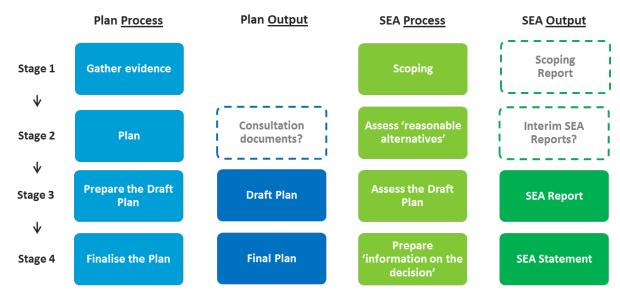
Study Area Boundary Green Hammerton Johnsons Nursery Cattal Hammerton Station Station Hammerton River Nidd

Figure 1.1: The Green Hammerton / Cattle New Settlement broad study area (Taken from Gillespies Concept Options Report, August 2018)

1.2 SEA explained

- 1.2.1. SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely significant effects of an emerging plan, and reasonable alternatives in terms of key environmental issues. The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding or mitigating negative environmental effects and maximising positive effects.
- 1.2.2. The European Directive 2001/42/EC¹ requires certain plans to be subject to a SEA. This Directive is realised in the UK through Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633: The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (otherwise known as the SEA Regulations). These Regulations require an environmental assessment to be carried out on certain plans and programmes prepared by public authorities that are likely to have a significant effect upon the environment. The plan has been determined to require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. To meet this requirement, the plan is undergoing an SEA process which incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive.
- 1.2.3. SEA can be viewed as a four-stage process that produces a number of statutory and non-statutory outputs. As illustrated in Figure 1.2 below, 'Scoping' is a mandatory process under the SEA Directive, but the publication of a scoping report is a voluntary (but useful) output.

Figure 1.2: SEA as a four step process



1.3 Introduction to scoping

- 1.3.1. One of the first stages in the SEA process is to establish what the key issues are that the appraisal should focus on. This is called 'scoping', and involves a review of relevant policies, plans and programmes (a 'contextual review') and information about the current and future state of the environment, economy and social factors (the 'baseline'). This information is then used to set out a framework for undertaking strategic environmental assessments as the plan is developed.
- 1.3.2. The Regulations² require that certain statutory bodies are consulted on the scope of a SEA. This can be done in a number of ways, but most often a Scoping Report is produced that presents the key information and a methodology for how future appraisals will be undertaken. Statutory Consultees have 5 weeks to comment on the scope of the appraisal. In England, the statutory consultees are Natural England, The Environment Agency and English Heritage.

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/sea-legalcontext.htm

² The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

- 1.3.3. After consultation, the Local Authority may incorporate comments received on the Scope of the SEA into a revised Scoping Report.
- 1.3.4. Because the baseline position and policy background is constantly changing, the scope of the appraisal may need to be updated as the plan develops. This is particularly important if a long time has passed between key stages of the plan's development and / or if important information or policy changes come to light that need to be considered.
- 1.3.5. To ensure that the requirements of the SEA regulations are met, the Scoping Report has been structured so that it answers the following questions as set out in Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1: Scoping steps undertaken to meet the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Regulations

SEA Questions	Corresponding Requirements (The report must include)				
What is the plan seeking to achieve?	An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan				
What is the sustainability 'context'?	 The relevant environmental protection objectives, established at international or national level Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance 				
What is the environmental 'baseline' at the current time?	 The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected 				
What is the baseline projection?	 The likely evolution of the current state of the environment without the implementation of the plan 				
What are the key issues that should be a focus of SEA?	 Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance 				

1.4 Establishing the current and projected baseline

- 1.4.1. An important step when seeking to establish the appropriate 'scope' of an SEA involves reviewing the situation now for a range of environmental issues. This helps to enable identification of those key environmental issues that should be a particular focus of the appraisal, and also helps to provide 'benchmarks' for the appraisal of significant effects.
- 1.4.2. Just as it is important for the scope of SEA to be informed by an understanding of current baseline conditions, it is also important to ensure that thought is given to how baseline conditions might 'evolve' in the future under the no plan / business as usual scenario. Doing so helps to enable identification of those key sustainability issues that should be a particular focus of the appraisal, and also helps to provide 'benchmarks' for appraising significant effects.

1.5 Structure of this Scoping Report

- 1.5.1. The outcomes of the scoping exercise have been presented under a series of broad environmental themes, as follows:
 - Chapter 2: Air Quality;
 - Chapter 3: Biodiversity;
 - Chapter 4: Climatic factors (Flood risk and climate change);
 - Chapter 5: Historic Environment;
 - Chapter 6: Landscape;
 - Chapter 7: Land and Soil;
 - Chapter 8: Water Resources;
 - Chapter 9: Population and Housing;
 - Chapter 10: Health and Wellbeing;
 - Chapter 11: Transportation;
 - Chapter 12: Economy; and
 - Chapter 13: Minerals and Waste.
- 1.5.2. The selected environmental themes reflect the 'SEA topics' suggested by Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive³. These were refined to reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of plan effects (drawing from local knowledge and understanding).
- 1.5.3. In accordance with the SEA Directive, the final chapters of the report summarise the overarching environmental issues, sets out the SEA Framework and document the next stages in the process. To demonstrate a clear trail of how the SEA objectives have been identified each topic Chapter (which is scoped into the SEA) concludes with suggested objectives and supporting criteria for inclusion in the SEA Framework.

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The SEA Directive is 'of a procedural nature' (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and does not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus on 'the environment, **including on issues such as** biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors' [our emphasis]

2. Air Quality

Focus of theme:

- Sources of air pollution
- Air quality hotspots

2.1 Policy Context

- 2.1.1. The **Air Quality Strategy**⁴ (2007) establishes the policy framework for ambient air quality management and assessment in the UK. The primary objective is to ensure that everyone can enjoy a level of ambient air quality which poses no significant risk to health or quality of life. The Strategy sets out the National Air Quality Objectives (NAQOs) and government policy on achieving these objectives.
- 2.1.2. The **National Planning Policy Framework**⁵ (NPPF) (2018) outlines the importance of sustainable development and infrastructure in improving air quality and subsequently the environment and public health.
- 2.1.3. The **Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance**⁶ (2018) issued by Defra for Local Authorities provides advice as to where the NAQOs apply. These include outdoor locations where members of the public are likely to be regularly present for the averaging period of the objective (which vary from 15 minutes to a year).
- 2.1.4. The Defra report **Action for air quality in a changing climate**⁷ (2010) focuses on the synergies between the two issues of air quality and climate change. In particular, it notes the potential for additional health benefits through the closer integration of climate and air pollution policy. It is suggested that co-benefits can be realised through a variety of means, including promoting low carbon vehicles and renewable energy.
- 2.1.5. Primarily focused on the Air Quality Management Areas in the District, the **Harrogate Air Quality Action Plan**⁸ (2013) sets out sets out measures that the Council intends to take in order to achieve a reduction in nitrogen dioxide (NO2) concentrations in Harrogate.

2.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

- 2.2.1. According to the Harrogate Air Quality Annual Status Report⁹ (2018), monitoring has shown that air quality is generally good and improving within the Harrogate borough area overall. The report further states that the area covering the proposed new settlement and its vicinity are not of concern for air quality.
- 2.2.2. There are currently no AQMAs declared within or in the vicinity of the new settlement area. There are also no permanent diffusion tube monitoring locations across the rural locality between the urban clusters of Knaresborough and York, which could provide some indication of the likely air quality in the New Settlement area.

⁴ Defra (2007) Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland [online] available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/air/air-quality/approach/

MHCLG (2018) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728643/Revised_NPPF_2018.pdf

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⁶ Defra (2018) Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance [online] available at:

https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/documents/LAQM-TG16-February-18-v1.pdf

⁷ Defra (2010) Air Pollution: Action in a Changing Climate [online] available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69340/pb13378-air-pollution.pdf

⁸ Harrogate District Council (2013) Air Quality Action Plan [online] available at:

https://www.harrogate.gov.uk/downloads/file/1132/2013_air_quality_action_plan

⁹ Harrogate Borough Council (2018) Air Quality Annual Status Report [online] available at: https://www.harrogate.gov.uk/downloads/file/4018/2018_air_quality_annual_status_report

- 2.2.3. A specific study of air quality has been undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment for a recently submitted planning application within the new settlement area. Application 18/02240/EIAMAJ proposes a large development within part of the DPD area, and as such an assessment of environmental conditions has been undertaken. Baseline information gathered as part of this proposal provides some indication of the current air quality in the area.
- 2.2.4. The monitoring survey which was undertaken near to Kirk Hammerton and Green Hammerton indicates that a good standard of air quality is experienced at Kirk Hammerton and Green Hammerton, with the highest concentrations of pollutants measured at locations closer to the A59¹⁰.

Summary of future baseline

- 2.2.5. There are no significant air quality issues in the new settlement area, and in the absence of substantial development in this location, air quality would likely remain broadly the same. There may even be improvements over time as a result of measures implemented through the Local Transport Plan to encourage modal shift, and the improved fuel economy and efficiency of vehicles.
- 2.2.6. It should be noted that the principal of a new settlement has been set out in the emerging Local Plan though, so the future baseline position may well involve large scale growth in this location. In this context, the scale of development involved could create adverse effects on air quality in the short term, though these ought to be possible to mitigate.
- 2.2.7. The longer term effects are unlikely to be significant with regards to the achievement of air quality objectives in this location.
- 2.2.8. Whilst development could potentially contribute to increased traffic heading towards and from the Harrogate and Knaresborough AQMAs, the baseline position with regards to air quality is unlikely to be significantly affected.

2.3 Key headline issues

- 2.3.1. The key issues are as follows:
 - The development and urbanisation of the Green Hammerton / Cattal area could affect air quality in what is currently a rural area. However, this is unlikely to prevent the achievement of air quality objectives.
 - There is likely to be continued reliance on the car to access services, jobs and facilities.

2.4 Scoping outcome

- 2.4.1. The development of a New Settlement is likely to generate more trips by car than would be the case in the absence of the development. There is therefore potential to generate increased particulates and nitrogen dioxide.
- 2.4.2. Whilst there are no issues currently in the area, the development will change this and could worsen air quality in some locations within the Green Hammerton / Cattal area.
- 2.4.3. There may be temporary exceedances and disturbance during the construction period. However, the effects are not likely to be significant in the longer term.
- 2.4.4. Nevertheless, air quality has been SCOPED IN to the SEA to explore how issues can be minimised. This means that the plan (and reasonable alternatives) will be assessed for its performance against air quality objectives.

¹⁰ CEG (May, 2018) Hammerton: Volume 1 Environmental Statement

2.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Air Quality SEA theme?

2.5.1. The SEA topic 'Air Quality' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 2.1 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

Table 2.1: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Air Quality

SEA Objective Supporting Questions	Supporting Questions				
 Will the option/proposal help to: Protect local air quality? To protect, conserve and enhance air quality. Minimise the contribution towards a other parts of the district by reducing traffic? 					

Biodiversity 3.

Focus of theme:

- Nature conservation designations
- Habitats and species

3.1 **Policy Context**

- At the European level, the **EU Biodiversity Strategy**¹¹ was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to 'halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020'.
- 3.1.2. The European Commission Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment 12 (2013) suggests that an SEA should focus on ensuring 'no-net-loss of biodiversity' before considering mitigation and compensation. The assessment should also take account of 'ecosystem services' and the links between natural environment and economy.
- The NPPF (2018) states that the planning system should contribute to protecting and 3.1.3. enhancing the natural environment including helping to improve biodiversity, and using natural resources prudently. In support of this aim the framework states that plans should 'identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats' and should also 'promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity'.
- The Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'13 3.1.4. (2018) sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them. Actions proposed of relevance to the protection and promotion of biodiversity are as follows:
 - Develop a Nature Recovery Network to protect and restore wildlife, and provide opportunities to re-introduce species that have been lost from the countryside.
 - Achieve a good environmental status of the UK's seas while allowing marine industries to thrive, and complete our economically coherent network of wellmanaged marine protected areas.
 - Provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity.
 - Support and protect international forests and sustainable agriculture.
- The **Biodiversity 2020 strategy** ¹⁴(2011), published by the government, sets out objectives to deliver: a more integrated large-scale approach to conservation, to put people at the heart of biodiversity policy, to reduce environmental pressures, an overall improvement in the status of species and prevention of further human-induced extinctions and improved public knowledge of biodiversity.

¹¹ European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5b1%5d.pdf

12 European Commission (2013) Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental

Assessment [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/pdf/SEA%20Guidance.pdf

13 Defra (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan ¹⁴ Defra (2011) Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services [online] available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69446/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020-111111.pdf

- The Harrogate District Biodiversity Action Plan¹⁵ (2012) sets out a strategy to reverse the decline of wildlife in the District. It identifies key habitats and species which are contained in the individual habitat and species action plans. These set out the importance of the species and habitat, identify their local status, threats to them and opportunities to help their recovery.
- The Harrogate District Core Strategy 16 (2009) sets out requirements to increase wildlife 3.1.7. habitats and species in accordance with the District's Biodiversity Action Plan and improve the conditions of the District's Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

3.2 **Baseline Summary**

Summary of current baseline

- There are over 4.100 Sites of Specific Scientific Importance (SSSI) in England, which covers around 8% of the country's land area. SSSIs are recognised as the country's very best wildlife and geological sites. There are no SSSI sites within the New Settlement area, however, the Aubert Ings SSSI falls within its vicinity, towards the south, at a distance of approximately 2.4km from the centre of the area. It comprises an area of lowland grassland.
- 3.2.2. Natural England collects data on the condition of SSSIs throughout the Country and Table 3.1 below sets out the condition of the Aubert Ings SSSIs in comparison to the English average up until December 2017.

Table 3.1: SSSI condition (Source: Natural England 17)

Area	% area meeting PSA target		% area unfavourable recovering	% area unfavourable no change	% area unfavourable declining	% area destroyed / part destroyed
Aubert Ings SSSI	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
England	94.31	38.65	55.65	3.39	2.09	0.05

- 3.2.3. The proximity of the New Settlement area to the SSSI is such that if development falls within certain categories, Natural England should be consulted on the likely risks. For the southern part of the New Settlement area, this includes any residential development of 100 or more houses outside existing settlements. For the northern parts this does not include residential development but does include pipelines and overhead cables, transport proposal, quarries, landfill, and large industry infrastructure. Figure 3.1 below illustrates the New Settlement area that falls within the SSSI impact zone and other relevant ecological features.
- There are a total of 225 National Nature Reserves (NNRs) across England. Their purpose is 3.2.4. to help manage habitats, species and significant geology. Most reserves also offer the opportunity for the public to experience England's national heritage. There are no NNRs within the New Settlement area or its vicinity with the closest being the Lower Derwent Valley NNR located approximately at a distance of 27.8 km and Skipwith Common NNR at 27.9km.
- The main habitats in the Lower Derwent Valley NNR are flood meadows, pastures and 3.2.5. woodlands whereas the Skipwith Common NNR mainly consists of wet and dry heathland and scrub woodland.

¹⁵ Harrogate District Council (2012) Biodiversity Action Plan [online] available at:

https://www.harrogate.gov.uk/info/20102/conservation_landscape_and_ecology/573/biodiversity

Harrogate District Council (2009) LDF: Core Strategy [online] available at:

https://www.harrogate.gov.uk/downloads/file/187/core_strategy_-_full_version

17 Information in relation to the condition of SSSIs throughout the area has been taken from the Natural England website. Accessed from http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/sssi/default.aspx

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Figure 3.1: Ecology Map (Taken from the Concept Framework Baseline Report, Gillespies - August 2018)



- 3.2.6. There are over 1,400 Local Nature Reserves (LNR) located throughout England. The purpose of LNRs is to provide the public with opportunities to study/learn about nature. To qualify for LNR status, a site must be of importance for wildlife, geology, education or public enjoyment.
- 3.2.7. There are no LNRs within the New Settlement area or its vicinity, with the closest being the Hookstone Wood LNR at an approximate distance of 13.3km from the New Settlement area.
- 3.2.8. Natural England recommends that a 15km buffer zone is used to determine potential impacts on European Sites.
- 3.2.9. There are no designated European Sites for Nature Conservation within or in the immediate vicinity of the New Settlement area. However, a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Kirk Deighton SAC, is located approximately 8km south west of the New Settlement area. The Habitats Regulations Assessment work undertaken to date on the emerging local Plan suggests that large scale development at a broad location for a new settlement in this area would not cause a loss of habitat for a SAC or SPA. The likely effects with regards to water quality are dependent upon waste water treatment capacity, but are also anticipated to be insignificant.
- 3.2.10. There are no Special Protection Areas (SPAs), possible SPAs or Ramsar sites within a 15km radius of the New Settlement area.
- 3.2.11. Figure 3.1 also shows the Great Wood Ancient Woodland to the north east of the New Settlement area. The other designations within or in close proximity to the New Settlement area are numerous TPOs (Tree Protection Orders).
- 3.2.12. The new settlement area contains Priority Habitat areas of Deciduous Woodland and Traditional Orchards. Key and endangered species present or likely to be present in the New Settlement area include:
 - Lapwing;
 - Corn Bunting;
 - Curlew:
 - Tree Sparrow;
 - Arable Assemblage Farmland Birds;
 - Grassland Assemblage Farmland Birds; and
 - Grey Partridge.

Summary of future baseline

- 3.2.13. In the event that a new settlement was not developed in this area, it is unlikely that there would be a significant change in the biodiversity value of the area (for better or for worse).
- 3.2.14. However, atmospheric pollution (such as acid precipitation and nitrogen deposition) and increased flood risk that may arise as a result of climate change, could pose a risk to the habitats and species present within the new settlement area.
- 3.2.15. Increased development in the new settlement area, as proposed in the emerging Local Plan, could place increased pressure on wildlife habitat due to land take for development and an increase in population.
- 3.2.16. An increase in population is likely to lead to an increase in leisure and recreational pressure and increased demand for natural resources such as water.
- 3.2.17. New development may lead to an increase in disturbance through human activity, loss of habitat, increased predation (e.g. from domestic pets), atmospheric, land and water based pollution.

3.2.18. Conversely, new development (particularly of a strategic nature) could offer opportunities for enhancement, given that there are no designated / protected sites within the area at present.

3.3 Key headline issues

- 3.2.19. The key issues are as follows:
 - The New Settlement area falls within the impact zone of the Aubert Ings SSSI.
 - There are no NNR, LNR, SPAs, pSPAs or Ramsar sites within or in the vicinity of the New Settlement area.
 - A Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Kirk Deighton SAC, is located approximately 8km south west of the New Settlement area.
 - There are deciduous woodland and traditional orchard priority habitats and key and endangered species present within or in the vicinity of the new settlement area.

3.4 Scoping outcome

- 3.2.20. The SEA topic 'Biodiversity' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA.
- 3.2.21. Negative effects could occur due to the scale of growth involved. Whilst it is uncertain whether these would be significant, there is potential for biodiversity enhancement that should be explored.
- 3.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Biodiversity SEA theme?
- 3.2.22. The SEA topic 'Biodiversity' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 3.2 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

Table 3.2: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Biodiversity

SEA Objective

Supporting Questions

Will the option/proposal help to:

- Support connections between habitats in the Green Hammerton / Cattal area?
- Avoid any impacts on the Aubert Ings SSSI and the Kirk Deighton SAC?
- Avoid the loss of hedgerows and compensate for their loss?
- Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?
- Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity?
- Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the New Settlement area to the effects of climate change?

Protect and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species

Climatic factors (Flood risk and climate change)

Focus of theme:

- Flood risk
- Greenhouse gas emissions by source;
- Greenhouse gas emissions trends;
- Effects of climate change; and
- Climate change adaptation.

4.1 **Policy Context**

- The **EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy** ¹⁸ was adopted in 2013, which supports 4.1.1. greater coordination between areas particularly on issues that cross borders such as river basins. A key principle is to ensure that those most likely to be affected by climate change are able to take the necessary measures to adapt.
- The **Carbon Plan** ¹⁹ (2011) sets out the Government's plans for achieving the greenhouse gas 4.1.2. emissions reductions committed to in the Climate Change Act 2008 and the first four carbon budgets. The Carbon Plan aims to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80% by 2050, relative to levels in 1990.
- As part of its environmental objective in achieving sustainable development, the NPPF (2018) 4.1.3. contains a requirement to mitigate and adapt to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy. The Framework also states that the 'planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change'. To achieve these aims new development should be planned to ensure appropriate adaptation measures are included (including green infrastructure) and should be designed, located and orientated as to help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- 4.1.4. The Framework also seeks to direct development away from areas that are currently or likely in the future to be at highest risk of flooding. Where development is required in such areas, the 'development should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere'.
- The Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' (2018) sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them. Actions proposed of relevance to the managing and addressing flood risk and climate change are as follows:
 - Take action to reduce the risk of harm from flooding and coastal erosion including greater use of natural flood management solutions.
 - Provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity.
- The Clean Growth Strategy²⁰ (2017) sets out a blue print for a low carbon future by outlining 4.1.6. proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy. Key aims include accelerating the shift to low carbon transport and homes and enhancing the benefits and value of natural resources by preserving and establishing new natural assets such as forests, minimising avoidable waste and managing emissions from landfill.

¹⁸ European Commission (2013) Climate Change Adaptation Strategy [online] available at: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/clima/files/docs/eu_strategy_en.pdf

DECC (2011) The Carbon Plan - reducing greenhouse gas emissions [online] available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-carbon-plan-reducing-greenhouse-gas-emissions--2

DECC (2017) Clean Growth Strategy [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-growth-strategy

- The Ouse Catchment Flood Management Plan²¹ (CFMP) was published in 2010, and acts as one of 77 CFMPs for England and Wales. The document provides an overview of the flood risk within the Ouse catchment area, and sets out the preferred plan for sustainable flood risk management over the next 50-100 years.
- The Harrogate District Carbon Reduction Strategy²² (2018) promotes and supports 4.1.8. activity within the district as a whole to help achieve district wide emissions reductions of 57% by 2030, relative to 1990 levels, in line with the UK carbon budget. It further aims to cut the council's carbon emissions by at least 2.7% every year.
- 4.1.9. The Harrogate District Core Strategy (2009) aims to minimise flood risk as a result of development, reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and secure renewable energy.

4.2 **Baseline Summary**

Summary of current baseline

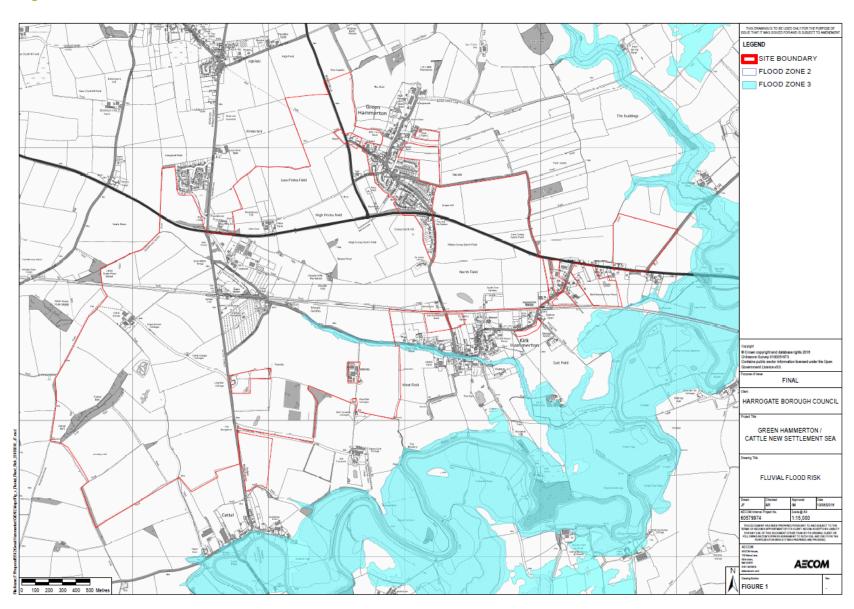
Flood risk

- 4.1.10. The new settlement area lies near the River Nidd with various tributaries running along the perimeter or through the area. The Environment Agency categorises the risk of flooding from watercourses into three zones.
- 4.1.11. Flood Zone 1 is defined as having a 'Low Probability' of flooding, and incorporates areas where the annual probability of flooding is lower than 0.1% (a 1 in 1000 year flood event). Flood Zone 2 is defined as having a 'Medium Probability' of flooding, with an annual probability of flooding between 0.1% and 1.0% for fluvial flooding (between a 1 in 1000 year and 1 in 100 year flood event) or 0.1% and 0.5% for tidal and coastal flooding (between a 1 in 1000 year and 1 in 100 year flood event). Flood Zone 3 is defined as having a 'High Probability' of flooding, with an annual probability of beyond 1.0% for fluvial floods and beyond 0.5% for tidal and coastal floods.
- 4.1.12. As illustrated in Figure 4.1, almost the entire new settlement area falls in Flood Zone 1, with the exception of a small linear area of Flood Zones 2 and 3 along the Kirk Hammerton Beck. A large area of Flood Zone 3, effectively the flood plain of the River Nidd, stretches along the south-eastern boundary of the new settlement area.
- 4.1.13. There are a series of raised flood defences along the River Nidd covering the stretch within the vicinity of the new settlement area.
- 4.1.14. Surface water flooding occurs when excess water runs off across the surface of the land. Several small areas of high and medium surface water flood risk exist in the new settlement area; however, these are dispersed with large areas of very low flood risk in between. The new settlement area does not fall within an area at risk of flooding from reservoir breach, although a large area along the River Nidd within the vicinity of the new settlement area is mapped as this.

Prepared for: Harrogate Borough Council

²¹ Environment Agency (2010) Ouse Catchment Flood Management Plan [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-ouse-catchment-flood-management-plan ²² Harrogate District Council (2018) Carbon Reduction Strategy [online] available at: https://www.harrogate.gov.uk/downloads/file/3779/carbon_reduction_strategy

Figure 4.1: Fluvial flood risk in the New Settlement area



Carbon emissions

- 4.1.15. Table 4.1 below sets out data in relation to the carbon dioxide (CO²) emissions per capital in Harrogate District between 2006 and 2016. These include CO² emissions from industry and commercial activity such as gas and electricity emissions from industrial and commercial activity and emissions from large industrial installations, agricultural combustion and diesel railways. These also include CO² emissions from domestic activity such as the consumption of gas and electricity, transportation and any other forms.
- 4.1.16. The data suggests a 27.5% decrease of per capita CO² emissions in Harrogate District over the 10 year period. When compared with the regional and national averages, it is apparent that this trend is ordinary although the proportion of change is not as substantial. In comparison with the regional average, Harrogate District emits fewer tonnes of carbon dioxide per capita, but when compared with the national average, emissions per capita are substantially higher.

Table 4.1: Per Capita CO² Emissions (t) in Harrogate District between 2006 and 2016 (Source: Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2018²³)

Area	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	
Harrogate District Average	9.8	9.4	8.9	8.5	7.6	7.1	
North Yorkshire Average	10.6	9.8	9.4	8.9	8.0	7.6	
England Average	8.4	7.8	7.2	6.8	5.9	5.3	

4.1.17. According to the Harrogate District Planning and Climate Change Study²⁴, some of the new settlement area and its vicinity have good potential for wind energy. The broader district has substantial viable potential to introduce district heating, hydro power generation sites and large scale wind farms.

Summary of future baseline

- 4.1.18. Climate change projections for the United Kingdom published as part of the UKCP09²⁵ programme provide detailed probabilistic projections of climate change. Although there is uncertainty in climate change predictions the following changes are likely to have taken place in Yorkshire and Humber region by 2080. The changes mentioned below relate to the medium emissions scenario²⁶:
 - The central estimate of increase in winter mean temperature is 3°C; it is very unlikely to be less than 1.6°C and is very unlikely to be more than 4.6°C.
 - The central estimate of increase in summer mean temperature is 3.3°C; it is very unlikely to be less than 1.7°C and is very unlikely to be more than 5.4°C.

²³ Information in relation to carbon emissions is available on the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy website: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy
²⁴ Harrogate Borough Council (2011) Harrogate District Planning and Climate Change Study.

²⁵ Further information on the UKCP09 programme is available from: http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/.

²⁶ Projections are set out within the UKCP09 programme, which correspond to three emissions scenarios (Low, Medium and High). The key characteristics of each of these scenarios are:

Medium emissions Scenario - describes a world that has rapid economic growth, quick spreading of new and efficient technologies, and a global population that reaches 9 billion mid-century and then gradually declines. It also relies on a balance between different energy sources.

High emissions Scenario - similar economic and population trends as the Medium emission scenario but more emphasis on power generation from fossil fuels.

Low emissions scenario - represents a more integrated ecologically friendly world, characterised by clean and resource efficient technologies, and lower global greenhouse gas emissions.

- The central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is 15%; it is very unlikely to be less than 2% and is very unlikely to be more than 33%.
- The central estimate of change in summer mean precipitation is -23%; it is very unlikely to be less than -44% and is very unlikely to be more than 0%.
- 4.1.19. This means that the Yorkshire and Humber region is likely to experience, in the future, a warmer climate, with drier summers and wetter winters, which means that extreme events such as floods and droughts are likely to become less predictable and possibly more frequent.
- 4.1.20. The potential for climate change to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the Green Hammerton / Cattal area, is likely to increase the risks associated with climate change (including fluvial flooding) with an increased need for resilience and adaptation.
- 4.1.21. Flood risk at any specific location may be influenced by local factors such as existing formal or informal flood defences and the capacity of existing drainage systems or road/rail culverts. The adoption of SUDs and introduction of Green Infrastructure within development schemes may reduce the speed of surface water run-off and have positive effects in terms of flood risk. Green Infrastructure presents opportunities to address multiple issues through multifunctional spaces.
- 4.1.22. Development in any instance has the potential to exacerbate flood risk within and in the vicinity of the new settlement area by increasing the volume of surface water run-off, or by introducing areas of hard standing which could increase the speed of surface water run-off. The risk would be most increased if development were to locate in proximity of Flood Zone 2 or Flood Zone 3 areas, such as nearby Kirk Hammerton Beck or along the floodplain of the River Nidd.
- 4.1.23. Given that existing flood defences exist along the River Nidd, investment in additional flood defences is unlikely to be pursued unless necessary as a result of additional pressures.

4.3 Key headline issues

4.1.24. The key issues are as follows:

Flooding

- The New Settlement area falls predominantly within Flood Zone 1, although a stretch of Flood Zone 2 and 3 runs along Kirk Hammerton Beck. Therefore, the risk of fluvial flooding is relatively low.
- There is potential for surface water flooding to occur across the new settlement area, although areas susceptible to this are relatively isolated and the threat as a whole is considered to be low given the need to implement SUDs.

Carbon emissions

 Average CO² emissions per capita are declining in Harrogate District, but whilst these are below the average across North Yorkshire as a whole, per capita emissions are substantially higher in Harrogate District than the national average.

4.4 Scoping outcome

4.1.25. It is considered unlikely that significant negative effects would be generated with regards to flood risk. However, climatic factors have been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as climate change mitigation and resilience are important national and local priorities. There is the potential to explore how resilience to climate change can be enhanced as well as contributing towards flood risk mitigation.

- 4.1.26. With regards to climate change mitigation, greenhouse gas emissions can be minimised associated with transportation and the built environment. Given that sustainable transport is covered by another SEA theme (Transportation), it is proposed that this section will focus upon the potential for emissions reductions through the application of low carbon energy schemes and the layout and design of development.
- 4.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Climatic Factors SEA theme?
- 4.1.27. The SEA topic 'Climatic Factors' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 4.2 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

Table 4.2: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Climatic Factors

SEA Objective

Supporting Questions

Support the resilience of the Green Hammerton / Cattal area to flood risk

Will the option/proposal help to:

- Improve green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change?
- Sustainably manage surface water run-off, ensuring that the risk of flooding is not increased (either within the plan area or downstream) and where possible reduce flood risk?
- Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the plan area?

Contribute to climate change mitigation

Contribute to climate change Will the option/proposal help to:

Support the development of renewable and low carbon energy schemes?

5. Historic environment

Focus of theme:

- Designated and non-designated sites, areas and features;
- · The setting of heritage assets; and
- Archaeological features.

5.1 Policy Context

- 5.1.1. The **NPPF** (2018) sets out an environmental objective to contribute to protecting and enhancing the built and historic environment. The Framework provides a strategy to seek 'the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect'.
- 5.1.2. The Government's 'Statement on the Historic Environment for England'²⁷ (2010) sets out their vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life. Also of note is the reference to promoting the role of the historic environment within the Government's response to climate change and the wider sustainable development agenda.
- 5.1.3. The **Harrogate District Core Strategy** (2009) seeks development to not materially harm the archaeological and historic environment. It further sets out a vision to reduce the number of heritage assets at risk in the District.

5.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

- 5.2.1. As illustrated in Figure 5.1, a Grade II Listed Building is located within the new settlement area. A further two Listed Buildings are located adjacent to the New Settlement area and clusters of Listed Buildings and Structures are present in adjacent settlements of Green Hammerton and Kirk Hammerton.
- 5.2.2. There are no Registered Park and Garden located within the new settlement area or in its vicinity. The nearest Registered Park and Garden is Allerton Park located north-west of the area. A Scheduled Monument, Cattal Bridge, is located towards the south of the New Settlement area.
- 5.2.3. Whilst the area encompasses many Listed Buildings and heritage assets, there are no heritage features recorded as 'at risk' by Historic England in the Green Hammerton / Cattal area²⁸.
- 5.2.4. There are also no world heritage sites or their buffer zones located within the new settlement area or its vicinity. The closest site is Studley Royal Park located towards the north west of the area. Similarly, there are no conservation areas within the new settlement area. However, the north east of the new settlement area runs adjacent to the conservation area in Green Hammerton and there is a conservation area within the neighbouring settlement of Kirk Hammerton, as illustrated in Figure 5.1.
- 5.2.5. The plan area has potential to include areas of archaeological value. Rudgate and Dere Street Roman Roads run through this area and there is a high potential for Iron Age/Romano British remains anywhere in the vicinity.

²⁷ DDCMS (2010) The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-governments-statement-on-the-historic-environment-for-england ²⁸ According to Historic England Heritage at Risk 2018 records.

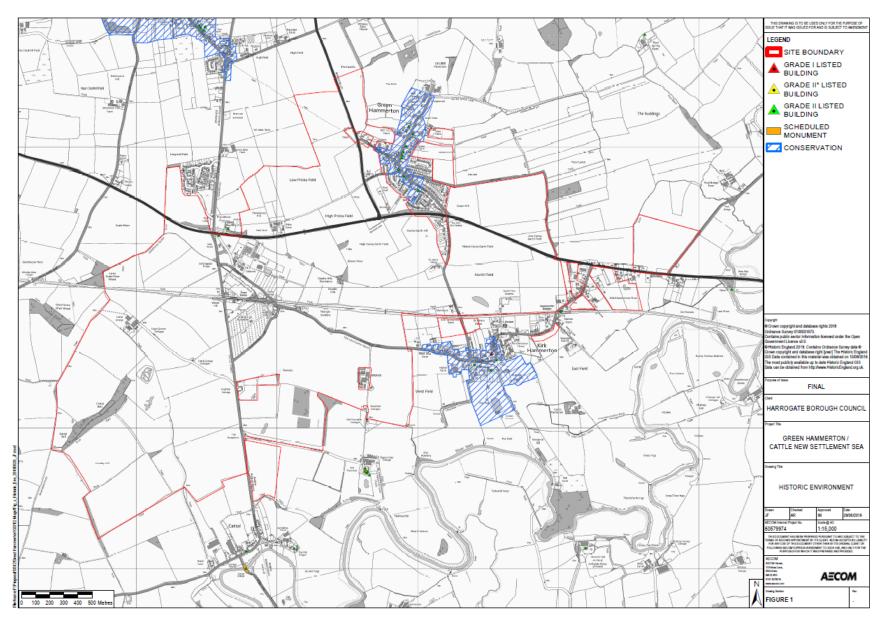
- 5.2.6. Iron Age/Romano British settlement has recently been recorded during archaeological work for development sites within Green Hammerton. There are also cropmarks in the area which have been mapped by the National Mapping Programme and interpreted as Iron Age/Romano British.
- 5.2.7. A search of the Historic Environment Record has been requested from the County Council, and the findings will be included in the next iteration of the scoping report. This will help to inform the appraisal of the Plan (and any reasonable alternatives).

Summary of future baseline

- 5.2.8. The development of the New Settlement has the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of cultural heritage assets and upon the character of the townscape and landscape. This may incur negative effects, such as the adoption of unsympathetic design and material choice, or positive effects through targeted redevelopment of underused land and buildings.
- 5.2.9. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations and the Historic Environment policies within the Harrogate Borough Development Plan will offer a degree of protection to cultural heritage assets and their settings.
- 5.2.10. In the absence of development, effects on archaeology are unlikely to be significant.

 However, the opportunity to discover and record features / items of interest would be lower.

Figure 5.1: Historic environment



5.3 Key headline issues

- 5.2.11. The key issues are as follows:
 - The new settlement area contains a considerable number of heritage assets including Listed Buildings and Structures, conservation areas, buildings of local importance, and archaeological remains which could be affected by development (either positively or negatively).

5.4 Scoping outcome

- 5.2.12. Historic Environment has been SCOPED IN to the SEA as there is potential for significant effects upon heritage assets and the character of the built and natural environment.
- 5.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Historic Environment SEA theme?
- 5.2.13. The SEA topic 'Historic Environment' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 5.1 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

Table 5.1: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Historic **Environment**

Supporting Questions

SEV	Ohi	ective
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Will the option/proposal help to:

Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character, function and enjoyment of the historic environment

- Conserve, better reveal the significance and enhance heritage assets, their setting and the wider historic environment?
- Contribute to better management of heritage assets?
- Identify and protect / enhance features of local cultural importance?
- Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?
- Support the protection and recording of archaeological features?

6. Landscape

Focus of theme:

- Landscape and townscape character; and
- Geodiversity.

6.1 Policy Context

- 6.1.1. The **NPPF** (2018) includes recognition for the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital. Importantly, great weight is to be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- 6.1.2. The Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' (2018) sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them. Actions proposed of relevance to the conservation and enhancement of landscape character are as follows:
 - Working with AONB authorities to deliver environmental enhancements.
 - Identifying opportunities for environmental enhancement of all England's Natural Character Areas, and monitoring indicators of landscape character and quality.
- 6.1.3. There are 159 Character Areas that collective form the **National Character Area Profiles** ²⁹ (2015) each of which is distinctive with a unique 'sense of place'. These broad divisions of landscape form the basic units of cohesive countryside character, on which strategies for both ecological and landscape issues can be based. The Vale of York and Southern Magnesian Limestone Character Areas cover the New Settlement area.
- 6.1.4. The **North Yorkshire and York Landscape Characterisation Project**³⁰ (2012) aims to map and describe landscapes at a regional scale. The report defines the New Settlement area as Magnesian Limestone Ridge character type (6).
- 6.1.5. The **Harrogate District Landscape Character Assessment**³¹ (2004) identifies areas of distinct landscape character across the Harrogate Borough Council administrative area. These areas are described in detail with regard to geology, landform, drainage, land use, vegetation, wildlife, built form and communications. It further sets out general guidelines relevant to the whole district but also specific guidelines for the management of each of the landscape character areas presented.
- 6.1.6. The Harrogate District Core Strategy (2009) makes many references to the preservation of the local landscape throughout the document. Policy SG4 requires development proposals to be appropriate to the form and character of landscape character. Policy EQ2 further seeks to protect the district's high quality natural and built environment including the landscape character of the district.

²⁹ In-depth profiles are available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles

³⁰ North Yorkshire County Council (2012) North Yorkshire and York Landscape Characterisation Project [online] available at: https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fileroot/Environment%20and%20waste/Conservation/North_Yorkshire_and_York_landscape_character_assessment_report.pdf

³¹ Harrogate Borough Council (2014) Harrogate District Landscape Character Assessment [online] available at:

³¹ Harrogate Borough Council (2014) Harrogate District Landscape Character Assessment [online] available at: https://www.harrogate.gov.uk/info/20102/conservation_landscape_and_ecology/572/landscape_character_assessment

6.2 Baseline Summary

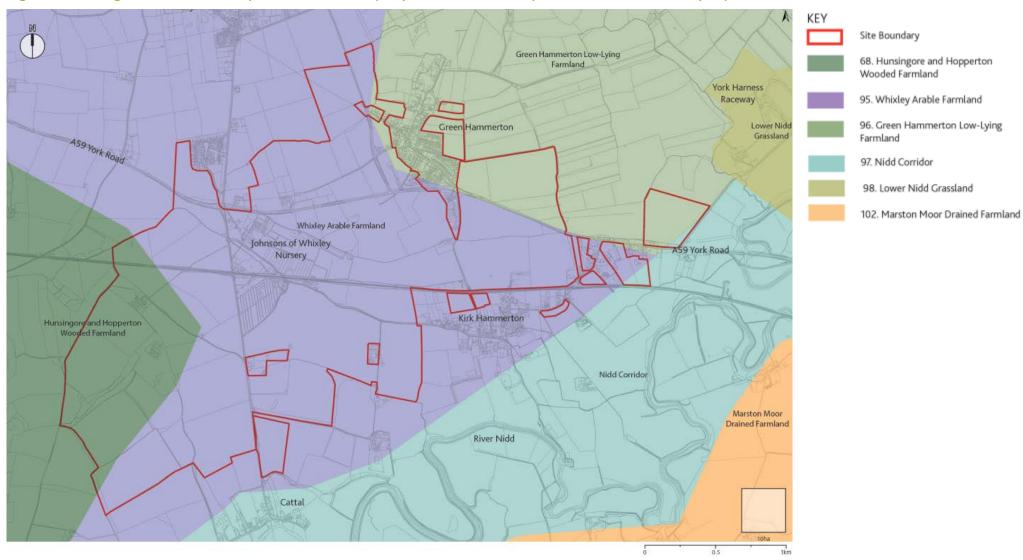
Summary of current baseline

- 6.2.1. The new settlement area lies within two National Landscape Character Areas; The Vale of York (28, east) is relatively flat, open and low lying land of predominantly agricultural land use. The Southern Magnesian Limestone area (30, west) is an elevated ridge comprising open, rolling arable farmland enclosed by hedgerows with plantation woodlands, historic estate properties and parkland.
- 6.2.2. At the county level, the new settlement area lies within the Magnesian Limestone Ridge character type (6) which is a low ridge of gently rolling landform facilitating long distance views, covered by a pattern of fertile farmland and well wooded estates. It is also a corridor to the A1(M) and limestone quarries are a relatively common feature.
- 6.2.3. The Harrogate District Landscape Character Assessment provides the most detailed assessment of the landscape character of the New Settlement area. Three landscape character areas cover the New Settlement area including Green Hammerton, Whixley and Hunsingore and Hopperton, illustrated in **Figure 6.1**.
- 6.2.4. The Green Hammerton area consists of low lying predominantly flat farmland, whilst Whixley forms arable farmland and Hunsingore and Hopperton forms wooded farmland and is characterised by the floodplain of the River Nidd.
- 6.2.5. The New Settlement area is situated approximately 17.5km to the south west of the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) boundary, and approximately 20.8km to the west of the Nidderdale AONB boundary. Whilst not within the border of either of these designated areas, consideration should be given to the effect of development on the preservation of these sensitive landscapes.
- 6.2.6. The North Yorkshire Moors National Park is located approximately 22.2km north east of the New Settlement area and the Yorkshire Dales National Park approximately 33.1km west. Both National Parks have good road access to the new settlement area and thus despite their distance from the area, consideration should be given to the effects of development on their preservation.

Summary of future baseline

- 6.2.7. With the expectation that large scale growth will occur in this location, the landscape character of the area is likely to be altered significantly. The nature of changes would depend upon the form and scale of development though.
- 6.2.8. In the absence of development in this location (I.e. should the proposed Local Plan not progress through to Adoption with the inclusion of this strategic location), then changes to landscape character in this area would be negligible. However, there would be a risk of speculative developments coming forward in the absence of an up to date Plan, which could lead to unforeseen impacts.
- 6.2.9. In any event, existing environment designations and planning policies will offer a degree of protection to landscape assets and their settings, as well as sensitive environments at the Howardian Hills and Nidderdale AONB and the National Parks. Lack of an overall vision and framework, however, could result in the delivery of different development styles, layouts and material choices.
- 6.2.10. The impact on the landscape could potentially be disruptive if this lack of cohesion continued. With the absence of coordination, there could also be missed opportunities to deliver strategic Green Infrastructure improvements.

Figure 6.1: Harrogate District Landscape Character Areas (adopted from the Concept Framework Baseline Report)



6.3 Key headline issues

- 6.3.1. The key issues are as follows:
 - The landscape is predominantly flat and low lying.
 - The development of the New Settlement is likely to have a considerable impact on local landscape, given the undeveloped nature of the Green Hammerton / Cattal area. Opportunities exist, however, for sensitive landscaping which may help to blur the development into the surrounding countryside.
 - Although not within the borders of the North Yorkshire Moors National Park, Yorkshire Dales National Park or Howardian Hills and Nidderdale AONB, the New Settlement area enjoys good road access to these areas and these landscape designations are valuable and sensitive landscape assets which require protection from potential growth.

6.4 Scoping outcome

- 6.3.2. Landscape has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as there is potential for significant effects upon the setting of landscape and the character of the natural environment (whether positive or negative).
- 6.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Landscape SEA theme?
- 6.3.3. The SEA topic 'Landscape' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 6.1 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

Table 6.1: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Landscape

SEA Objective

Supporting Questions

Will the option/proposal help to:

Ensure that development protects and complements important landscape features whilst retaining a rural character

- Conserve and enhance the character and quality of landscapes?Contribute to better management of landscape assets?
- Maintain areas of 'tranquility'?
- Be mindful of 'dark skies'?
- Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the surrounding landscape?
- Improve linkages to open space and the countryside?

7. Land and Soil

Focus of theme:

- Soil resource; and
- · Soil quality.

7.1 Policy Context

- 7.1.1. The EU's **Soil Thematic Strategy**³² (2006) presents a strategy for protecting soils resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity and food safety.
- 7.1.2. The **NPPF** (2018) states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued soil and the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. Policies should also prevent new and existing development from 'contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution'.
- 7.1.3. In **Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England**³³ (2009), a vision is set out for the future of soils in the country. It suggests that changing demands on our soils need to be better understood and it must be ensured that appropriate consideration is given to soils in the planning process.
- 7.1.4. The Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' (2018) sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them. This includes using and managing land sustainably by protecting the best agricultural land, improving soil health and restoring and protecting peatlands.

7.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

- 7.2.1. The Agricultural Land Classification classifies land into six grades (plus 'non-agricultural' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3a are the 'best and most versatile' land and Grades 3b to 5 are of poorer quality.
- 7.2.2. According to the provisional agricultural land classification (Natural England), the new settlement area consists of mostly Grade 2 and Grade 3 agricultural land (as illustrated in Figure 7.1 below).
- 7.2.3. From this data, it is unclear whether the Grade 3 land is amongst the best and most versatile, but most of the area does fall within this status.
- 7.2.4. Furthermore, detailed surveys to the north of the railway (As part of the EIA for 18/02240/EIAMAJ) suggests that the majority of agricultural land in this location is Grade 3a. To the south, much of the area is classified as Grade 2 or 3, but this too may actually be more likely to be Grade 3a (further testing of this land needs to be undertaken to confirm though).

Summary of future baseline

7.2.5. In the absence of growth in this location, the loss of soil resources would be avoided, but would no doubt occur in other locations instead.

³² European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Strategy [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/three_en.htm
³³ Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available at: http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/land/soil/documents/soil-strategy.pdf

7.2.6. Due to this location being identified for strategic development, the land and soil quality would be dramatically changed over time. There should be opportunities to incorporate existing green spaces and features within the development though.

7.3 Key headline issues

- 7.2.7. The key issues are as follows:
 - Development will likely lead to a loss of soil resources. Where possible areas of
 most value should be avoided, though this may be difficult given the extent of best
 and most versatile agricultural land involved.

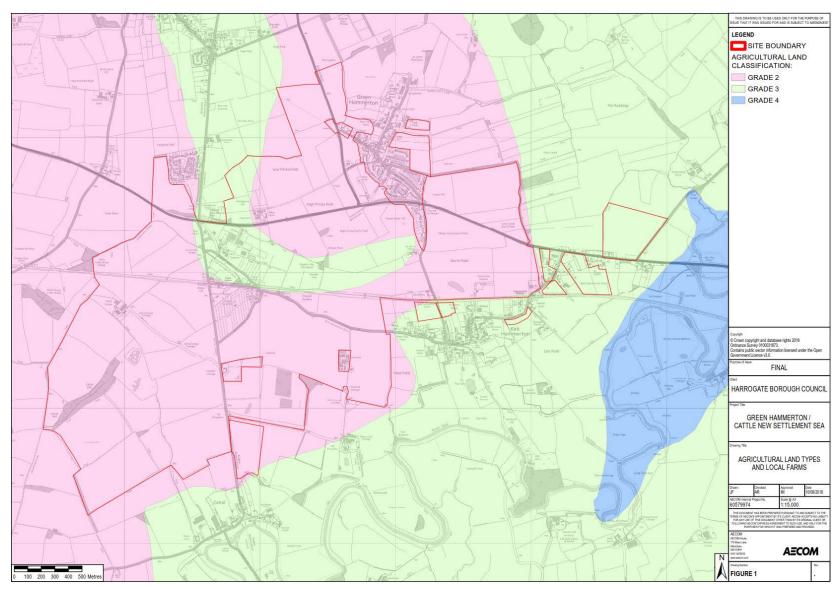
7.4 Scoping outcome

- 7.3.1. The topic of 'Land and Soil' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA.
- 7.3.2. The principle of growth occurring in this location has been established in the Local Plan, and therefore alternative broad areas for growth across the Borough have already been appraised as part of the supporting SA.
- 7.3.3. Given the amount of agricultural land present in the area, there is limited potential to avoid the loss of agricultural land at this location itself. Therefore alternatives for the new settlement DPD would be expected to perform similarly in this respect.
- 7.3.4. In the context of agricultural land resources across the Borough and in the wider area, the effects are not considered to be significant. However, a loss of best and most versatile agricultural land is inherently negative, and opportunities to minimise loss should be explored. Consequently, this topic is scoped in to the SEA.
- 7.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Land and Soil SEA theme?
- 7.4.1. The SEA topic 'Land and Soil' has been **SCOPED-IN** to the SEA. Table 7.1 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

Table 7.1: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Land and Soil

Minimise the avoidable loss of the most valuable soils and agricultural land Will the option/proposal help to: Minimise the loss of the most valuable soils, where possible? Compensate for the loss of productive agricultural land?

Figure 7.1: Agricultural Land Classification



8. Water Resources

Focus of theme:

- Watercourses;
- Water availability; and
- Water quality.

8.1 Policy Context

- 8.1.1. The **NPPF** (2018) suggests the importance for development to have adequate provision for water supply and wastewater. It further asserts that development should not have any unacceptable detrimental effects on water quality.
- 8.1.2. The **Future Water**³⁴ strategy (2011) seeks to achieve a secure supply of water resources whilst protecting the water environment. This means greater efficiency in water use, application of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, managing diffuse pollution from agriculture, tackling flood risk and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- 8.1.3. The Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' (2018) sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them. This includes respecting nature by using our water more sustainably and requiring developments to bring about a *net environmental gain* which can include water quality improvements.
- 8.1.4. The **Draft Water Resources Management Plan**³⁵ (2018) by Yorkshire Water sets out how the organisation will ensure the sufficient supply of water over a 25 year period. This should help to ensure that new development is capable of being serviced without generating significant effects on water resources.

8.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

- 8.2.1. Kirk Hammerton Beck runs horizontally between the eastern and western boundaries of the new settlement area, and is a tributary of the River Nidd; which acts as the main watercourse in the Green Hammerton / Cattal locality.
- 8.2.2. Caskill Beck runs along part of the northern boundary of the new settlement area and intersects at the land behind Boroughbridge Road. Pool Beck further borders the detached plot along Pool Lane and intersects along its north-western boundary. There is also a minor unnamed watercourse, which is predominantly underground, within the south west of the new settlement area.
- 8.2.3. The new settlement area falls within the Swale, Ure, Nidd and Upper Ouse Catchment Area, and is subject to the Swale, Ure, Nidd and Upper Ouse Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy. In order to extract water for consumptive purposes, the local availability needs to be understood. If there is more water than required to meet the needs of the environment, water is considered to be available for licensing and extracting.

³⁴ Defra (2011) Future Water – The government's water strategy for England [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-water-the-government-s-water-strategy-for-england ³⁵ Yorkshire Water (2018) Draft Water Resources Management Plan [online] available at: https://www.yorkshirewater.com/sites/default/files/downloads/Draft%20Water%20Resources%20Management%20Plan%20201 9_0.pdf

- 8.2.4. The River Nidd is mapped as having surface water and ground water availability, meaning that water extraction is possible ³⁶.
- 8.2.5. The source of the River Nidd is on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. From here it runs into Gouthwaite Reservoir then through Nidderdale and on into the Vale of York. The New Settlement area falls within the Nidd Middle and Lower Operational Catchment area which includes 13 waterbodies, the majority of which are classified 'moderate' (8) or 'poor' (5) for ecology and chemical, as recorded in 2016 Cycle 2³⁷.
- 8.2.6. Activities such as agriculture and rural land managements are amongst reasons for the River Nidd not achieving 'good' ecological and chemical status along this section of the river.
- 8.2.7. Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) have been designated by the Environment Agency in England and Wales to protect groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs that are used for public drinking water supply. The zones show the risk of contamination from activities that might cause groundwater pollution in the area. The New Settlement area falls within a SPZ of zones 1 and 2.
- 8.2.8. The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires Member States to identify areas where groundwaters have nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or are thought to be at risk of nitrate contamination. Areas associated with such groundwaters are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) within which, Member States are required to establish Action Programmes in order to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination. The New Settlement area falls within the G103 Vale of York Groundwaters NVZ and the Nidd from Crimple Beck to River Ouse Surface Waters NVZ.

Summary of future baseline

- 8.2.9. In terms of water quality, legal requirements for water quality, as set out in the Water Framework Directive, are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality in watercourses in the wider area. However, water quality could be affected by pollution incidents in the area, the presence of non-native species and physical modifications to water bodies.
- 8.2.10. Water availability in the area may be affected by increases in population and an increased occurrence of drought exacerbated by the effects of climate change.
- 8.2.11. Development which requires sewage treatment may, if not designed correctly or located appropriately, result in an increased risk of pollution to groundwater and surface water.

 Development will therefore need to have due consideration to the capacity of sewage works.
- 8.2.12. In the absence of development, the presence of nitrates in water may persist given the agricultural nature of the land in this area. With a change in use to housing/employment land, the run off of such chemicals is likely to reduce.

8.3 Key headline issues

- 8.3.1. The key issues are as follows:
 - The River Nidd is mapped as having surface water and groundwater availability, meaning that water extraction is possible.
 - New Settlement area falls within the Nidd Middle and Lower Operational Catchment area which includes 13 waterbodies, the majority of which are classified 'moderate' (8) or 'poor' (5) for ecology and chemical status.
 - The New Settlement area falls within a SPZ of zones 1 and 2.

³⁶ Environment Agency (2013) Swale, Ure, Nidd and Upper Ouse Abstraction Licensing Strategy [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/307283/lit_7868_513802.pdf
³⁷ Environment Agency (2016) Catchment Data Explorer [online] available at: https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/OperationalCatchment/3308/Summary

 The New Settlement area falls within the G103 - Vale of York Groundwaters NVZ and the Nidd from Crimple Beck to River Ouse Surface Waters NVZ.

8.4 Scoping outcome

- 8.4.1. The topic of 'Water Resources' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as there are areas within and in the vicinity of the New Settlement area that fall within a Groundwater Protection Zone and Nitrate Vulnerable Zones. It is possible that development could affect water quality in such areas. Changes to land use could also have effects upon surface water NVZ.
- What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Water Resources SEA theme?
- 8.5.1. The SEA topic 'Water Resources' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 8.1 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

Table 8.1: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Water Resources

SEA Objective	Supporting Questions		
Protect and enhance the quality of watercourses, ground and surface water quality.	 Will the option/proposal help to: Protect groundwater quality in the NVZ? Minimise water consumption? Reduce surface water pollution? 		

9. **Population and Housing**

Focus of theme:

- Population size;
- Age structure;
- Deprivation;
- House prices and affordability; and
- Housing types and needs.

9.1 **Policy Context**

- 9.1.1. The NPPF (2018) contains as part of its three overall overarching objectives, a social objective to 'support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations'. It further emphasises the need for homes to be of a size, type and tenure to meet needs of different social groups, with at least 10% of new homes to be provided for affordable home ownership subject to conditions and exemptions.
- In February 2017, the Government published a housing white paper entitled 'Fixing our 9.1.2. broken housing market'. This establishes the government's plans to reform the housing market and increase the supply of new homes in England through a series of four proposals. These including planning for the right homes in the right places, building homes faster, diversifying the house building market and supporting people in need of housing.
- The Harrogate District Strategic Housing Market Assessment³⁸ (2016) provides a review 9.1.3. of housing requirements in Harrogate District for the period 2014-2035 and developed an objective assessment of the need for additional housing provision. The report concludes that an additional 557 dwelling per annum are required within the local plan area.
- 9.1.4. The Harrogate District Core Strategy (2009) aims to support the growth of housing including affordable housing in the District. In regards to housing in village and countryside locations, it supports housing 'for local people at affordable prices, focusing on those settlements with the best range of services and facilities'.

9.2 **Baseline Summary**

Summary of current baseline

- The population of Harrogate District is currently estimated at 160,600³⁹. In 2016, the 9.2.1. population of Harrogate District was 159,800, having grown by 0.7% since 2011 (158,700).
- 9.2.2. Collating the three LSOAs that intersect with the New Settlement area provides an approximate indication of the population within its vicinity⁴⁰. The local population of the New Settlement area was 6,187 in 2016, an increase of 12% since 2011 (5,529). The Office for National Statistics predicts that the population of Harrogate District will increase by 0.8% to 161,900 by 2028 and by 1.3% to 162,700 in 20 years' time (2038).
- 9.2.3. Table 9.1 shows the age structure of the local population (by collating the three intersecting LSOAs) in comparison with the District and national averages. It is apparent that the area local to the new settlement area has a much higher than average 15-24 year old and lower than average 25-44 year old population compared to the district and nationally.

³⁸ Harrogate Borough Council (2016) Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update [online] available at: https://www.harrogate.gov.uk/downloads/file/1569/harrogate_borough_council_strategic_housing_market_assessment_shma_ update_report_june_2016

ONS Population Projections 2018

⁴⁰ The three LSOAs that intersect are used are as follows: Harrogate 016C, Harrogate 016D and Harrogate 016E.

9.2.4. Both Harrogate District and the area within the vicinity of the new settlement area also have a higher proportion of elderly people.

Table 9.1: Age Structure in 2016 (ONS Population Estimates)

	Area within the vicinity of the New Settlement (LSOAs Harrogate 016C, 016D, 016E)	Harrogate District	Great Britain
0-15	17.1%	17.8%	18.8%
15-24	20.3%	9.6%	12.2%
25-44	14.6%	22%	26.4%
45-64	28.4%	29.3%	25.7%
65-84	16.4%	19.3%	15.8%
85+	3.2%	3.3%	2.4%
Total population	6,187	159,800	63,785,900

- With regards to housing delivery, Table 9.2 shows that over the last 5 years 283 dwellings 9.2.5. were completed on average per annum; considerably short of the target set by the HEDNA⁴¹.
- A variation in delivery rates is also apparent, with the highest number recorded in 2014/15 9.2.6. (414) and the lowest a year earlier in 2013/14 (183). The recent trend in net completions suggest an increase in housing delivery in the District, but there is a clear need for growth

Table 9.2: Net Housing Completions in Harrogate District (Source: Harrogate Borough Council)

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Completions (net)	261	188	200	183	414	305	316
Housing requirements	390 ¹	390	390	390	669 ²	669	669
Under Supply	-129	-202	-190	-207	- 255	-364	-353

¹ Annualised housing figure from adopted Harrogate District Core Strategy

9.2.7. Harrogate District has a considerably higher number of owned households compared to the rest of England (see Table 9.3). Subsequently there were fewer households which were classified under socially rented and shared ownership.

² Annualised housing figure from HEDNA (2017)

⁴¹ Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment.

Table 9.3: Housing Tenure in 2011 (ONS Housing Tenure)

	Harrogate (numbers)	Harrogate (%)	England (%)
All Categories	67,169	-	-
Owned (Total)	47,738	71%	63.3%
Shared Ownership	395	0.6%	0.8%
Socially Rented	6,138	9.1%	17.7%
Private Rented	11,771	17.5%	16.8%
Living Rent Free	11,127	16.7%	1.3%

- 9.2.8. The average house price in Harrogate District in March 2018 (£279,280) showed a 2.2% increase on March 2017 (see Figure 9.1).
- 9.2.9. Average prices in Harrogate are significantly higher when compared to neighbouring local authority areas and the country as a whole. For example, the average price in the housing market area of Hambleton was £228,345, in York it was £240,743, and in North Yorkshire it was £217,967⁴².
- 9.2.10. The average detached house price in the borough of Harrogate in March 2018 was £451,899, which is a 2.8% increase on March 2017. The average semi-detached house price was £270,833, and the average terrace was £223,637. In comparison, average prices of semidetached for the market area of Hambleton were £207,231, in York it was £245,331, and in North Yorkshire it was £207,002.
- 9.2.11. Average house prices in the borough of Harrogate are not only significantly higher than neighbouring areas, but also higher than average house price values across North Yorkshire (£217,967) and the nation as a whole (£224,144).

Table 9.1: Average house prices for all property types May 2013 to May 2018 (Source: **New Settlement Concept Framework)**



⁴² Harrogate Borough Council (2018) New Settlement Concept Framework: Property Market Appendix.

Summary of future baseline

- 9.2.12. The Harrogate District Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2016) suggests that due to a combination of factors including the forecasted increase in population, 557 additional dwellings are required annually in Harrogate District between 2014 and 2035 to meet local housing needs.
- 9.2.13. According to property market analysis undertaken as part of the planning for the New Settlement⁴³, Harrogate District is a very strong market area with demand currently outstripping supply to a significant degree, particularly for family housing. Therefore, it is likely that the demand will continue.
- 9.2.14. In the absence of an up to date Local Plan it is possible that speculative housing developments could be proposed and won on appeal.

9.3 Key headline issues

- 9.2.15. The key issues are as follows:
 - The population local to the new settlement area has increased by 12% between 2011 and 2016.
 - Net completions in the Harrogate District have fallen short of local housing need in recent years.
 - Average house prices in Harrogate District are considerably higher than neighbouring areas and have increased by 2.2% over the last year.
 - The population within the immediate vicinity of the new settlement is overrepresented in the 15-24 age group and under-represented in the 25-44 age group.

9.4 Scoping outcome

- 9.2.16. There is a need to provide new housing across the district, with development at a new settlement likely to contribute significantly towards needs. In particular, a large-scale development could help to provide a wider range of housing including affordable homes.
- 9.2.17. Given that the principle of a large-scale development has been established in this location, (and is proposed in the emerging Local Plan), the scope for further effects with regards to housing would be dependent upon the scale, type and mix to be secured.
- 9.2.18. The SEA has the potential to explore how positive effects on housing can be maximised, but it is anticipated that the effects of different spatial approaches would not be too dissimilar. Nevertheless, the SEA topic 'Population and Housing' has been SCOPED IN to the SEA.
- 9.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Population and Housing SEA theme?
- 9.2.19. The SEA topic 'Population and Housing' has been scoped-in to the SEA. Table 9.4 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

Prepared for: Harrogate Borough Council

⁴³ Harrogate Borough Council (2018) New Settlement Concept Framework: Property Market Appendix.

Table 9.4: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Population and Housing

SEA Objective

Supporting Questions

Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.

Will the option/proposal help to:

- Support the provision of a responsive range of house types and sizes to meet identified needs?
- Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs throughout their lives?
- Enhance housing provision in existing communities?

10. Health and Wellbeing

Focus of theme:

- · Health indicators and deprivation; and
- Influences on health and wellbeing.

10.1 Policy Context

- 10.1.1. The **NPPF** (2018) contains as part of its three overall overarching objectives, a social objective to 'support strong, vibrant and healthy communities... by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment'. It also states that 'access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities'.
- 10.1.2. The Framework further outlines that the planning system should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places that are designed to promote social interactions, are safe and accessible and enable and support healthy lifestyles.
- 10.1.3. Fair Society, Healthy Lives ('**The Marmot Review**')⁴⁴ (2011) investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that that there is: 'overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities'.
- 10.1.4. The Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' (2018) sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them. Relevant proposals include connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing by:
 - Using green spaces including through mental health services.
 - Encouraging children to be close to nature, in and out of school, with particular focus on disadvantaged areas.
 - Greening our towns and cities by creating green infrastructure and planting one million urban trees.
 - Making 2019 a year of action for the environment, working with Step Up To Serve and other partners to help children and young people from all backgrounds to engage with nature and improve the environment.
- 10.1.5. The **North Yorkshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2020**⁴⁵ identifies the main health and wellbeing challenges across the county under 5 overarching themes and sets out priorities to address the challenges.
- 10.1.6. The Harrogate District Core Strategy (2009) makes many references to protect, enhance and increase the provision of green infrastructure across the District. It further sets out requirements for inclusive communities where all people have access to health, sport and recreation facilities.

⁴⁴ The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available at:

http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/12111/53895/53895.pdf
⁴⁵ Health and Wellbeing Board North Yorkshire. Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2020 [online] available at: http://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/jhws

10.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

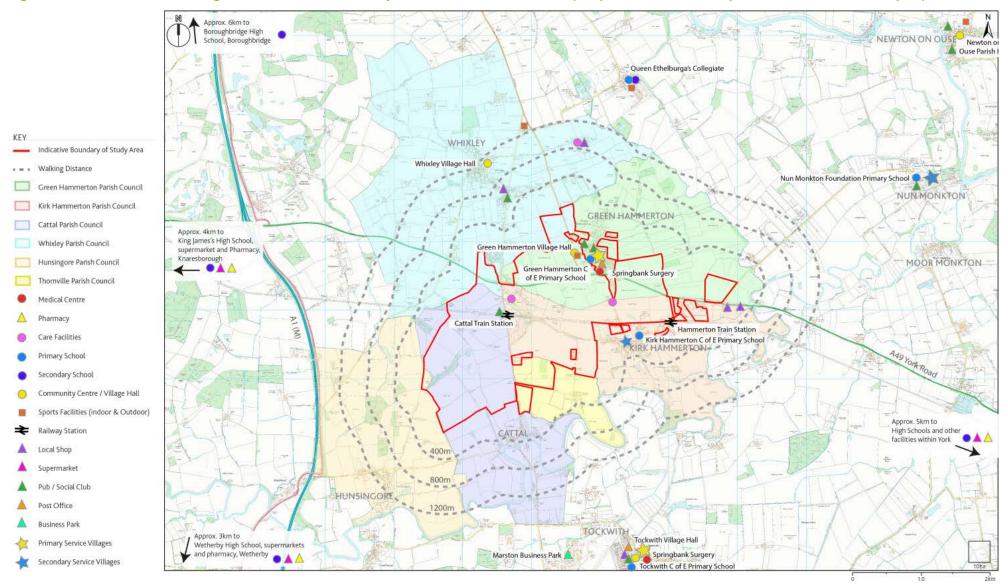
- 10.2.1. According to the Harrogate Health Profile 2018⁴⁶, the health of people in the District is varied compared with the England average.
 - The life expectancy for both males and females and the under 75 mortality rate for all causes is significantly better in Harrogate District than the regional and England averages.
 - In contrast, alcohol specific or related stays in hospital and smoking prevalence in adults is worse than the England average.
 - People in Harrogate District are significantly more active than those across England and slightly less likely to be overweight.
 - The under 18 conception rate is significantly better in Harrogate District compared to the England average. Similarly, new sexually transmitted infections rate is also significantly better.
- 10.2.2. The closest hospital, Clifton Park in York, is approximately located 9.2 miles from the new settlement area. The closest hospital with an A&E department, Harrogate District Hospital, is located approximately 9.5 miles from the new settlement area. There is also a medical centre, Springbank Surgery, located in Green Hammerton. Health and wellbeing facilities within the Green Hammerton / Cattal area are illustrated in Figure 10.1.
- 10.2.3. The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD) is an overall relative measure of deprivation constructed by combining seven domains of deprivation according to their respective weights, as described below. The seven deprivation domains are as follows:
 - **Income**: The proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income, including those individuals that are out-of-work and those that are in work.
 - **Employment**: The proportion of the working-age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market, including those who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness / disability, or caring responsibilities.
 - **Education, Skills and Training**: The lack of attainment and skills in the local population.
 - Health Deprivation and Disability: The risk of premature death and the impairment
 of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. Morbidity, disability and
 premature mortality are also considered, excluding the aspects of behaviour or
 environment that may be predictive of future health deprivation.
 - Crime: The risk of personal and material victimisation at local level.
 - Barriers to Housing and Services: The physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services.
 - **Living Environment**: The quality of the local environment, including the quality of housing stock, air quality and road traffic incidents.

Two indices, subsets of the Income deprivation domain, are also included:

- **Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index**: The proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families.
- **Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index**: The proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation.

⁴⁶ Public Health England (2018) Harrogate Local Authority Health Profile 2018 [online] available at: https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles

Figure 10.1: Health and Wellbeing facilities within the vicinity of the New Settlement area (adopted from the Concept Framework Baseline Report)



10.2.4. As illustrated in Figure 10.2 below, most of the new settlement area falls within the 40% least deprived areas in England, with the northern parts of the site towards Whixley being amongst the 30% least deprived. As there is a strong correlation between deprivation and health, this complements the findings of the Health Profiles and suggests a higher than average level of health and wellbeing.

Figure 10.2: Indicies of Multiple Deprivation 2015 in the area within and in the vicinity of the New Settlement area (Adopted from the MHCLG Indicies of Multiple Deprivation 2015 Explorer)



- 10.2.5. Access to open space and green infrastructure is widely recognised to have a positive effect on the health of communities by encouraging and facilitating outdoor activity.
- 10.2.6. The new settlement area and wider vicinity includes several play areas, allotments and accessible green spaces. However, the new settlement area has inadequate access to outdoor sports facilities and parks.
- 10.2.7. Figure 10.3 below illustrates the extent and location of open space, green infrastructure and recreational facilities in the Green Hammerton / Cattal area.

Summary of future baseline

- 10.2.8. In the absence of further development, the predominant land use in the area would remain to be agricultural in nature. The existing community facilities would be anticipated to remain in use, but this is difficult to predict. It is unlikely that levels of deprivation would change substantially.
- 10.2.9. With any large-scale development, the demand for health and recreation facilities within the Green Hammerton / Cattal area would increase. Therefore, there would be a need to widen and enhance the choice and quality of facilities available to new and existing communities.

Figure 10.3: Green Infrastructure / lesiure facilities within the vicinity of the new settlement area (adopted from the Concept Framework Report, 2018)



10.3 Key headline issues

10.3.1. The key issues are as follows:

- Harrogate District has a broadly healthy population with higher than national average life expectancy.
- The Green Hammerton / Cattal area has lower than average levels of deprivation when compared to areas nationally.
- There are several health and recreational facilities within the vicinity of the new settlement area but there is inadequate access to outdoor sports facilities and parks.
- There would be a need for new health and recreational facilities to support population growth in the Green Hammerton / Cattal area, which is predominantly rural at present.

10.4 Scoping outcome

- 10.4.1. The SEA topic 'Health and Wellbeing' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as the Plan has the potential to help tackle inequalities in access to quality green space and recreational facilities. There will also be a need to address future healthcare infrastructure
- 10.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Health and Wellbeing SEA theme?
- 10.5.1. The SEA topic 'Health and Wellbeing' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 10.1 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

Table 10.1: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Health and Wellbeing

SEA Objective

Supporting Questions

Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents by enhancing the quality and accessibility of open space, facilities for recreation and health.

Will the option/proposal help to:

- Promote accessibility and availability to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all community groups?
- Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards?
- Improve access to local parks?

11. Transportation

Focus of theme:

- Transportation infrastructure;
- Traffic flow and congestion;
- Accessibility;
- Car ownership; and
- Travel to work;

11.1 Policy Context

- 11.1.1. The NPPF (2018) requires that 'transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making'. The scale, location and density of development should reflect 'opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure'. To help reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health the planning system should focus significant development 'on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes'. The Framework also requires that planning policies support an appropriate mix of uses across an area to further help reduce the need to travel as well as the provision of high quality walking and cycling network.
- 11.1.2. The **Transport for the North Strategic Transport Plan**⁴⁷ (2018) sets out a plan for transport infrastructure investment in the North of England with an aim of supporting economic growth through enhanced connectivity and higher productivity.
- 11.1.3. The **North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan** ⁴⁸ (2016) sets out the council's priorities, plans and strategies for managing, maintaining and improving all aspects of the local transport system over the 30 year period. The objectives of the LTP include supporting economic growth, improve road and transport safety, improving access to services, managing adverse impacts of transport on the environment and promoting healthier travel opportunities.
- 11.1.4. The **Harrogate District Core Strategy** (2009) aims to integrate development and transport provision and locate development where it is accessible to key services and facilities and a range of transport modes. It also encourages public transport, walking and cycle routes provision and emphasises its importance it rural areas.

11.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

- 11.1.5. The new settlement area is well served by the national highway network with the A59 York Road, that connects Harrogate with York and the A1(M), intersecting through the northern part of the area. A secondary road (B6265) connects the rest of the northern part of the New Settlement area to the A59 and several tertiary roads connect the southern part of the area to the strategic road.
- 11.1.6. A network of roads provides good interconnectivity within the new settlement area and to settlements nearby including Green Hammerton, Kirk Hammerton and Cattal. Both the A59 and the A1(M) are currently congested at peak times and do not have the capacity to accommodate significant housing growth in the Green Hammerton / Cattal area⁴⁹.

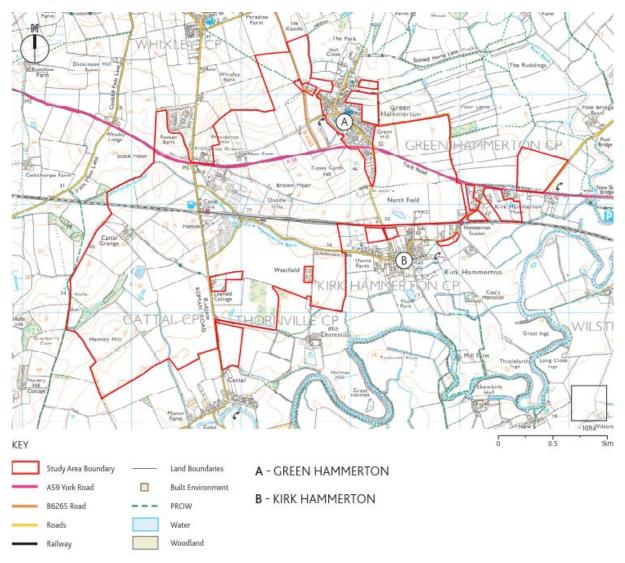
 ⁴⁷ Transport for the North (2018) Strategic Transport Plan [online] available at: https://transportforthenorth.com/stp/
 48 North Yorkshore county Council (2016) North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2016-2045 [online] available at:

⁴⁸ North Yorkshore county Council (2016) North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2016-2045 [online] available at: https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/local-transport-plan

https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/local-transport-plan ⁴⁹ Harrogate Borough Council (2018) Green Hammerton / Cattal New Settlement Concept Framework – Transport and Movement Appendix.

11.1.7. Figure 11.1 below illustrates the transport infrastructure and Public Rights of Ways within and in the vicinity of the New Settlement area.

Figure 11.1: Transport Infrastructure and Public Right of Ways (adopted from the Concept Framework)



- 11.1.8. The new settlement area is served by two railway stations, Cattal and Hammerton stations, both along the Harrogate line that connects between Leeds with York.
- 11.1.9. Cattal station falls within the boundary of the broad new settlement area whereas Hammerton station falls immediately adjacent. Both stations generally benefit from an hourly eastbound service to York and a westbound service to Leeds. The frequencies of these services vary between peak and non-peak times.
- 11.1.10. Whilst trains may not be very frequent, journey times to a number of key destinations are within a convenient daily commute as evidenced in Table 11.1

Table 11.1: Typical rail journey times

	From Cattal	From Hammerton
Knaresborough	8 mins	11 mins
Harrogate	17 mins	20 mins
Leeds	54 mins	59 mins
York	24 mins	20 mins

- 11.1.11.A limited bus service, route 22/23, provides a 2 hourly service between York and Harrogate via Boroughbridge, Ripon and Knaresborough.
- 11.1.12. Whilst journey times to York (25 minutes) and Boroughbridge (27 minutes) are reasonable, journey times to Knaresborough (1 hour 42 minutes) and Harrogate (2 hours 4 minutes) are unattractive due to the services indirect routeing. However, the service provides access to many local destinations that are not accessible by rail or any other form of public transport, in particular Boroughbridge which provides secondary education.
- 11.1.13. Figure 11.2 illustrates how most of the new settlement area falls within reasonable catchment of either rail or bus services. However, it further demonstrates how much of the area has no convenient access to bus services.
- 11.1.14. As illustrated in Figure 11.1, there are several Public Right of Ways (PRoWs) surrounding and connecting within the new settlement area. The main footways within the new settlement area run east/ west along the railway line and the A59. A series of PRoWs further run north/south across the fields around the new settlement area.
- 11.1.15. According to Census data, local residents in the Green Hammerton / Cattal area are less likely to travel to work by sustainable modes of transport such as public transport (see Table 11.2) when compared with the national average.
- 11.1.16. A significantly greater proportion of people tend to work from home, which can be considered to be sustainable in that it avoids the need for transportation. However, this could also highlights the poor local transport access to employment.

Table 11.2: Methods of travel to work (Census 2011)

	Green Hammerton / Cattal area	England and Wales	Difference
Work mainly from home	15%	5.4%	9.6%
Underground, metro, light rail or tram	0.1%	3.9%	-3.8%
Train	2.7%	5.2%	-2.5%
Bus, minibus or coach	1%	7.3%	-6.3%
Taxi	0.2%	0.5%	-0.4%
Motocycle, scooter or moped	0.6%	0.8%	-0.2%
Driving a car or a van	67.5%	57.5%	9.9%
Passenger in a car or a van	3.8%	5.1%	-1.3%

Bicycle	1.1%	2.9%	-1.8%	
On foot	7.2%	10.7%	-3.5%	
Other	0.8%	0.7%	0.1%	

11.1.17. Due to the rural nature of the new settlement area and its vicinity, car parking and cycle infrastructure is minimal with the exception of facilities at the Cattal and Hammerton railway stations.

Summary of future baseline

11.1.18. The proposed allocation for housing and development in the emerging Local Plan for the Green Hammerton / Cattal area is likely to result in higher amounts of traffic along the A59. As the main thoroughfare does not have the capacity to accommodate additional road users during peak times, this will likely result in further congestion. However, a greater local population and subsequent demand for public transport will provide opportunities to increase bus and rail provision which should make these sustainable modes of transport more attractive and help reduce the current excessive car use.

Study Area Boundary Bus Stop Rail Station Bus Stop 400m Catchment 0.5 1km

Figure 11.2: Existing public transport accessibility catchments (adopted from the New Settlement Concept Framework)

11.3 Key headline issues

11.1.19. The key issues are as follows:

- The new settlement area is well served by the national highway network but may need to increase capacity to accommodate additional traffic as a result of substantial development in the Green Hammerton / Cattle area.
- The built up areas within the new settlement area are served by bus and rail with connections to York, Harrogate and Leeds.
- Local residents in the Green Hammerton / Cattal area are more likely to travel by car compared to the national average.

11.4 Scoping outcome

11.1.20. The SEA topic 'Transportation' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA, as large scale development in this area is likely to generate additional traffic and movement in the Green Hammerton / Cattal area.

11.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Transportation SEA theme?

11.1.21. The SEA topic 'Transportation' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 11.3 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

Table 11.3: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Transportation

SEA Objective

Supporting Questions

Will the option/proposal help to:

Reduce the need to travel and support modal shift to active and sustainable modes of travel such as walking, cycling and public transport.

- Increase the range, availability and affordability of sustainable travel choices i.e. public transport, walking, cycling?
- Improve road safety?
- Promote sustainable patterns of land use and development that reduce the need to travel and reliance on the private car?
- Enable transport infrastructure improvements?

12. Economy

Focus of theme:

- Rural economies;
- Employment land and opportunities; and
- Unemployment / economic activity.

12.1 Policy Context

- 12.1.1. The **NPPF** (2018) contains an economic objective to 'help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity'.
- 12.1.2. It also requires that planning seeks to 'create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt' with policies required to 'to address potential barriers to investment, such as inadequate infrastructure, services or housing, or a poor environment'. Planning policies are also required specifically to address support for the rural economy.
- 12.1.3. The **Northern Powerhouse strategy**⁵⁰ (2016) sets out how the government will work with local stakeholders to increase productivity and economic growth across the North of England. It outlines a commitment by the government to invest in transport infrastructure, support the growth of skills, innovation and businesses and to establish a strong 'Northern Powerhouse' brand that is well recognised around the world.
- 12.1.4. The **Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan**⁵¹ (2014) sets out targets for jobs growth and economic output in the City Region area and proposes a strategy for delivering this. It identifies four key priorities as follows:
 - Unlocking the potential of businesses in key economic sectors;
 - Making the most of a skilled and flexible workforce;
 - A resource smart City Region; and
 - Creating an environment for growth (through major cities, housing and transport).
- 12.1.5. The York, North Yorkshire, and the East Riding Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan⁵² (2014) sets out a vision for economic growth in the City Region area. It identifies fie key priorities:
 - Supporting the growth and innovation of small and micro businesses;
 - Becoming a global leader in food manufacturing, agri-tech and bio-renewables
 - Improving inspiration and skills amongst the local workforce
 - Creating economically successful places; and
 - A well-connected economy.
- 12.1.6. The **Harrogate District Economic Growth Strategy**⁵³ (2017-2035) aims to prioritise and support 'good growth' in the district, to achieve a sustainable and resilient economy by 2035 (featuring new higher value jobs, an increase in Gross value added (GVA) and a boost in average workplace wages to at least the regional average).

⁵⁰ HM Treasury (2016) Northern Powerhouse strategy [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/northern-powerhouse-strategy

Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (2014) Strategic Economic Plan [online] available at: http://investleedscityregion.com/system/files/uploaded_files/SEP-2016-FINAL.pdf

⁵² York, North Yorkshire, and the East Riding Enterprise Partnership (2014) Strategic Economic Plan available at: https://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/EUSIF-Strategic-Economic-Plan.pdf

⁵³ Harrogate Borough Council Economic Growth Strategy 2017-2035 [online] available at: https://www.harrogate.gov.uk/downloads/file/2762/economic_growth_strategy_2017-2035

12.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

- 12.2.1. As outlined in Table 12.1 below, the proportion of economically active population within Harrogate District exceeds that of the regional average and the average for Great Britain.
- 12.2.2. Further to this, there are a higher proportion of individuals who are in employment compared to regional (8.8% higher) and national (6.6% higher) averages. This is reflected in a greater proportion of employees and self-employed people.
- 12.2.3. Unemployed people make a significantly smaller proportion of the economically active population of Harrogate than those regionally and nationally.

Table 12.1: Employment and unemployment between April 2017 and March 2018 (ONS Annual Population Survey 2018)

	Harrogate (numbers)	Harrogate (%)	Yorkshire and Humber (%)	Great Britain (%)
Economically Active Total	75,200	83.9%	77.3%	78.4%
In Employment Total	75,900	80%	73.5%	75%
Employees	62,400	68.2%	63.8%	64%
Self Employed	13,200	11.4%	9.4%	10.6%
Unemployed	2,800	3.5%	4.8%	4.3%

12.2.4. With regards to the level of education and skills, Harrogate has a considerably larger proportion of people with higher levels of education (in particular NVQ3 and NVQ4) than the regional and national averages (see Table 12.2). Similarly, the proportion of economically active people with no qualifications make up around 5.6% compared to an average of 9.5% in Yorkshire and Humber and 7.7% nationally.

Table 12.2: Qualifications amongst economically active people in 2017 (ONS Annual Population Survey 2018)

	Harrogate (numbers)	Harrogate (%)	Yorkshire and Humber (%)	Great Britain (%)
NVQ4 and above	37,500	42.5%	33%	38.6%
NVQ3 and above	53,500	60.6%	52.3%	57.2%
NVQ2 and above	69,600	78.8%	71.1%	74.7%
NVQ1 and above	79,300	89.8%	83.4%	85.4%
Other Qualifications	4,100	4.6%	7%	6.9%
No Qualifications	4,900	5.6%	9.5%	7.7%

- 12.2.5. There are a range of businesses within and adjacent to the masterplan area including:
 - Westfield farm Crop / food production.
 - Boutique shops.
 - Post office and village shops.
 - Home based crafts businesses.
 - Johnsons of Whixley Commercial Nursery
 - Public houses: The Bay Horse, Anchor Inn, The Victoria
 - Taxis
 - Car repairs
 - Ainsty Farm Shop

Summary of future baseline

- 12.2.6. The Local Enterprise Partnership has strong ambitions to drive economic growth, including in rural areas. National and local planning policies also seek to support economic growth and diversification.
- 12.2.7. This is likely to lead to improved employment opportunities across the District. Growth in the new settlement area may also help to support a growing workforce.
- 12.2.8. The delivery of strategic transport plans should help to improve accessibility to new employment opportunities for residents of the District and the Green Hammerton / Cattal area.
- 12.2.9. A positive outlook is also anticipated for education and skills provision as facilities are upgraded, apprenticeship schemes are promoted and job opportunities are created.

12.3 Key headline issues

- 12.2.10. The key issues are identified as follows:
 - The Harrogate District has a higher than average proportion of employed economically active people and individuals with higher levels of qualifications.
 - The development of the new settlement area has the potential to support investment in the area, and provide accommodation for a growing workforce.
 - Changes in land use could potentially affect rural economic activity.

12.4 Scoping outcome

- 12.2.11. Whilst the area is currently economically diverse and has no issues in regards to unemployment, the development will increase the population, therefore employment opportunities need to grow to meet the new demand. As a result, economy has been SCOPED IN to the SEA. This means that the plan will be assessed for its performance against economic objectives.
- 12.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Economy SEA theme?
- 12.2.12. The SEA topic 'Economy' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 12.3 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

Table 12.3: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Economy

SEA Objective

Supporting Questions

Will the option/proposal help to:

Support and maintain a strong and sustainable local economy

- Support the local economy and provide access to employment opportunities?
- Sustain high level of local education and skills by ensuring sufficient access and provision to local schools and education facilities?

13. Minerals and Waste

Focus of theme:

- Mineral resources (safeguarded areas);
- Waste and recycling rates; and
- Waste and recycling facilities.

13.1 Policy Context

- 13.1.1. The **NPPF** (2018) recognises the need for a 'sufficient supply of minerals to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs' and states that as 'minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, best use needs to be made of them to secure their long-term conservation'. The Framework further emphasises the need to maintain supply. As part of its environmental objective, the Framework seeks to minimise waste and requires development to make sufficient provision for the management of waste.
- 13.1.2. The **National Planning Policy for Waste**⁵⁴ (2014) states that waste planning authorities 'should prepare Local Plans which identify sufficient opportunities to meet the identified needs of their area for the management of waste streams'. It further sets out a criteria for waste planning authorities to assess the suitability of sites, this includes 'the capacity of existing and potential transport infrastructure to support the sustainable movement of waste, and products arising from resource recovery, seeking when practicable and beneficial to use modes other than road transport'.
- 13.1.3. The **Waste Management Plan for England**⁵⁵ (2013) provides an analysis on waste management in England, bringing current and planned waste management policies together in one place.
- 13.1.4. The **North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Joint Plan Publication Draft**⁵⁶ (2016) identifies the need for mineral extraction and waste management in the county. It sets out aims to delivering sustainable waste management, achieving the efficient use of mineral resources, optimising the spatial distribution of minerals and waste development and protecting and enhancing the environment.

13.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

- 13.2.1. The geology of North Yorkshire is varied but contains extensive deposits of minerals with potential for use as aggregate. The following landbanks are associated with each aggregate ⁵⁷:
 - Sand and gravel has a landbank of 7.7 years.
 - The crushed rock landbank is between 25 and 30 years.
- 13.2.2. The superficial deposits in the new settlement area and its vicinity consist of a combination of sand and clay types, whereas the form of the bedrock is Sherwood Sandstone Sandstone.

⁵⁴ MHCLG (2014) National Planning Policy for Waste [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-for-waste

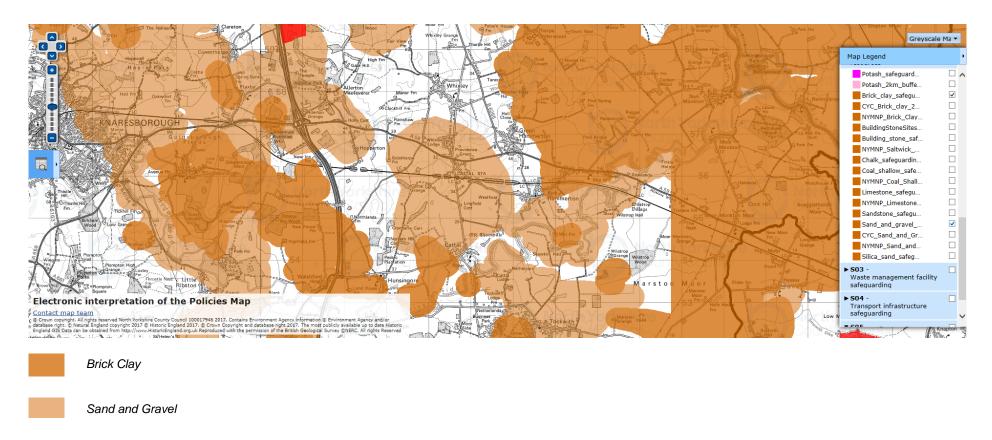
⁵⁵ Defra (2013) Waste Management Plan for England [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/waste-

management-plan-for-england
⁵⁶ North Yorkshire County Council (2016) North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Joint Plan Publication Draft [online] available at: https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/minerals-and-waste-joint-plan-examination

⁵⁷ North Yorkshire County Council (2013) Local Aggregate Assessment for the North Yorkshire Sub-region.

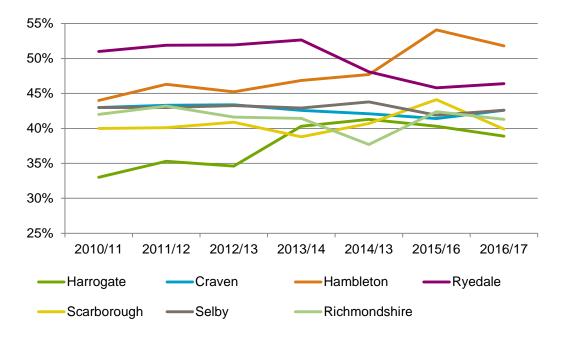
13.2.3. As illustrated in Figure 13.1, much of the Plan area falls within an area that is safeguarded for sand and gravel resources. A smaller part of the area is also identified as having potential brick clay resources.

Figure 13.1: Safeguarded Minerals Areas within proximity to the Plan area (Generated from North Yorkshire Council interactive policy map)



- 13.2.4. With regards to waste, North Yorkshire County Council aim to dispose of at least 50% of all household waste 'sustainably' by 2020, an increase from 46% in 2016⁵⁸.
- 13.2.5. The proportion of household waste sent to landfill in 2016 was 53%, it is anticipated that by 2020 at least 75% of household waste will be disposed in a more sustainable manner.
- 13.2.6. As illustrated in Figure 13.2 below, the recycling, compositing and reuse rates in Harrogate District was considerably below the rates in Districts across North Yorkshire until 2013/14 when it rose to 41.3%, since the rate has gradually been declining with the latest results placing it at 38.9% (2016/17).

Figure 13.2: Percentage of total household waste recycled, composted or reused in the District areas of North Yorkshire between 2010 and 2017 (Source: WasteDataFlow)



- 13.2.7. Harrogate Borough Council operates a kerbside recycling scheme, collecting a range of recyclables including: paper, cardboard and cartons, mixed plastics, tins, cans and glass. This is collected on alternative fortnights to the fortnightly rubbish collection service for non-recyclables.
- 13.2.8. The nearest Household Waste Recycling Centre to the new settlement area is located at Tholthorpe (approximately 8.6 miles). This site accepts a wide range of materials as suitable for recycling.

Summary of future baseline

- 13.2.9. The adoption and implementation of the North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Joint Plan should help secure adequate landbanks of minerals in the long term as well as identifying areas and infrastructure of importance for mineral safeguarding.
- 13.2.10. Due to increasing pressures and incentives to improve recycling and composting rates, it is likely that recycling rates will continue to increase in the longer term (in spite of a temporary decline in recent years).
- 13.2.11. The opening of the Waste Recovery Park at Allerton along with other measures to reduce waste sent to landfill should considerably reduce the total amount of waste sent to landfill locally.

⁵⁸ North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Joint Plan Publication Draft.

13.3 Key headline issues

13.2.12. The key issues are as follows:

- The North Yorkshire County area has sufficient landbanks of minerals.
- Household waste recycling rates are increasing but steadily in the Harrogate District.
- The closest Household Recycling Centre is at some distance from the new settlement area.

13.4 Scoping outcome

- 13.2.13. The topic of 'Waste' has been SCOPED OUT of the SEA. Though development at the scale involved will lead to the use of natural resources and the generation of wastes, this would be the case regardless of location. The effects of the masterplan are therefore not expected to be significant in the context of the baseline position
- 13.2.14. With regards to 'Minerals' much of the Plan area falls within areas that are Safeguarded for Sand and Gravel and / or Brick Clay (to a lesser extent). Therefore, there is potential for possible mineral resources to be sterilised. Conversely, development may offer the opportunity to extract minerals prior to construction. This topic has been SCOPED-IN to the SEA.

13.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Minerals and Waste SEA theme?

13.2.15. The SEA topic 'Minerals' has been Scoped-In to the SEA. Table 13.1 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

Table 13.1: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Minerals

SEA Objective Supporting Questions Will the option/proposal help to: Avoid the sterilisation of sand and gravel resources? Avoid the sterilisation of brick clay resources? Support the extraction of mineral resources where economically viable and technically feasible?

The SEA Framework and Methodologies 14

14.1 The SEA Framework

- 14.1.1. The SEA framework has been established through the identification of key issues and environmental objectives as part of the scoping exercise. This draws upon the baseline position and policy context that has been prepared for a range of SEA topics (as set out in Chapters 2-13).
- 14.1.2. The framework consists of a set of headline objectives and ancillary questions, which will be used to appraise the environmental effects of the draft Development Plan Document (and any reasonable alternatives).
- 14.1.3. Table 14.1 below outlines the full SEA Framework, which brings together the objectives and questions that have been set out at the end of each SEA topic chapter. The Framework focuses on those issues that have been identified as the most important to consider in the preparation of the Plan; but acknowledging the limited influence that the Plan can have in some areas.

Table 14.1: The SEA Framework

SEA Objective Supporting Questions (Will the option/proposal help to:) Protect local air quality? 1. To protect, conserve Minimise the contribution towards air quality issues in other parts and enhance air quality. of the district by reducing emissions from traffic? Support connections between habitats in the Green Hammerton / Cattal area? Avoid any impacts on the Aubert Ings SSSI and the Kirk Deighton 2. Protect and enhance SAC? the function and Avoid the loss of hedgerows and compensate for their loss? connectivity of Achieve a net gain in biodiversity? biodiversity habitats and Support access to, interpretation and understanding of species biodiversity? Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the New Settlement area to the effects of climate change? Improve green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? 3. Support the resilience Sustainably manage surface water run-off, ensuring that the risk of the Green of flooding is not increased (either within the plan area or Hammerton / Cattal downstream) and where possible reduce flood risk? area to flood risk Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the plan area? 4. Contribute to climate Support the development of renewable and low carbon energy change mitigation schemes? Conserve, better reveal the significance and enhance heritage assets, their setting and the wider historic environment? 5. Protect, enhance and Contribute to better management of heritage assets? manage the character, Identify and protect / enhance features of local cultural function and enjoyment importance? of the historic Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the

historic environment?

Support the protection and recording of archaeological features?

environment

SEA Objective

Supporting Questions (Will the option/proposal help to:)

- 6. Ensure that development protects and complements important landscape features whilst retaining a rural character
- Conserve and enhance the character and quality of landscapes?
- Contribute to better management of landscape assets?
- Maintain areas of 'tranquility'?
- Be mindful of 'dark skies'?
- Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the surrounding landscape?
- Improve linkages to open space and the countryside?
- 7. Minimise the avoidable loss of the most valuable soils and agricultural land
- Minimise the loss of the most valuable soils, where possible?
- Compensate for the loss of productive agricultural land?
- Protect and enhance the quality of watercourses, ground and surface water quality.
- Protect groundwater quality in the NVZ?
- Minimise water consumption?
- Reduce surface water pollution?
- Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.
- Support the provision of a responsive range of house types and sizes to meet identified needs?
- Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs throughout their lives?
- Enhance housing provision in existing communities?
- 10. Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents by enhancing the quality and accessibility of open space, facilities for recreation and health.
- Promote accessibility and availability to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all community groups?
- Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards?
- Improve access to local parks?
- 11.Reduce the need to travel and support modal shift to active and sustainable modes of travel such as walking, cycling and public transport.
- Increase the range, availability and affordability of sustainable travel choices i.e. public transport, walking, cycling?
- Improve road safety?
- Promote sustainable patterns of land use and development that reduce the need to travel and reliance on the private car?
- Enable transport infrastructure improvements?
- Support and maintain a strong and sustainable local economy
- Support the local economy and provide access to employment opportunities?
- Avoid negative effects on existing businesses whilst improving opportunities for increased local spending?
- Sustain high level of local education and skills by ensuring sufficient access and provision to local schools and education facilities?
- Promote diversification of rural economies?
- 13.Contribute to the effective management of mineral resources
- Avoid the sterilisation of sand and gravel resources?
- Avoid the sterilisation of brick clay resources?
- Support the extraction of mineral resources where economically viable and technically feasible?

15. Next Steps

15.1 Subsequent stages for the SEA process

- 15.1.1. Scoping (the current stage) is the second stage in a six-stage SEA process:
 - Screening (NPPG Stage A)
 - Scoping (NPPG Stage B)
 - Assess reasonable alternatives, with a view to informing preparation of the draft plan (NPPG Stage C)
 - Assess the draft plan and prepare the Environmental Report with a view to informing consultation and plan finalisation (NPPG Stage D/E)
 - Publish a 'statement' at the time of plan adoption in order to 'tell the story' of plan-making/SEA (and present 'measures decided concerning monitoring') (NPPG Stage F)
- 15.1.2. The next stage will involve appraising reasonable alternatives for the Plan. It is envisaged that this will be focused on a high-level appraisal of three broad concept options to understand the benefits and drawbacks of different forms of development within the new settlement area.
- 15.1.3. The findings of the appraisal of these alternatives will be fed back to the local planning authority so that they might be taken into account when preparing the draft plan.

15.2 Consultation on the Scoping Report

- 15.2.1. Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the SEA process. At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations only require consultation with the three statutory bodies (Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England).
- 15.2.2. However, it is beneficial to involve a wider range of stakeholders so that they may offer feedback on the proposed approaches, and provide complementary information that can help to refine the scope of the SEA.
- 15.2.3. All consultees are invited to comment on the content of this Scoping Report, in particular the evidence base for the SEA, the identified key issues and the proposed SEA Framework.

15.3 Download and viewing details

15.2.4. Comments on the Scoping Report should be sent to:

lan McCluskey, Principal Sustainability Consultant, AECOM Ltd, 4th Floor, Bridgewater House, Manchester, M1 6LT

Email address: ian.mccluskey@aecom.com

15.2.5. All comments received on the Scoping Report will be reviewed and will influence the development of the SEA where appropriate.

16. Glossary

Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land - Agricultural land is classified into five grades. Grade one is best quality and grade five is poorest quality. A number of consistent criteria are used for assessment which include climate (temperature, rainfall, aspect, exposure, frost risk), site (gradient, micro-relief, flood risk) and soil (depth, texture, stoniness). Any land that is classified as Grade 1, 2 or 3a is considered to be 'best and most versatile', which means it is capable of supporting a wider range of agricultural activities.

Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) – This is a measure of deprivation in England, for every local authority and super output area seven domains of deprivation are measured: (Income, Employment, Health deprivation and Disability, Education Skills and Training, Barriers to Housing and Services, Crime the Living Environment). This allows all 32,482 SOAs to be ranked according to how deprived they are relative to each other. This information is then brought together into one overall Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004.

LNR – Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are for both people and wildlife. They are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. They offer people special opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply to enjoy it.

NNR - Many of the finest sites in England for wildlife and geology are National Nature Reserves (NNR). There are currently 224 across the country and almost all are accessible and provide great opportunities for people to experience nature.

Objective – A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change in trends

Option - For the purposes of this report 'option' is synonymous with 'alternative' in the SEA Directive

Plan - For the purposes of the SEA Directive this is used to refer to all of the documents to which this guidance applies, including Development Plan Documents. Supplementary Planning Documents are not part of the statutory Development Plan but are required to have an SEA should there be potential for significant negative effects..

RAMSAR – Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention.

Locally Important Geological Sites – LIGs are designated by locally developed criteria and are currently the most important designated sites for geology and geomorphology outside statutorily protected areas such as SSSIs.

SAC – Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are strictly protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive. Article 3 of the Habitats Directive requires the establishment of a European network of important high-quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the 189 habitat types and 788 species identified in Annexes I and II of the Directive

Scheduled Monument - A 'nationally important' archaeological site or historic building, which is given protection against unauthorised change.

Scoping – The process of deciding the important issues and level of detail of a strategic environmental assessment.

Screening – The process of deciding whether a document requires an SEA.

SEA Directive – European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

SEA Regulations – The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (which transposed the European SEA Directive into UK law).

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

SSSI – SSSIs are the country's very best wildlife and geological sites. They include some of our most spectacular and beautiful habitats - large wetlands teeming with waders and waterfowl, winding chalk rivers, gorse and heather-clad heathlands, flower-rich meadows, windswept shingle beaches and remote uplands moorland and peat bog.

Super Output Area (SOA) – SOAs are a new geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. Three layer of SOA have been devised: Lower Layer - Minimum population 1000; mean 1500. Built from groups of SOAs (typically 4 to 6) and constrained by the boundaries of the Standard Table (ST) wards used for 2001 Census outputs. Middle Layer - Minimum population 5000; mean 7200. Built from groups of Lower Layer SOAs and constrained by the 2003 local authority boundaries used for 2001 Census outputs. Upper Layer - To be determined; minimum size c.25, 000.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – An environmental assessment process that is applied to policies, plans and programmes. In the UK, SEA is used to refer to an environmental assessment in compliance with the 'SEA Directive'.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) – A form of assessment which considers the economic, social and environmental effects of a plan, policy or programme. SA, as applied to Local Development Documents, incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive.

Sustainability Issues – Important factors in an area including social, environmental and economic factors.