

# Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Selby Local Plan

Regulation 19

Selby District Council

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## Quality information

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1 AECOM was appointed by Selby District Council (SDC) to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of its Regulation 19 Draft Selby Local Plan (SLP). The objective of this assessment is to identify any aspects of the SLP that would cause Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) and adverse effects on the integrity of sites designated for their international nature conservation interest, otherwise known as European sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs), potential Special Protection Areas (pSPAs) and, as a matter of Government policy, Ramsar sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects. Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), an Appropriate Assessment is required, where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect upon a European site, either individually or in combination with other projects. Should the HRA identify potential adverse effects, appropriate policy mechanisms for delivering mitigation should be recommended.
- 1.2 Selby District is primarily rural with three main settlements, Selby town, Tadcaster and Sherburn in Elmet. Furthermore, it comprises over 60 villages that vary considerably in size and facilities available. The district covers an area of 6,190km<sup>2</sup> in north-east England and lies adjacent to the authorities of East Riding of Yorkshire, Doncaster, Wakefield, the Cities of Leeds and York, and Harrogate. Much of the SLP's housing growth is directed towards sustainable locations with a good range of services and accessibility. However, some growth is allocated in the district's smaller villages in order to help sustain their local services. Urban growth allocated in the eastern part of Selby District in particular may have implications for nature conservation sites because this is where the district's European sites are located. The Reg.19 SLP makes provision for minimum of 8,040 residential dwellings and 110ha of employment land to be delivered in the district between 2020 and 2040. It is to be noted that of the overall housing quantum provided, only 6,967 dwellings are currently allocated in the SLP. The rest is to be delivered as completions of implemented planning permissions, unimplemented planning permissions and windfall development.
- 1.3 There is only one European site that lies wholly within the Selby District boundary, the Skipwith Common SAC designated for its heathland habitats. Four further European sites straddle the boundary between Selby District and the East Riding of Yorkshire, namely the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC and the River Derwent SAC. Together these sites are interdependent, encompassing one hydrological system and being sensitive to similar impact pathways. Further European sites (e.g. the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC, the Kirk Deighton SAC, the Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA and the Thorne Moors SAC) lie outside the district's boundary, but are relevant to the HRA process because they lie within the potential distance for specific impact pathways (e.g. impacts on water quality and water quantity / flow), particularly when considering the SLP in-combination with other plans and projects.
- 1.4 In 2019 AECOM undertook a high-level screening assessment of the Selby Issues and Options Document, which proposed six Housing Options and five Employment Options for taking forward into this Reg.19 Local Plan. Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) could not be excluded for any of the proposed development options due to insufficient information being available to undertake a detailed assessment. Atmospheric pollution impacts on the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC were an area identified for further assessment, while the potential for recreational pressure effects in the Skipwith Common SAC and the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC was assessed as relatively low. Given that the SLP now provides further detail on the quantum and distribution of growth, this HRA will reassess all relevant impact pathways. It will build upon the previous screening HRA, drawing on new information where relevant.

## Legislation

- 1.5 The UK left the EU on 31 January 2020 under the terms set out in the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 ("the Withdrawal Act"). This established a transition period, which is currently set to end on 31 December 2020. The Withdrawal Act retains the body of

existing EU-derived law within our domestic law. During the transition period EU law applies to and in the UK. The most recent amendments to the Habitats Regulations – the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 – make it clear that the need for HRA will continue after the end of the Transition Period. The need for Appropriate Assessment is summarised in Figure 1.

- 1.6 The HRA process applies the 'Precautionary Principle'<sup>1</sup> to European sites. Plans and projects can only be permitted having ascertained that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the European site(s) in question. Plans and projects with predicted adverse impacts on European sites may still be permitted if there are no alternatives to them and there are Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) as to why they should go ahead. In such cases, compensation would be necessary to ensure the overall integrity of the site network.
- 1.7 In order to ascertain whether or not site integrity will be affected, an Appropriate Assessment should be undertaken of the plan or project in question:

#### **Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)**

The Regulations state that:

*"A competent authority, before deciding to ... give any consent for a plan or project which is likely to have a significant effect on a European site ... shall make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that sites conservation objectives... The authority shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site".*

#### **Figure 1: The legislative basis for Appropriate Assessment**

- 1.8 Over time the phrase 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' (HRA) has come into wide currency to describe the overall process set out in the Habitats Directive from screening through to IROPI. This has arisen in order to distinguish the process from the individual stage described in the law as an 'Appropriate Assessment'.
- 1.9 In spring 2018 the 'Sweetman' European Court of Justice ruling<sup>2</sup> clarified that 'mitigation' (i.e. measures that are specifically introduced to avoid or reduce a harmful effect on a European site that would otherwise arise) should **not** be taken into account when forming a view on likely significant effects. Mitigation should instead only be considered at the Appropriate Assessment stage. This HRA has been cognisant of that ruling.

## **Scope of the Project**

- 1.10 There is no guidance that dictates the physical scope of an HRA of a Plan document in all circumstances. Therefore, in considering the physical scope of the assessment, AECOM was guided primarily by the identified impact pathways (called the source-pathway-receptor model) rather than by arbitrary 'zones'. Current guidance suggests that the following European sites be included in the scope of assessment:
  - All sites within the boundary of Selby District; and,
  - Other sites shown to be linked to development within the authority boundary through a known impact 'pathway' (discussed below); generally, to a distance of 10km.
- 1.11 Briefly defined, impact pathways are routes by which the implementation of a policy within a Local Plan document can lead to an effect upon a European designated site. An example of this would be new residential development resulting in an increased population and thus increased

<sup>1</sup> The Precautionary Principle, which is referenced in Article 191 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, has been defined by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO, 2005) as: *"When human activities may lead to morally unacceptable harm [to the environment] that is scientifically plausible but uncertain, actions shall be taken to avoid or diminish that harm. The judgement of plausibility should be grounded in scientific analysis"*.

<sup>2</sup> People Over Wind and Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (C-323/17)



recreational pressure, which could then affect European sites through, for example, disturbance of wintering or breeding birds.

- 1.12 Guidance from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) states that the HRA should be '*proportionate to the geographical scope of the [plan policy]*' and that '*an AA need not be done in any more detail, or using more resources, than is useful for its purpose*' (MHCLG, 2006, p.6). More recently, the Court of Appeal ruled that providing the Council (competent authority) was duly satisfied that proposed mitigation could be '*achieved in practice*' to satisfy that the proposed development would have no adverse effect, then this would suffice. This ruling has since been applied to a planning permission (rather than a Core Strategy document). In this case the High Court ruled that for '*a multistage process, so long as there is sufficient information at any particular stage to enable the authority to be satisfied that the proposed mitigation can be achieved in practice it is not necessary for all matters concerning mitigation to be fully resolved before a decision maker is able to conclude that a development will satisfy the requirements of Reg 61 of the Habitats Regulations*'.
- 1.13 In order to fully inform the screening process and / or Appropriate Assessment, a number of documents and studies have been consulted to form the evidence base for this HRA. These include:
- Future development proposed in the Local Plans and Core Strategies for adjoining authorities and their accompanying HRAs (where available);
  - Bespoke visitor surveys undertaken by Footprint Ecology in Selby District covering the Skipwith Common SAC and the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC, as well as the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC;
  - Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) published by Yorkshire Water and its HRA;
  - The UK Air Pollution Information System ([www.apis.ac.uk](http://www.apis.ac.uk));
  - Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) and its links to SSSI citations and the JNCC website ([www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk)); and
  - Impact-specific information sources such as the Environment Agency's Catchment Data Explorer, the CAMS,

## The Layout of this Report

- 1.14 Chapter 2 of this report explains the methodology by which this HRA has been carried out, including the three essential tasks that form part of the HRA process. Chapter 3 provides detail on the European sites relevant to Selby District, including an introduction to the sites, a summary of their qualifying habitats / species, Natural England Conservation Objectives and the current threats and pressures relevant for these sites. Detailed background on the main impact pathways identified in relation to the SLP and European Sites is provided in Chapter 4. Chapter 5 undertakes the screening for Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of the Plan's policies and site allocations (see Appendices B and C for respective screening tables of Plan policies and site allocations). Chapter 6 undertakes the Appropriate Assessment of the impact pathways and Plan policies for which LSEs could not be excluded. The conclusions and recommendations arising from the HRA are set out in Chapter 7.

## Quality Assurance

- 1.15 This report was undertaken in line with AECOM's Integrated Management System (IMS). Our IMS places great emphasis on professionalism, technical excellence, quality, environmental and Health and Safety management. All staff members are committed to establishing and maintaining our certification to the international standards BS EN ISO 9001:2008 and 14001:2004 and BS OHSAS 18001:2007. In addition, our IMS requires careful selection and monitoring of the performance of all sub-consultants and contractors.

- 1.16 All AECOM Ecologists working on this project are members (at the appropriate level) of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and follow their code of professional conduct (CIEEM, 2017).

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## 2. Methodology

### Introduction

- 2.1 The HRA has been carried out with reference to the general EC guidance on HRA<sup>3</sup> and that produced in July 2019 by the UK government<sup>4</sup>; Natural England has produced its own internal guidance<sup>5</sup>. These have been referred to in undertaking this HRA.
- 2.2 Figure 2 below outlines the stages of HRA according to current EC guidance. The stages are essentially iterative, being revisited as necessary in response to more detailed information, recommendations and any relevant changes to the plan until no significant adverse effects remain.

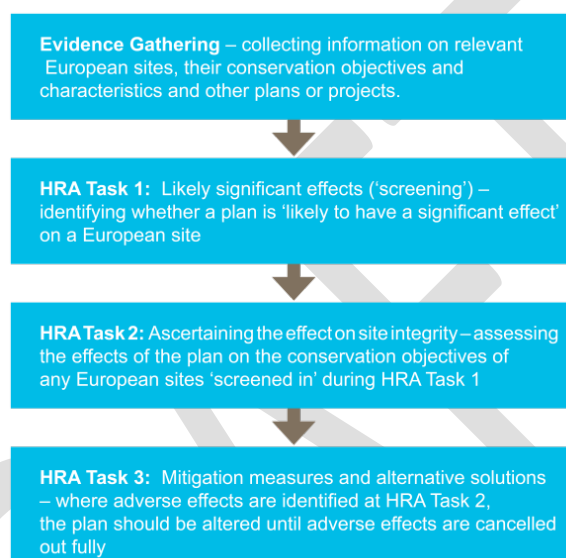


Figure 2: Four Stage Approach to Habitats Regulations Assessment. Source EC, 2001<sup>6</sup>.

### Description of HRA Tasks

#### HRA Task 1 – Likely Significant Effects (LSE)

- 2.3 Following evidence gathering, the first stage of any Habitats Regulations Assessment is a Likely Significant Effect (LSE) test - essentially a risk assessment to decide whether the full subsequent stage known as Appropriate Assessment is required. The essential question is:

*"Is the project, either alone or in combination with other relevant projects and plans, likely to result in a significant effect upon European sites?"*

- 2.4 The objective is to 'screen out' those plans and projects that can, without any detailed appraisal, be concluded to be unlikely to result in significant adverse effects upon European sites, usually because there is no mechanism for an adverse interaction. This stage is undertaken in Chapter 5 of this report and in Appendices B and C.

<sup>3</sup> European Commission (2001): Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appropriate-assessment>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.ukmpas.org/pdf/practical\\_guidance/HRGN1.pdf](http://www.ukmpas.org/pdf/practical_guidance/HRGN1.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.ukmpas.org/pdf/practical\\_guidance/HRGN1.pdf](http://www.ukmpas.org/pdf/practical_guidance/HRGN1.pdf)

## HRA Task 2 – Appropriate Assessment (AA)

- 2.5 Where it is determined that a conclusion of ‘no Likely Significant Effect’ cannot be drawn, the analysis has proceeded to the next stage of HRA known as Appropriate Assessment. Case law has clarified that ‘Appropriate Assessment’ is not a technical term. In other words, there are no particular technical analyses, or level of technical analysis, that are classified by law as belonging to appropriate assessment rather than determination of likely significant effects.
- 2.6 By virtue of the fact that it follows the screening process, there is a clear implication that the analysis will be more detailed than undertaken at the previous stage. One of the key considerations during Appropriate Assessment is whether there is available mitigation that would entirely address the potential effect. In practice, the Appropriate Assessment would take any policies or allocations that could not be dismissed following the high-level screening analysis and assess the potential for an effect in more detail, with a view to concluding whether there would actually be an adverse effect on site integrity (in other words, disruption of the coherent structure and function of the European site(s)).
- 2.7 Also, in 2018 the Holohan ruling<sup>7</sup> was handed down by the European Court of Justice. Among other provisions paragraph 39 of the ruling states that ‘*As regards other habitat types or species, which are present on the site, but for which that site has not been listed, and with respect to habitat types and species located outside that site, ... typical habitats or species must be included in the appropriate assessment, if they are necessary to the conservation of the habitat types and species listed for the protected area*’ [emphasis added]. This has been considered in relation to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar, the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar and the Kirk Deighton SAC, which support mobile wildlife including waterfowl and great-crested newts.

## HRA Task 3 – Avoidance and Mitigation

- 2.8 Where necessary, measures are recommended for incorporation into the Plan in order to avoid or mitigate adverse effects on European sites. For example, there is considerable precedent concerning the level of detail that a Local Plan document needs to contain regarding mitigation for recreational impacts on European sites. The implication of this precedent is that it is not necessary for all measures that will be deployed to be fully developed prior to adoption of the Plan, but the Plan must provide an adequate policy framework within which these measures can be delivered.
- 2.9 In evaluating significance, AECOM has relied on professional judgement as well as the results of previous stakeholder consultation regarding impacts of development on the European sites considered within this assessment.
- 2.10 When discussing ‘mitigation’ for a Local Plan document, one is concerned primarily with the policy framework to enable the delivery of such mitigation rather than the details of the mitigation measures themselves since the Local Plan document is a high-level policy document.

## Geographical Scope of the HRA

- 2.11 There are no standard criteria for determining the ultimate physical scope of an HRA. Rather, the source-pathway-receptor model should be used to determine whether there is any potential pathway connecting development to any European sites. For Selby District, an initial search flagged the following European sites for consideration:
- Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
  - Lower Derwent Valley SAC (overlaps with SPA / Ramsar);
  - River Derwent SAC (partly overlaps with the above SPA / Ramsar / SAC);
  - Skipwith Common SAC;

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<sup>7</sup> Case C-461/17

- Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar;
- Humber Estuary SAC (overlaps with SPA / Ramsar);
- Kirk Deighton SAC;
- Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA/ Ramsar; and
- Thorne Moors SAC.

2.12 This was based upon a search within Selby District and up to 10km surrounding the authority boundary. All above sites were subjected to an initial screening exercise. It should be noted that the presence of a conceivable impact pathway linking the emerging SLP to a European site does not mean that Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) will occur.

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## 3. European Sites

### Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar

#### Introduction

- 3.1 The Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar lies to the north-east of Selby town and is one of the largest areas of extensively managed floodplains in England. The site runs for approx. 10 miles along the north-south trajectory of the River Derwent. These meadows support a highly diverse assemblage of wildflowers and a rich community of breeding birds, otters and invertebrates, such as dragonflies. In the overwintering period, much of the grassland is flooded and provides roosting and foraging habitat for internationally important populations of birds.
- 3.2 The grassland is traditionally managed as hay meadows, with any remaining sward being grazed by cattle and sheep. In addition to the open wet grassland, the SPA / Ramsar also comprises pockets of alder woodland. The site boundary contains the R. Derwent and its adjacent floodplain. Approx. 50% of the site is managed as a National Nature Reserve by Natural England and partner organisations (e.g. the Carstairs Countryside Trust and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust).

#### SPA Qualifying Species<sup>8</sup>

- 3.3 Qualifying individual species listed in Annex I of the Wild Birds Directive (Article 4.1)

##### During the non-breeding season the SPA regularly supports:

- Bewick's swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; 70 individuals (mean peak count 1986/87-1990/91)
- European golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*; 4,120 individuals (5 year average between 1986/87-1990/91)
- Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*; 50 individuals (mean peak count 1986/87-1990/91, representing 3.5% of the British population)

- 3.4 Qualifying individual species not listed in Annex I of the Wild Birds Directive (Article 4.2)

##### During the breeding season the SPA regularly supports:

- Northern shoveler *Anas clypeata*; 50 breeding pairs (count provided for the 1981-1990 period, representing 3% of the breeding British population)
- Eurasian wigeon *Anas Penelope*; 7,370 individuals (5 year average between 1986/87-1990/91)
- Eurasian teal *Anas crecca*; 3,974 individuals (5 year average between 1986/7-1990/91)

- 3.5 Qualifying assemblage of species (Article 4.2)

##### Waterbird assemblage

The site qualifies under Article 4.2 by regularly supporting over 20,000 wintering waterfowl. In the five year period 1986/87-1990/91 the site held a mean peak of 27,580 birds comprising 17,415 wildfowl and 10,165 waders (English Nature 1993). These large numbers of birds being supported by the rich food resources of the floodplain meadows associated with the site. Since designation, wintering numbers have increased with mean peak counts for the period 2012/13-2016/17 being 33,885 (Frost et al. 2018). The site remains one of the most important inland sites for wintering waterfowl in the United Kingdom. Birds are widely distributed across the site, the

<sup>8</sup> Available in the Site Conservation Objectives Supplementary Advice Note at:  
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6223883187257344> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

relative distribution of wildfowl and waders being dependent upon the flood conditions present in any given winter.

## Ramsar Qualifying Species<sup>9</sup>

3.6 The Lower Derwent Valley qualifies as a Ramsar site under the following criteria:

### Ramsar criterion 1

The site represents one of the most important examples of traditionally managed species-rich alluvial flood meadow habitat remaining in the UK. The river and flood meadows play a substantial role in the hydrological and ecological functioning of the Humber Basin.

### Ramsar criterion 2

The site has a rich assemblage of wetland invertebrates including 16 species of dragonfly and damselfly, 15 British Red Data Book wetland invertebrates as well as a leafhopper, *Cicadula ornata* for which Lower Derwent Valley is the only known site in Great Britain.

### Ramsar criterion 4

The site qualifies as a staging post for passage birds in spring. Of particular note are the nationally important numbers of Ruff, *Philomachus pugnax* and Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus*.

### Ramsar criterion 5

Species / populations occurring at levels of international importance

Qualifying species / populations with peak counts in winter:

- Eurasian wigeon *Anas Penelope*; 8,350 individuals, representing an average of 2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03)
- Eurasian teal *Anas crecca*; 4,200 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03)

### Ramsar criterion 6

Assemblages of international importance

Species with peak counts in winter:

31,942 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03)

## SPA Conservation Objectives<sup>10</sup>

3.7 With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

3.8 Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely
- The population of each of the qualifying features, and,
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

<sup>9</sup> Available at: <https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/RIS/UK11037.pdf> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

<sup>10</sup> Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6223883187257344> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

## Threats / Pressures to Site Integrity<sup>11</sup>

3.9 The following threats and pressures to the integrity of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA have been identified in Natural England's Site Improvement Plan:

- Hydrological changes
- Drainage
- Public access / disturbance
- Invasive species
- Undergrazing
- Inappropriate scrub control
- Air pollution: Impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

## Lower Derwent Valley SAC

### Introduction

3.10 The Lower Derwent Valley SAC is a 921.26ha large site comprising humid grassland (64%), bogs and marshes (30%), inland water bodies (3%), broad-leaved deciduous woodland (2%) and dry grassland (1%). It overlaps with other conservation designations, including the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and the River Derwent SAC.

3.11 The primary feature for which the site is designated are the lowland hay meadows, which are larger than in any other sites comprising this habitat. Notable is the high abundance of the rare narrow-leaved water dropwort *Oenanthe silaifolia*. Continued traditional forms of management have conserved the high biodiversity in the SAC, particularly at the interface of dry and wet grassland. The plant community is made up of species-rich swards, including red fescue *Festuca rubra*, crested dog's tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis* and great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*.

3.12 Another habitat of conservation concern are the alluvial forests with alder *Alnus glutinosa* and willow *Salix* spp. This wood type is dynamic and interdependent with open communities (such as fen and swamp) of earlier successional stages. Clearance of riverine woodland has led to a significant decline in alluvial forests, leaving only fragmented portions of these woods intact.

### Qualifying Features<sup>12</sup>

3.13 Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:

- Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*)

3.14 Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:

- Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*)

3.15 Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection

- Otter *Lutra lutra*

<sup>11</sup> Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5916047525806080> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

<sup>12</sup> Available at: <https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0012844> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]



## Conservation Objectives<sup>13</sup>

- 3.16 With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;
- 3.17 Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;
- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
  - The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
  - The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
  - The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
  - The populations of qualifying species, and,
  - The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

## Threats / Pressures to Site Integrity<sup>14</sup>

- 3.18 The following threats and pressures to the integrity of the Lower Derwent Valley SAC have been identified in Natural England's Site Improvement Plan:
- Hydrological changes
  - Drainage
  - Public access / disturbance
  - Invasive species
  - Undergrazing
  - Inappropriate scrub control
  - Air pollution: Impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

## River Derwent SAC

### Introduction

- 3.19 The River Derwent SAC is a 411.23ha large site, mainly comprising an inland water body (95%), some humid grassland (3%) and bogs and marshes (2%). The river has a flow length of 86.2km, passing four National Character Areas within Yorkshire before reaching its confluence with the River Ouse.
- 3.20 The SAC represents one of the best examples of a classic river profile in Britain. Its source is in the high-energy upland valleys of the North York Moors and the energy dissipates as the river channel widens and reaches its wide lowland floodplain near its confluence with the Ouse.
- 3.21 The river supports a diverse array of aquatic flora uncommon in northern Britain, including river water-dropwort *Oenanthe fluviatilis*, flowering rush *Botumus umbellatus*, shining pondweed *Potamogeton lucens* and others. The river is also known for supporting diverse native fish communities, including Annex II species river lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* and bullhead *Cottus gobio*. The spawning ground for river lamprey

<sup>13</sup> Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5660734323163136> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

<sup>14</sup> Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5916047525806080> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

*Lampetra fluviatilis* is found in lower reaches, an area which is in connectivity with the Humber estuary. The river supports a healthy population of otters.

## Qualifying Features<sup>15</sup>

3.22 Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:

- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculus fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation

3.23 Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site

- River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*

3.24 Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection:

- Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*
- Bullhead *Cottus gobio*
- Otter *Lutra lutra*

## Conservation Objectives<sup>16</sup>

3.25 With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

3.26 Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;

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

## Threats / Pressures to Site Integrity<sup>17</sup>

3.27 The following threats and pressures to the integrity of the River Derwent SAC have been identified in Natural England's Site Improvement Plan:

- Physical modification
- Water pollution
- Invasive species
- Change in land management
- Water abstraction

<sup>15</sup> Available at: <https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0030253> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

<sup>16</sup> Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4824082210095104> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

<sup>17</sup> Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6242242071101440> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

# Skipwith Common SAC

## Introduction

- 3.28 The Skipwith Common SAC is a 294.6ha large site, comprising heath and scrub (55%), broad-leaved deciduous woodland (27%), bogs and marshes (5%), dry grassland (5%) and inland water bodies (5%). The SAC lies approx. 10 miles south of York and is one of only two remaining extensive areas of heathland in the Vale of York. The site lies on glacial sands that forms the watershed between the valleys of the River Derwent to the east and the River Ouse to the west.
- 3.29 Skipwith Common has long been recognised for its conservation importance due to it being the largest single tract of wet heathland in northern England. A smaller portion of dry heath is also present, forming a habitat mosaic with areas of mire, rush pasture, reed bed and woodland. The common has significant ornithological interest, including (among more common woodland birds) woodland specialists such as tree pipits, green woodpeckers, woodlarks and nightjars. The water parts of the site support assemblages of ducks and water rail, diverse moth communities and 16 species of dragon- and damselflies. The site is managed as a National Nature Reserve by Natural England and the site owner.

## Qualifying Features<sup>18</sup>

- 3.30 Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*
  - European dry heaths

## Conservation Objectives<sup>19</sup>

- 3.31 With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;
- 3.32 Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;
- The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats
  - The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats and,
  - The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely

## Threats / Pressures to Site Integrity<sup>20</sup>

- 3.33 The following threats and pressures to the integrity of the Skipwith Common SAC have been identified in Natural England's Site Improvement Plan:
- Public access / disturbance
  - Inappropriate scrub control
  - Drainage
  - Air pollution: Impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

<sup>18</sup> Available at: <https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0030276> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

<sup>19</sup> Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5391567648980992> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

<sup>20</sup> Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6301721630343168> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

# Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar

## Introduction

- 3.34 The Humber Estuary is a large macro-tidal estuary with high suspended sediment loads, leading to the rapid accreting and eroding of intertidal mudflats, sandflats, saltmarsh and reedbeds. With declining salinity upstream, tidal reedbeds and brackish saltmarsh lie on the fringes of the estuary. Notable fish species include river and sea lamprey, which migrate up the estuary to breed in upstream freshwater bodies. The south bank of the estuary (Donna Nook) provides habitat for breeding grey seal colonies from autumn onwards.
- 3.35 The diverse array of habitats supports many wintering and passage waterfowl. Sandy sediments of the outer estuary attract knot and grey plover, while waterfowl preferentially forage in the upper zones of the estuary dominated by freshwater input. At high tide, mixed-species flocks congregate on key roost sites, which have become scarce due to combined impacts of land claim, coastal squeeze and disappearance of supporting habitats. In summer the SPA / Ramsar supports breeding populations of bittern, marsh harrier, avocet and little tern. Some developing managed realignment sites on the estuary now provide replacement habitats for SPA / Ramsar birds.

## SPA Qualifying Species<sup>21</sup>

- 3.36 Qualifying individual species listed in Annex I of the Wild Birds Directive (Article 4.1)

### During the non-breeding season, the SPA regularly supports:

- Great bittern *Botaurus stellaris*
- Common shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*
- Hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*
- Pied avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*
- European golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*
- Red knot *Calidris canutus*
- Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*
- Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*
- Black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*
- Bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica*
- Common redshank *Tringa totanus*

- 3.37 Qualifying individual species not listed in Annex I of the Wild Birds Directive (Article 4.2)

### During the breeding season the SPA regularly supports:

- Great bittern *Botaurus stellaris*
- Eurasian marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus*
- Pied avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*
- Little tern *Sterna albifrons*

<sup>21</sup> Available in the marine sites Supplementary Advice on Conservation Objectives available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/SupAdvice.aspx?SiteCode=UK9006111&SiteName=humber&SiteNameDisplay=Humber+Estuary+SPA&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=&NumMarineSeasonality=15> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

### 3.38 Qualifying assemblage of species (Article 4.2)

#### **Waterbird assemblage**

## **Ramsar Qualifying Species<sup>22</sup>**

### 3.39 The Humber Estuary qualifies as a Ramsar site under the following criteria:

#### **Ramsar criterion 1**

The site is a representative example of a near-natural estuary with the following component habitats: dune systems and humid dune slacks, estuarine waters, intertidal mud and sand flats, saltmarshes, and coastal brackish/saline lagoons. It is a large macro-tidal coastal plain estuary with high suspended sediment loads, which feed a dynamic and rapidly changing system of accreting and eroding intertidal and subtidal mudflats, sandflats, saltmarsh and reedbeds. Examples of both strandline, foredune, mobile, semi-fixed dunes, fixed dunes and dune grassland occur on both banks of the estuary and along the coast.

The estuary supports a full range of saline conditions from the open coast to the limit of saline intrusion on the tidal rivers of the Ouse and Trent. Wave exposed sandy shores are found in the outer/open coast areas of the estuary. These change to the more moderately exposed sandy shores and then to sheltered muddy shores within the main body of the estuary and up into the tidal rivers. The lower saltmarsh of the Humber is dominated by common cordgrass *Spartina anglica* and annual glasswort *Salicornia* communities. Low to mid marsh communities are mostly represented by sea aster *Aster tripolium*, common saltmarsh grass *Puccinellia maritima* and sea purslane *Atriplex portulacoides* communities. The upper portion of the saltmarsh community is atypical, dominated by sea couch *Elytrigia atherica* (*Elymus pycnanthus*) saltmarsh community. In the upper reaches of the estuary, the tidal marsh community is dominated by the common reed *Phragmites australis* fen and sea club rush *Bolboschoenus maritimus* swamp with the couch grass *Elytrigia repens* (*Elymus repens*) saltmarsh community. Within the Humber Estuary Ramsar site there are good examples of four of the five physiographic types of saline lagoon.

#### **Ramsar criterion 3**

The Humber Estuary Ramsar site supports a breeding colony of grey seals *Halichoerus grypus* at Donna Nook. It is the second largest grey seal colony in England and the furthest south regular breeding site on the east coast. The dune slacks at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on the southern extremity of the Ramsar site are the most north-easterly breeding site in Great Britain of the natterjack toad *Bufo calamita*.

#### **Ramsar criterion 5**

Waterbird assemblage of international importance: 153,934 waterfowl, non-breeding season (5 year peak mean 1996/97-2000/2001).

#### **Ramsar criterion 6**

Species / populations occurring at levels of international importance

Qualifying species with peak counts in spring / autumn:

- Eurasian golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*; 17,996 individuals, representing an average of 2.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996-2000)
- Red knot *Calidris canutus islandica*; 18,500 individuals, representing an average of 4.1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996-2000)
- Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*; 20,269 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996-2000)

<sup>22</sup> Available at: <https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/RIS/UK11031.pdf> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

- Black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*; 915 individuals, representing an average of 2.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996-2000)
- Common redshank *Tringa totanus totanus*; 7,462 individuals, representing an average of 5.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996-2000)

Qualifying species with peak counts in winter:

- Common shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*; 4,464 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996/97-2000/01)
- European golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*; 30,709 individuals, representing an average of 3.8% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996/97-2000/01)
- Red knot *Calidris canutus islandica*; 28,165 individuals, representing an average of 6.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996/97-2000/01)
- Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*; 22,222 individuals, representing an average of 1.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996/97-2000/01)
- Black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*; 1,113 individuals, representing an average of 3.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996/97-2000/01)
- Bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica lapponica*; 2,752 individuals, representing an average of 2.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996/97-2000/01)

### **Ramsar criterion 8**

The Humber Estuary acts as an important migration route for both river lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* and sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* between coastal waters and their spawning areas.

## **Conservation Objectives<sup>23</sup>**

- 3.40 With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;
- 3.41 Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;
- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features
  - The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features
  - The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely
  - The population of each of the qualifying features, and,
  - The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

## **Threats / Pressures to Site Integrity<sup>24</sup>**

- 3.42 The following threats and pressures to the integrity of the Humber Estuary SPA have been identified in Natural England's Site Improvement Plan:
- Water pollution
  - Coastal squeeze
  - Changes in species distributions

<sup>23</sup> Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5382184353398784> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

<sup>24</sup> Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5427891407945728> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

- Undergrazing
- Invasive species
- Natural changes to site conditions
- Public access / disturbance
- Fisheries: Fish stocking
- Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine
- Direct land take from development
- Air pollution: Impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition
- Shooting / scaring
- Direct impact from third party
- Inappropriate scrub control

## Humber Estuary SAC

### Introduction

3.43 The Humber Estuary SAC is designated for a range of different habitats, providing important roosting and foraging areas for SPA / Ramsar birds. The SAC covers a large area of approx. 36,657.15ha, comprising tidal rivers / estuaries (94.9%), salt marshes (4.4%), coastal sand dunes (0.4%) and bogs / marshes (0.4%). The SAC's key interest feature is its estuary, the second largest coastal plain estuary in the UK. The SAC's high content of suspended sediments is derived from a number of sources, such as marine sediments and eroding boulder clay. In turn, the estuary comprises several other habitats, including Atlantic salt meadows, sand dunes, subtidal sandbanks, mudflats and glasswort beds. Upstream from the Humber Bridge, the estuary is noteworthy for extensive mud and sand bars, forming semi-permanent islands. The SAC supports a range of important fish species, including river lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* and sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*.

### Qualifying Features<sup>25</sup>

3.44 Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:

- Estuaries
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide

3.45 Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:

- Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time
- Coastal lagoons
- *Salicornia* and other annuals colonizing mud and sand
- Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima*)
- Embryonic shifting dunes
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes")
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")

<sup>25</sup> Available at: <https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0030170> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

- Dunes with *Hippopha rhamnoides*
- 3.46 Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection:
- Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*
  - River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*
  - Grey seal *Halichoerus grypus*

## Conservation Objectives<sup>26</sup>

- 3.47 With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;
- 3.48 Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;
- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
  - The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
  - The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
  - The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely
  - The populations of qualifying species, and,
  - The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

## Threats / Pressures to Site Integrity<sup>27</sup>

- 3.49 The following threats and pressures to the integrity of the Humber Estuary SAC have been identified in Natural England's Site Improvement Plan:
- Water pollution
  - Coastal squeeze
  - Changes in species distributions
  - Undergrazing
  - Invasive species
  - Natural changes to site conditions
  - Public access / disturbance
  - Fisheries: Fish stocking
  - Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine
  - Direct land take from development
  - Air pollution: Impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition
  - Shooting / scaring
  - Direct impact from third party

<sup>26</sup> Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5009545743040512> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

<sup>27</sup> Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5427891407945728> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]



- Inappropriate scrub control

## Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA

### Introduction

- 3.50 The Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA is a 2,449.2ha site that was established in 2000. It is located within an agricultural landscape in the wider Humberhead Levels National Character Area. Thorne Moor is England's largest expanse of raised bogs and lies within the floodplain of rivers draining into the Humber estuary. The SPA is managed as a National Nature Reserve by Natural England.
- 3.51 The smaller Hatfield Moors have been included in the SPA more recently and are generally in degraded condition. The restored secondary surface is rich in bog mosses *Sphagnum* spp., heather *Calluna vulgaris*, cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*. While breeding nightjars are the SPA's sole qualifying species, the SPA also supports numerous other species at non-qualifying abundances, including hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*, merlin *Falco columbianus* and short-eared owl *Asio flammeus*. Hobbies *Falco subbuteo* feed over the site in summer and the most northerly breeding location for nightingales *Luscinia megarhynchos* is located here.

### Qualifying Species<sup>28</sup>

- 3.52 Qualifying individual species listed in Annex I of the Wild Birds Directive

#### During the breeding season the SPA regularly supports:

- Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*; at the time of designation, the SPA supported 66 pairs of nightjar, representing at least 1.9% of the GB breeding population

### Conservation Objectives<sup>29</sup>

- 3.53 With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;
- 3.54 Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;
- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features
  - The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features
  - The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely
  - The population of each of the qualifying features, and,
  - The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

### Threats / Pressures to Site Integrity<sup>30</sup>

- 3.55 The following threats and pressures to the site integrity of the Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA are provided in Natural England's Site Improvement Plan:
- Drainage
  - Inappropriate scrub control

<sup>28</sup> Available in the Conservation Objectives Supplementary Advice Note at:

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6503407711944704> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

<sup>29</sup> Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6503407711944704> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

<sup>30</sup> Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6489780632158208> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

- Air pollution: Impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition
- Public access / disturbance
- Planning permission: General
- Peat extraction
- Invasive species

## Thorne Moor SAC

### Introduction

- 3.56 The Thorne Moors SAC is a 1,911.02ha expanse of bog, comprising bogs and marshes (28%), heath and scrub (19%), broad-leaved deciduous woodland (13%) and inland water bodies (8%). The site designation also encompasses a significant amount of development, such as towns and villages, mines and industrial sites (32%). The SAC overlaps with parts of the Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA.
- 3.57 As mentioned in relation to the SPA, recent management successes have increased the proportion of active raised bog in the Thorne Moors. However, recent inclusion of the Hatfield Moors, means that the SAC is now predominantly classified as degraded raised bog. Degraded raised bogs are still capable of natural regeneration, however disturbances to the hydrology or vegetation (typically through human activities) mean that peat is not currently forming in such habitat.
- 3.58 Drainage, land reclamation for agriculture and peat extraction over the last 500 years have resulted in the loss of this habitat type, leaving the Thorne and Hatfield Moors the only large-scale type of this wetland. The SAC retains a significant wildlife and biodiversity interest, although this has been damaged by peat extraction.

### Qualifying Features<sup>31</sup>

- 3.59 Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:
- Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration

### Conservation Objectives<sup>32</sup>

- 3.60 With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;
- 3.61 Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;
- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats
  - The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and
  - The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely

### Threats / Pressures to Site Integrity<sup>33</sup>

- 3.62 The following threats and pressures to the site integrity of the Thorne Moors SAC are provided in Natural England's Site Improvement Plan:

<sup>31</sup> Available at: <https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0012915> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

<sup>32</sup> Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6566028335120384> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

<sup>33</sup> Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6489780632158208> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

- Drainage
- Inappropriate scrub control
- Air pollution: Impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition
- Public access / disturbance
- Planning permission: General
- Peat extraction
- Invasive species

## Kirk Deighton SAC

### Introduction

- 3.63 The Kirk Deighton SAC is 3.99ha in size, comprising improved grassland (95%), an inland water body (3%) and woody plant cultivations (2%). The SAC lies on the outskirts of the village of Kirk Deighton. It is a lowland site on neutral clay soils within a wider agricultural and pasture-led landscape.
- 3.64 Despite its relatively small size, the site supports an exceptionally large population of great-crested newts *Triturus cristatus* concentrated in a shallow breeding pond. The pond lies amidst pasture and mature hedgerows, which provide essential feeding and hibernation habitats for the newts. Other amphibian interest in the SAC includes smooth newt *Triturus vulgaris* and common frog *Rana temporaria*.

### Qualifying Features<sup>34</sup>

- 3.65 Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site:
- Great-crested newt *Triturus cristatus*

### Conservation Objectives<sup>35</sup>

- 3.66 With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;
- 3.67 Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;
- The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species
  - The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
  - The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely
  - The populations of qualifying species, and,
  - The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

### Threats / Pressures to Site Integrity<sup>36</sup>

- 3.68 Natural England's Site Improvement Plan highlights the following threats and pressures to the site integrity of the Kirk Deighton SAC:

<sup>34</sup> Available at: <https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0030178> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

<sup>35</sup> Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4695122595807232> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

<sup>36</sup> Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5267982863302656> [Accessed on the 10/11/2020]

- Change in land management
- Habitat fragmentation

DRAFT

## 4. Background to Relevant Impact Pathways

### Recreational Pressure

#### Bird Disturbance

- 4.1 There is concern over the cumulative impacts of recreation on key nature conservation sites in the UK, as most sites must fulfill conservation objectives while also providing recreational opportunity. Various research reports have provided compelling links between changes in housing and access levels<sup>37</sup>, and impacts on European protected sites<sup>38 39</sup>. While these impacts are relevant to any habitat, recreational pressure is particularly significant for European sites designated for bird species. Different European sites are subject to different types of recreational pressures and have different sensitivities. HRAs of planning documents tend to focus on recreational sources of disturbance as a result of new residents<sup>40</sup>.
- 4.2 Studies across a range of species have shown that the effects from recreation can be complex. Human activity can affect birds either directly (e.g. by eliciting flight responses) or indirectly (e.g. through damaging their habitat or reducing their fitness in less obvious ways e.g. stress). The most obvious direct effect is that of immediate mortality such as death by shooting, but human activity can also lead to much subtler behavioural (e.g. alterations in feeding behaviour, avoidance of certain areas and use of sub optimal areas etc.) and physiological changes (e.g. an increase in heart rate). While these are less noticeable, they might result in major population-level changes by altering the balance between immigration / birth and emigration / death<sup>41</sup>.
- 4.3 Concern regarding the effects of disturbance on birds stems from the fact that they are expending energy unnecessarily and the time they spend responding to disturbance is time that is not spent feeding<sup>42</sup>. Disturbance therefore risks increasing energetic expenditure of birds while reducing their energetic intake, which can adversely affect the 'condition' and ultimately survival of the birds. Additionally, displacement of birds from one feeding site to others can increase the pressure on the resources available within the remaining sites, as they then must sustain a greater number of birds<sup>43</sup>. Moreover, the higher proportion of time a breeding bird spends away from its nest, the more likely it is that eggs will cool and the more vulnerable they, or any nestlings, are to predators. Recreational effects on ground-nesting birds are particularly severe, with many studies concluding that urban sites support lower densities of key species, such as stone curlew and nightjar<sup>44 45</sup>.
- 4.4 Several factors (e.g. seasonality, type of recreational activity) may have pronounced impacts on the nature of bird disturbance. Recreation disturbance in winter can be more impactful because

<sup>37</sup> Weitowitz D.C., Panter C., Hoskin R. & Liley D. 2019. The effect of urban development on visitor numbers to nearby protected nature conservation sites. *Journal of Urban Ecology* 5. doi.org/10.1093/jue/juz019

<sup>38</sup> Liley D., Clarke R.T., Mallord J.W., Bullock J.M. 2006a. The effect of urban development and human disturbance on the distribution and abundance of nightjars on the Thames Basin and Dorset Heaths. Report by Footprint Ecology for Natural England.

<sup>39</sup> Liley D., Clarke R.T., Underhill-Day J., Tyldesley D.T. 2006b. Evidence to support the appropriate Assessment of development plans and projects in south-east Dorset. Report by Footprint Ecology for Dorset County Council.

<sup>40</sup> The RTP1 report 'Planning for an Ageing Population' (2004) which states that 'From being a marginalised group in society, the elderly are now a force to be reckoned with and increasingly seen as a market to be wooed by the leisure and tourist industries. There are more of them and generally they have more time and more money.' It also states that 'Participation in most physical activities shows a significant decline after the age of 50. The exceptions to this are walking, golf, bowls and sailing, where participation rates hold up well into the 70s'.

<sup>41</sup> Riley, J. 2003. Review of Recreational Disturbance Research on Selected Wildlife in Scotland. *Scottish Natural Heritage*.

<sup>42</sup> Riddington, R. et al. 1996. The impact of disturbance on the behaviour and energy budgets of Brent geese. *Bird Study* 43:269-279

<sup>43</sup> Gill, J.A., Sutherland, W.J. & Norris, K. 1998. The consequences of human disturbance for estuarine birds. *RSPB Conservation Review* 12: 67-72

<sup>44</sup> Clarke R.T., Liley D., Sharp J.M., Green R.E. 2013. Building development and roads: Implications for the distribution of stone curlews across the Brecks. *PLOS ONE*. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0072984.

<sup>45</sup> Liley D., Clarke R.T. 2003. The impact of urban development and human disturbance on the numbers of nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* on heathlands in Dorset, England. *Biological Conservation* 114: 219-230.

food shortages make birds more vulnerable at this time of the year. In contrast, there are often fewer recreational users in the winter months and some effects of disturbance may be reduced because birds are not breeding. Evidence in the literature suggests that the magnitude of disturbance clearly differs between different types of recreational activities. For example, dog walking leads to a significantly higher reduction in bird diversity and abundance compared to hiking<sup>46</sup>. Scientific evidence also suggests that key disturbance parameters, such as areas of influence and flush distance, are significantly greater for dog walkers than hikers<sup>47</sup>. Furthermore, differences in on-site route lengths and usage patterns likely imply that key spatial and temporal parameters (such as the area of a site potentially impacted and the frequency of disturbance) will also differ between recreational activities. This suggests that activity type is a factor that should be taken into account in HRAs.

### Non-breeding Birds (October – March)

- 4.5 The Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar (which straddles the eastern boundary of Selby District) is designated for sensitive overwintering birds, including waterfowl such as Bewick's swan, wigeon, teal and Northern shoveler. The Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar also comprises a complex assemblage of species, including bittern, shelduck, avocet and redshank. Therefore, this section focusses on academic research relating to waterfowl and waders.
- 4.6 Evans & Warrington<sup>48</sup> found that on Sundays total water bird numbers (including shoveler and gadwall) were 19% higher on Stocker's Lake LNR in Hertfordshire and attributed this to observed greater recreational activity on surrounding water bodies at weekends relative to weekdays displacing birds into the LNR. However, in this study, recreational activity was not quantified in detail, nor were individual recreational activities evaluated separately.
- 4.7 Tuite et al<sup>49</sup> used a large (379 sites), long-term (10-year) dataset (September – March species counts) to correlate seasonal changes in wildfowl abundance with the presence of various recreational activities. They determined that shoveler was one of the most sensitive species to recreational activities, such as sailing, windsurfing and rowing. Studies on recreation in the Solent have established that human leisure activities cause direct disturbance to wintering waterfowl populations<sup>50 51</sup>.
- 4.8 The degree of impact that varying levels of noise will have on different species of bird is poorly understood except that a number of studies have found that an increase in traffic levels on roads leads to a reduction in the bird abundance within adjacent hedgerows. Reijnen et al (1995) examined the distribution of 43 passerine species (i.e. 'songbirds'), of which 60% had a lower density closer to the roadside than further away. By controlling for vehicle usage, they also found that bird density was significantly lower along busier roads than quieter roads<sup>52</sup>. A study on Holt Heath noted reduced levels of fitness due to occupation of sub optimal habitats alongside roads amongst heathland species.
- 4.9 A study on recreational disturbance on the Humber<sup>53</sup> assesses different types of noise disturbance on waterfowl referring to previous research relating to aircraft (see Drewitt 1999<sup>54</sup>), traffic (Reijnen, Foppen, & Veenbaas 1997)<sup>55</sup>, dogs (Lord, Waas, & Innes 1997<sup>56</sup>; Banks & Bryant

<sup>46</sup> Banks P.B., Bryant J.Y. 2007. Four-legged friend or foe? Dog walking displaces native birds from natural areas. *Biology Letters* 3: 14pp.

<sup>47</sup> Miller S.G., Knight R.L., Miller C.K. 2001. Wildlife responses to pedestrians and dogs. **29**: 124-132.

<sup>48</sup> Evans, D.M. & Warrington, S. 1997. The effects of recreational disturbance on wintering waterbirds on a mature gravel pitlake near London. *International Journal of Environmental Studies* 53: 167-182

<sup>49</sup> Tuite, C.H., Hanson, P.R. & Owen, M. 1984. Some ecological factors affecting winter wildfowl distribution on inland waters in England and Wales and the influence of water-based recreation. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 21: 41-62

<sup>50</sup> Footprint Ecology. 2010. Recreational Disturbance to Birds on the Humber Estuary

<sup>51</sup> Footprint Ecology, Jonathan Cox Associates & Bournemouth University. 2010. Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project – various reports.

<sup>52</sup> Reijnen, R. et al. 1995. The effects of car traffic on breeding bird populations in woodland. III. Reduction of density in relation to the proximity of main roads. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 32: 187-202

<sup>53</sup> Fearnley H., Liley D. & Cruickshanks K. (2012) Results of Recreational Visitor Survey across the Humber Estuary produced by Footprint Ecology

<sup>54</sup> Drewitt, A. (1999) Disturbance effects of aircraft on birds. *English Nature*, Peterborough.

<sup>55</sup> Reijnen, R., Foppen, R. & Veenbaas, G. (1997) Disturbance by traffic of breeding birds: evaluation of the effect and considerations in planning and managing road corridors. *Biodiversity and Conservation* 6: 567-581.

<sup>56</sup> Lord, A., Waas, J.R. & Innes, J. (1997) Effects of human activity on the behaviour of northern New Zealand dotterel *Charadrius obscurus aquilonius* chicks. *Biological Conservation* 82: 15-20.

2007<sup>57</sup>) and machinery (Delaney et al. 1999; Tempel & Gutierrez 2003). It identifies that there is still relatively little work on the effects of different types of water-based craft and the impacts from jet skis, kite surfers, windsurfers etc (see Kirby et al. 2004<sup>58</sup> for a review). In general terms, both distance from the source of disturbance and the scale of the disturbance (noise level, group size) is likely to influence the response (Delaney et al. 1999<sup>59</sup>; Beale & Monaghan 2005<sup>60</sup>). On UK estuaries and coastal sites, a review of WeBS data showed that, among the volunteer WeBS surveyors, driving of motor vehicles and shooting were the two activities most perceived to cause disturbance (Robinson & Pollitt 2002)<sup>61</sup>.

- 4.10 Disturbing activities present themselves on a continuum. Generally, activities that involve irregular, infrequent and loud noise events, movements or vibrations are likely to be the most disturbing. For example, the presence of dogs around waterbodies generates substantial disturbance due the habitat accessed (e.g. intertidal mudflats), the areas affected and dogs' impacts on bird behaviour. Birds are least likely to be disturbed by activities that involve regular, frequent, predictable and quiet patterns of sound, movement or vibration. The further any activity is from the birds, the less likely it is to result in disturbance. Overall, the factors that determine species responses to disturbance include species sensitivity, timing/duration of the recreational activity and the distance between source and receptor of disturbance.
- 4.11 The specific distance at which a species takes flight when disturbed is known as the 'tolerance distance' (also called the 'escape flight distance') and greatly differs between species. Tolerance distances from various literature sources are summarised in Table 1. It is reasonable to assume from this evidence that disturbance is unlikely to be relevant at distances of beyond 400m. Generally, tolerance distances are known for only few species and should not be extrapolated to other species.

**Table 1: Tolerance distances in metres of 21 species of waterfowl to various forms of recreational disturbance, as described in the literature. Where the mean is not available, distances are provided as a range.<sup>62</sup>**

Species	Type of disturbance.	<sup>1</sup> Tydeman (1978), <sup>2</sup> Keller (1989), <sup>3</sup> Van der Meer (1985), <sup>4</sup> Wolff et al (1982), <sup>5</sup> Blankestijn et al (1986)		
		Rowing boats/kayak	Sailing boats	Walking
Little grebe			60 – 100	<sup>1</sup>
Great crested grebe	50 – 100	<sup>2</sup>	20 – 400	<sup>1</sup>
Mute swan			3 – 30	<sup>1</sup>
Teal			0 – 400	<sup>1</sup>
Mallard			10 – 100	<sup>1</sup>
Shoveler			200 – 400	<sup>1</sup>
Pochard			60 – 400	<sup>1</sup>

<sup>57</sup> Banks, P.B. & Bryant, J.V. (2007) Four-legged friend of foe? Dog-walking displaces native birds from natural areas. *Biology Letters* **3**: 611-613.

<sup>58</sup> Kirby, J.S., Clee, C. & Seager, V. (1993) Impact and extent of recreational disturbance to wader roosts on the Dee estuary: some preliminary results. *Wader Study Group Bulletin* **68**: 53-58.

<sup>59</sup> Delaney, D.K., Grubb, T.G., Beier, P., Pater, L.L.M. & Reiser, H. (1999) Effects of Helicopter Noise on Mexican Spotted Owls. *The Journal of Wildlife Management* **63**: 60-76.

<sup>60</sup> Beale, C.M. & Monaghan, P. (2005) Modeling the Effects of Limiting the Number of Visitors on Failure Rates of Seabird Nests. *Conservation Biology* **19**: 2015-2019.

<sup>61</sup> Robinson, J.A. & Pollitt, M.S. (2002) Sources and extent of human disturbance to waterbirds in the UK: an analysis of Wetland Bird Survey data, 1995/96 to 1998/99: Less than 32% of counters record disturbance at their site, with differences in causes between coastal and inland sites. *Bird Study* **49**: 205.

<sup>62</sup> Tydeman, C.F. 1978. Gravel Pits as conservation areas for breeding bird communities. PhD thesis. Bedford College  
Keller, V. 1989. Variations in the response of Great Crested Grebes *Podiceps cristatus* to human disturbance - a sign of adaptation? *Biological Conservation* **49**: 31-45

Van der Meer, J. 1985. *De verstoring van vogels op de slikken van de Oosterschelde*. Report 85.09 Deltadienst Milieu en Inrichting, Middelburg. 37 pp.

Wolf, W.J., Reijnders, P.J.H. & Smit, C.J. 1982. The effects of recreation on the Wadden Sea ecosystem: many questions but few answers. In: G. Luck & H. Michaelis (Eds.), *Schriftenreihe M.E.L.F., Reihe A: Agnew. Wissensch* **275**: 85-107.

Blankestijn, S. et al. 1986. Seizoensverbreding in de recreatie en verstoring van Wulp en Scholkester op hoogwatervluchplaatsen op Terschelling. Report Projectgroep Wadden, L.H. Wageningen. 261pp.

Tufted duck	60 – 400 <sup>1</sup>
Goldeneye	100 – 400 <sup>1</sup>
Smew	0 – 400 <sup>1</sup>
Moorhen	100 – 400 <sup>1</sup>
Coot	5 – 50 <sup>1</sup>
Curlew	211 <sup>3</sup> ; 339 <sup>4</sup> ; 213 <sup>5</sup>
Shelduck	148 <sup>3</sup> ; 250 <sup>4</sup>
Grey plover	124 <sup>3</sup>
Ringed plover	121 <sup>3</sup>
Bar-tailed godwit	107 <sup>3</sup> ; 219 <sup>4</sup>
Brent goose	105 <sup>3</sup>
Oystercatcher	85 <sup>3</sup> ; 136 <sup>4</sup> ; 82 <sup>5</sup>
Dunlin	71 <sup>3</sup> ; 163 <sup>2</sup>

4.12 Mitigation measures to avoid recreational pressure effects usually involve a combination of access and habitat management, and the provision of alternative recreational space. Typically, Local Authorities (in their role as Competent Authorities) can set out frameworks for improved habitat and access management, in collaboration with other adjoining Local Planning Authorities. Provision of alternative recreational space can help to attract recreational users away from sensitive European sites and reduce pressure on the sites. However, the location and habitat type of such alternative destinations must be carefully selected to be effective.

### Breeding Birds (March – September)

- 4.13 In addition to its population of overwintering non-breeding birds, the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar is also designated for breeding bird species, including bittern, marsh harrier, little tern and avocet. Disturbance to birds during the pre-incubation, incubation and chick provisioning stages may lead to the abandonment of potential nesting sites, eggs or chicks, resulting in failure to reproduce or in reduced calorific intake by chicks. If disturbance is significant or persistent, the failure to produce viable offspring across multiple individuals may result in reduced fitness at the population level. Disturbance from dog walkers is a particular threat to ground-nesting birds, which tend to have lower disturbance tolerances because their nests are at higher risk from predators.
- 4.14 This is supported in the literature. For example, recreational disturbance (and especially dog walking) results in a higher incidence of escape flights, reduced incubation times and reduced chick guarding in golden plovers<sup>63</sup>. A study assessing the breeding success of little tern (qualifying species of the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar) and least tern found that nest success was significantly higher (82%) in artificial habitats than on natural sandy beaches (58%)<sup>64</sup>. This was primarily due to recreational disturbance on the beaches (which was absent in artificial habitats). Furthermore, even in successful nests, the number of unhatched eggs was twice as high in the natural habitat, most likely due to disturbance leading to the cooling of eggs.
- 4.15 Recreational impacts on little terns are well documented in other parts of the country (see a review of disturbance on little terns in the Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA<sup>65</sup>) and represent significant threats to the viability of tern populations. Tern colonies often lie on popular tourist beaches and are under intense urban pressures, including from vandalism, trampling and human-associated pest species (e.g. foxes). In contrast, recreational disturbance is considered to be less of a factor for bittern and marsh harrier, which tend to nest within dense reedbeds that are not easily accessible to the public. Notwithstanding this, recreational boating may bring visitors in close proximity with bittern and marsh harrier breeding sites in reedbeds.

<sup>63</sup> Yalden P.E. & Yalden D.W. (1990). Recreational disturbance of breeding golden plovers *Pluvialis apricarius*. *Biological Conservation* **51**: 243-262.

<sup>64</sup> Pakanen V-M., Hongeli H., Aikio S. & Koivula K. (2014). Little tern breeding success in artificial and natural habitats: Modelling population growth under uncertain vital rates. *Population Ecology* **56**: 581-591.

<sup>65</sup> Liley D. (2008). Little terns at Great Yarmouth. Disturbance to birds and implications for strategic planning and development control. Unpublished report by Footprint Ecology, commissioned by Great Yarmouth Borough Council and the RSPB. 14pp.



## Trampling Damage and Nutrient Enrichment

4.16 Most terrestrial habitats (especially dune systems, heathland and woodland) can be affected by trampling and other mechanical damage, which in turn dislodges individual plants, leads to soil compaction and erosion. The following studies have assessed the impact of trampling associated with different recreational activities in different habitats:

- Wilson & Seney<sup>66</sup> examined the degree of track erosion caused by hikers, motorcycles, horses and cyclists from 108 plots along tracks in the Gallatin National Forest, Montana. Although the results proved difficult to interpret, it was concluded that horses and hikers disturbed more sediment on wet tracks, and therefore caused more erosion, than motorcycles and bicycles.
- Cole et al<sup>67</sup> conducted experimental off-track trampling in 18 closed forest, dwarf scrub and meadow & grassland communities (each trampled between 0 – 500 times) over five mountain regions in the US. Vegetation cover was assessed two weeks and one year after trampling, and an inverse relationship with trampling intensity was discovered, although this relationship was weaker after one year than two weeks indicating some recovery of the vegetation. Differences in plant morphological characteristics were found to explain more variation in response between different vegetation types than soil and topographic factors. Low-growing, mat-forming grasses regained their cover best after two weeks and were considered most resistant to trampling, while tall forbs (non-woody vascular plants other than grasses, sedges, rushes and ferns) were considered least resistant. The cover of hemicryptophytes and geophytes (plants with buds below the soil surface) was heavily reduced after two weeks but had recovered well after one year and as such these were considered most resilient to trampling. Chamaephytes (plants with buds above the soil surface) were least resilient to trampling. It was concluded that these would be the least tolerant of a regular cycle of disturbance.
- Cole<sup>68</sup> conducted a follow-up study (in 4 vegetation types) in which shoe type (trainers or walking boots) and trampling weight were varied. Although immediate damage was greater with walking boots, there was no significant difference after one year. Heavier trampers caused a greater reduction in vegetation height than lighter trampers, but there was no difference in the effect on cover.
- Cole & Spildie<sup>69</sup> experimentally compared the effects of off-track trampling by hiker and horse (at two intensities – 25 and 150 passes) in two woodland vegetation types (one with an erect forb understorey and one with a low shrub understorey). Horse trampling was found to cause the largest reduction in vegetation cover. The forb-dominated vegetation suffered greatest disturbance but recovered rapidly. Generally, it was shown that higher trampling intensities caused more disturbance.
- In heathland sites, trampling damage can affect the value of a site to wildlife. For example, heavy use of sandy tracks loosens and continuously disturbs sand particles, reducing the habitat's suitability for invertebrates<sup>70</sup>. Species that burrow into flat surfaces such as the centres of paths, are likely to be particularly vulnerable, as the loose sediment can no longer maintain their burrow. In some instances, nature conservation bodies and local authorities resort to hardening paths to prevent further erosion. However, this is concomitant with the loss of habitat used by wildlife, such as sand lizards and burrowing invertebrates.

<sup>66</sup> Wilson, J.P. & J.P. Seney. 1994. Erosional impact of hikers, horses, motorcycles and off-road bicycles on mountain trails in Montana. *Mountain Research and Development* **14**:77-88.

<sup>67</sup> Cole, D.N. 1995a. Experimental trampling of vegetation. I. Relationship between trampling intensity and vegetation response. *Journal of Applied Ecology* **32**: 203-214.

Cole, D.N. 1995b. Experimental trampling of vegetation. II. Predictors of resistance and resilience. *Journal of Applied Ecology* **32**: 215-224.

<sup>68</sup> Cole, D.N. 1995c. Recreational trampling experiments: effects of trampler weight and shoe type. Research Note INT-RN-425. U.S. Forest Service, Intermountain Research Station, Utah.

<sup>69</sup> Cole, D.N., Spildie, D.R. 1998. Hiker, horse and llama trampling effects on native vegetation in Montana, USA. *Journal of Environmental Management* **53**: 61-71.

<sup>70</sup> Taylor K., Anderson P., Liley D. & Underhill-Day J.C. 2006. Promoting positive access management to sites of nature conservation value: A guide to good practice. English Nature / Countryside Agency, Peterborough and Cheltenham.

- 4.17 Sand dunes are dynamic systems that are shaped by factors such as the supply of sand and prevailing wind direction. 80% of dunes in the UK are currently subject to coastal erosion, diminishing the dune itself and creating bare ground. Natural England's Access and Nature Conservation Reconciliation guidance note states that light levels of trampling can increase plant diversity, but medium to high levels of trampling promote bare ground, increase soil compaction, reduce plant diversity and change vegetation height. The type of dune habitat also influences its response to recreational pressure. For example, in fixed decalcified dunes the relationship between levels of access and impact is linear (i.e. proportionate relationship). In other dune types (e.g. embryonic shifting dunes), the relationship is curvilinear, suggesting that a small increase in trampling has a disproportionately strong effect, with a flattening of the impact curve at higher trampling damage<sup>71</sup>.
- 4.18 A major concern for nutrient-poor terrestrial habitats (e.g. heathlands and sand dunes) is nutrient enrichment associated through dog fouling, which has been addressed in various reviews (e.g.<sup>72</sup>). It is estimated that dogs will defecate within 10 minutes of starting a walk and therefore most nutrient enrichment arising from dog faeces will occur within 400m of a site entrance. In contrast, dogs will urinate at frequent intervals during a walk, resulting in a more spread out distribution of urine. For example, in Burnham Beeches National Nature Reserve it is estimated that 30,000 litres of urine and 60 tonnes of dog faeces are deposited annually<sup>73</sup>. While there is little information on the chemical constituents of dog faeces, nitrogen is one of the main components<sup>74</sup>. Nutrient levels are the major determinant of plant community composition and the effect of dog defecation in sensitive habitats is comparable to a high-level application of fertiliser, potentially resulting in the shift to plant communities that are more typical of improved grasslands. Nutrient enrichment is likely to be of primary concern for the Skipwith Common SAC, designated for European dry heaths and wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*.

## Conclusion

- 4.19 The available baseline information suggests that the following European sites relevant to Selby District are sensitive to recreational pressure due to the presence of waterfowl, waders and birds of prey throughout the year and trampling damage respectively (**the sites in bold are taken forward into the following chapters**):
- **Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar**
  - **Skipwith Common SAC**
  - **Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar**
  - **Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA**

## Loss of Functionally Linked Habitat

- 4.20 While most European sites have been geographically defined to encompass the key features that are necessary for coherence of their structure and function, and the support of their qualifying features, this is not necessarily the case. A diverse array of qualifying species including birds, bats and amphibians are not always confined to the boundary of designated sites.
- 4.21 For example, the highly mobile nature of both wader and waterfowl species implies that areas of habitat of crucial importance to the integrity of their populations lie outside the physical limits of European sites. Despite not being part of the formal designation, these habitats are integral to the maintenance of the structure and function of the designated site, for example by

<sup>71</sup> Coombes E.G. (2007). The effects of climate change on coastal recreation and biodiversity. School of Environmental Sciences. University of East Anglia, Norwich.

<sup>72</sup> Taylor K., Anderson P., Taylor R.P., Longden K. & Fisher P. 2005. Dogs, access and nature conservation. English Nature Research Report, Peterborough.

<sup>73</sup> Barnard A. 2003. Getting the facts – Dog walking and visitor number surveys at Burnham Beeches and their implications for the management process. *Countryside Recreation* 11:16-19.

<sup>74</sup> Taylor K., Anderson P., Liley D. & Underhill-Day J.C. 2006. Promoting positive access management to sites of nature conservation value: A guide to good practice. English Nature / Countryside Agency, Peterborough and Cheltenham.

encompassing important foraging grounds. Therefore, land use plans that may affect such functionally linked habitat require further assessment.

- 4.22 There is now an abundance of authoritative examples of HRA cases on plans affecting bird populations, where Natural England recognised the potential importance of functionally linked land<sup>75</sup>. For example, bird surveys in relation to a previous HRA established that approximately 25% of the golden plover population in the Somerset Levels and Moors SPA were affected while on functionally linked land, and this required the inclusion of mitigation measures in the relevant plan policy wording. Another important case study originates from the Mersey Estuary SPA / Ramsar, where adjacently located functionally linked land had a peak survey count of 108% of the 5 year mean peak population of golden plover. This finding led to considerable amendments in the planning proposal to ensure that the site integrity was not adversely affected.
- 4.23 Generally, the identification of an area as functionally linked habitat is not always a straightforward process. The importance of non-designated land parcels may not be apparent and thus might require the analysis of existing data sources (e.g. Bird Atlases or data from records centres) to be firmly established. In some instances, data may not be available at all, requiring further survey work.
- 4.24 Overall, the available baseline information suggests that the following European Sites are sensitive to the loss of functionally linked habitat due to the presence of mobile waterfowl, waders and birds of prey (**the sites in bold are taken forward into the following chapters**):
- **Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar**
  - **Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar**
  - **Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA**

## Water Quality

- 4.25 The quality of the water that feeds European sites is an important determinant of the nature of their habitats and the species they support. Poor water quality can have a range of environmental impacts:
- At high levels, toxic chemicals and metals can result in immediate death of aquatic life, and can have detrimental effects even at lower levels, including increased vulnerability to disease and changes in wildlife behaviour.
  - Eutrophication, the enrichment of water with nutrients, increases plant growth and consequently results in oxygen depletion. Algal blooms, which commonly result from eutrophication, increase turbidity and decrease light penetration. The decomposition of organic wastes that often accompanies eutrophication deoxygenates water further, augmenting the oxygen depleting effects of eutrophication. In the marine environment, nitrogen is the limiting plant nutrient and so eutrophication is associated with discharges containing bioavailable nitrogen.
  - Some pesticides, industrial chemicals, and components of sewage effluent are suspected to interfere with the functioning of the endocrine system, possibly having negative effects on the reproduction and development of aquatic life.
- 4.26 The most notable issue in relation to the SLP is the discharge of treated sewage effluent, which is likely to increase the concentration of nutrients in European sites that are dependent on the input of high-quality water. The discharge of nutrients (primarily phosphorus in freshwater habitats such as those in the River Derwent SAC and the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar; a combination of phosphorus and nitrogen in the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC) will increase the overall nutrient loading and could change the plant community composition in these

<sup>75</sup> Chapman C & Tyldesley D. 2016. Functional linkage: How areas that are functionally linked to European sites have been considered when they may be affected by plans and projects – A review of authoritative decisions. *Natural England Commissioned Reports 207*. 73pp

European sites. Given that parts of the SPA / Ramsar lie close to development proposed in the SLP, impacts of surface water runoff from hardstanding on water quality also need consideration.

- 4.27 The viability of the Kirk Deighton SAC’s great-crested newt population depends on sufficient water quality. Poor water quality can affect great-crested newts by blocking gills, impeding display behaviour and reducing invertebrate numbers. The breeding ponds in the SAC have been noted for poor water quality previously. The Thorne Moor SAC, designated for degraded raised bogs, is also sensitive to water quality changes, in particular because these habitats are naturally nutrient-poor. The potential ecological implications of SLP development on the discussed European sites are outlined in Table 2.

**Table 2: Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTWs) serving development in Selby District that are in potential hydrological continuity with European Sites within or adjacent to the Parish.**

WwTW Catchment	Residential and employment development quantum allocated in the Selby Local Plan	Potential HRA implications
Barlby WwTW, Selby WwTW, Hemingbrough WwTW, Wheldrake WwTW (operated by Yorkshire Water)	At least 8,040 new residential dwellings and 110ha of employment land	Potential discharge of treated sewage effluent into local watercourses (such as the Rivers Derwent and Ouse) that are hydrologically connected with the River Derwent SAC, the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar, the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar, the Kirk Deighton SAC or the Thorne Moor SAC.

- 4.28 The following European sites within 10km of Selby District are sensitive to changes in water quality as a result of urban growth (the sites in bold are taken forward into the following chapters):

- **River Derwent SAC**
- **Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC**
- **Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC**
- **Kirk Deighton SAC**
- **Thorne Moor SAC**

## Water Quantity, Level and Flow

- 4.29 The water level, its flow rates and the mixing conditions are important determinants of the condition of European sites and their qualifying features. Hydrological processes are critical in influencing habitat characteristics in wetlands and coastal waters, including current velocity, water depth, dissolved oxygen levels, salinity and water temperature. In turn these parameters determine the short- and long-term viability of plant and animal species, as well as overall ecosystem composition. Changes to the water flow rate within an estuary can be associated with a multitude of further impact pathways, including substratum loss, smothering and changes in wave exposure, and often interact with coastal squeeze.

- 4.30 A highly cited review paper summarised the ecological effects of reduced flow in rivers. Droughts (ranging in their magnitude from flow reduction to a complete loss of surface water) have both direct and indirect effects on stream communities. For example, a marked direct effect is the loss of water and habitat for aquatic organisms. Indirect effects include a deterioration in water quality, changes to the food resources and alterations in interspecific interactions. An increased stability

of baseflow and a reduction in the natural flow variability of rivers has been linked to the excessive growth of macrophytes and a reduction in fish populations in rivers and recipient waterbodies.

- 4.31 The unique nature of wetlands combines shallow water and conditions that are ideal for the growth of organisms at the basal level of food webs, which feed many species of birds, mammals, fish and amphibians. Overwintering, migrating and breeding wetland bird species are particularly reliant on these food sources, as they need to build up enough nutritional reserves to sustain their long migration routes or feed their hatched chicks.
- 4.32 Maintaining a steady water supply is of critical importance for many hydrologically dependent SPAs, SACs and Ramsars. For example, in many wetlands winter flooding is essential for sustaining a variety of foraging habitats for SPA / Ramsar wader and waterbird species. However, different species vary in their requirements for specific water levels. Splash and / or shallow flooding is required to provide suitable feeding areas and roosting sites for ducks and waders. In contrast, deeper flooding is essential to provide foraging and loafing habitats for Bewick's swans and whooper swans.
- 4.33 Wetland habitats rely on hydrological connections with other surface waters, such as rivers, streams and lakes. A constant supply of water is fundamental to maintaining the ecological integrity of sites. However, while the natural fluctuation of water levels within narrow limits is desirable, excess or too little water supply might cause the water level to be outside of the required range of qualifying birds, invertebrate or plant species. This might lead to the loss of the structure and functioning of wetland habitats. There are two mechanisms through which urban development might negatively affect the water level in European Sites:
- The supply of new housing with potable water will require increased abstraction of water from surface water and groundwater bodies. Depending on the level of water stress in the geographic region, this may reduce the water levels in European Sites sharing the same catchment.
  - The proliferation of impermeable surfaces in urban areas increases the volume and speed of surface water runoff. As traditional drainage systems often cannot cope with the volume of stormwater, sewer overflows are designed to discharge excess water directly into watercourses. Often this pluvial flooding results in downstream inundation of watercourses and the potential flooding of wetland habitats.
- 4.34 Increases to the quantity and rate of water delivery, such as through accelerated urban runoff, can result in summer flooding and prolonged / deeper winter flooding. This in turn results in the reduction of feeding and roosting sites for birds. For example, in areas where water is too deep, most waders will be unable to reach their food sources close to the ground.
- 4.35 Selby District lies within 10km of several European Sites that are sensitive to changes in their hydrological regimes. For example, the River Derwent SAC (designated for anadromous fish) straddles the north-eastern boundary of the district and a significant drop in flow could affect the ability of sea lamprey to navigate upstream. Maintaining the water flow rate and / or level is also integral in supporting the qualifying bird species of the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar.
- 4.36 The wet heaths component of the Skipwith Common SAC relies on a naturally fluctuating hydrological regime to ensure that an appropriate level of wetted area is maintained in the site. Similarly, breeding great-crested newts in the Kirk Deighton SAC need sufficient water levels for successful breeding. A drying out of the breeding ponds may place the long-term survival of the SAC's population at risk.
- 4.37 The following European sites within 10km of Selby District are sensitive to changes in water quantity, level and flow as a result of SLP development (the sites in bold are taken forward into the following chapters):
- **River Derwent SAC**
  - **Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar**
  - **Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar**

- **Skipwith Common SAC**
- **Kirk Deighton SAC**

## Atmospheric Pollution

4.38 The main pollutants of concern for European sites are oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>), ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) and sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and are summarised in Table 3. Ammonia can have a directly toxic effect upon vegetation, particularly at close distances to the source such as near road verges<sup>76</sup>. NO<sub>x</sub> can also be toxic at very high concentrations (far above the annual average critical level). However, in particular, high levels of NO<sub>x</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> are likely to increase the total N deposition to soils, potentially leading to deleterious knock-on effects in resident ecosystems. Increases in nitrogen deposition from the atmosphere is widely known to enhance soil fertility and to lead to eutrophication. This often has adverse effects on the community composition and quality of semi-natural, nitrogen-limited terrestrial and aquatic habitats<sup>77 78</sup>.

**Table 3: Main sources and effects of air pollutants on habitats and species<sup>79</sup>**

Pollutant	Source	Effects on habitats and species
Sulphur Dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> )	<p>The main sources of SO<sub>2</sub> are electricity generation, and industrial and domestic fuel combustion. However, total SO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the UK have decreased substantially since the 1980's.</p> <p>Another origin of sulphur dioxide is the shipping industry and high atmospheric concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> have been documented in busy ports. In future years shipping is likely to become one of the most important contributors to SO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the UK.</p>	<p>Wet and dry deposition of SO<sub>2</sub> acidifies soils and freshwater and may alter the composition of plant and animal communities.</p> <p>The magnitude of effects depends on levels of deposition, the buffering capacity of soils and the sensitivity of impacted species.</p> <p>However, SO<sub>2</sub> background levels have fallen considerably since the 1970's and are now not regarded a threat to plant communities. For example, decreases in Sulphur dioxide concentrations have been linked to returning lichen species and improved tree health in London.</p>
Acid deposition	<p>Leads to acidification of soils and freshwater via atmospheric deposition of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, ammonia and hydrochloric acid. Acid deposition from rain has declined by 85% in the last 20 years, which most of this contributed by lower sulphate levels.</p> <p>Although future trends in S emissions and subsequent deposition to terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems will continue to decline, increased N emissions may cancel out any gains produced by reduced S levels.</p>	<p>Gaseous precursors (e.g. SO<sub>2</sub>) can cause direct damage to sensitive vegetation, such as lichen, upon deposition.</p> <p>Can affect habitats and species through both wet (acid rain) and dry deposition. The effects of acidification include lowering of soil pH, leaf chlorosis, reduced decomposition rates, and compromised reproduction in birds / plants.</p> <p>Not all sites are equally susceptible to acidification. This varies depending on soil type, bed rock geology, weathering rate and buffering capacity. For example, sites with an underlying geology of granite, gneiss and quartz rich rocks tend to be more susceptible.</p>

<sup>76</sup> [http://www.apis.ac.uk/overview/pollutants/overview\\_NOx.htm](http://www.apis.ac.uk/overview/pollutants/overview_NOx.htm).

<sup>77</sup> Wolseley, P. A.; James, P. W.; Theobald, M. R.; Sutton, M. A. **2006**. Detecting changes in epiphytic lichen communities at sites affected by atmospheric ammonia from agricultural sources. *Lichenologist* **38**: 161-176

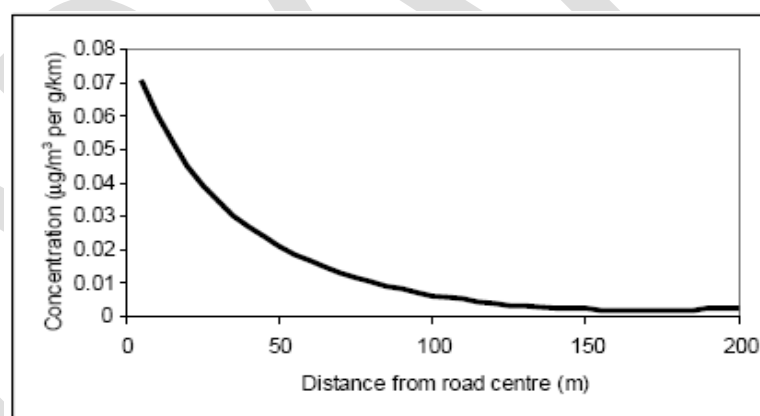
<sup>78</sup> Dijk, N. **2011**. Dry deposition of ammonia gas drives species change faster than wet deposition of ammonium ions: Evidence from a long-term field manipulation. *Global Change Biology* **17**: 3589-3607

<sup>79</sup> Information summarised from the Air Pollution Information System (<http://www.apis.ac.uk/>)

Pollutant	Source	Effects on habitats and species
Ammonia (NH <sub>3</sub> )	<p>Ammonia is a reactive, soluble alkaline gas that is released following decomposition and volatilisation of animal wastes. It is a naturally occurring trace gas, but ammonia concentrations are directly related to the distribution of livestock.</p> <p>Ammonia reacts with acid pollutants such as the products of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions to produce fine ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>) - containing aerosol. Due to its significantly longer lifetime, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> may be transferred much longer distances (and can therefore be a significant trans-boundary issue).</p> <p>While ammonia deposition may be estimated from its atmospheric concentration, the deposition rates are strongly influenced by meteorology and ecosystem type.</p>	<p>The negative effect of NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> may occur via direct toxicity, when uptake exceeds detoxification capacity and via N accumulation.</p> <p>Its main adverse effect is eutrophication, leading to species assemblages that are dominated by fast-growing and tall species. For example, a shift in dominance from heath species (lichens, mosses) to grasses is often seen.</p> <p>As emissions mostly occur at ground level in the rural environment and NH<sub>3</sub> is rapidly deposited, some of the most acute problems of NH<sub>3</sub> deposition are for small relict nature reserves located in intensive agricultural landscapes.</p>
Nitrogen oxides (NO <sub>x</sub> )	<p>Nitrogen oxides are mostly produced in combustion processes. Half of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions in the UK derive from motor vehicles, one quarter from power stations and the rest from other industrial and domestic combustion processes.</p> <p>Nitrogen oxides have been consistently falling for decades due to a combination of coal fired power station closures, abatement of other combustion point sources and improved vehicle emissions technology. They are expected to continue to fall over the plan period.</p>	<p>Direct toxicity effects of gaseous nitrates are likely to be important in areas close to the source (e.g. roadside verges). A critical level of NO<sub>x</sub> for all vegetation types has been set to 30 ug/m<sup>3</sup>.</p> <p>Deposition of nitrogen compounds (nitrates (NO<sub>3</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and nitric acid (HNO<sub>3</sub>)) contributes to the total nitrogen deposition and may lead to both soil and freshwater acidification.</p> <p>In addition, NO<sub>x</sub> contributes to the eutrophication of soils and water, altering the species composition of plant communities at the expense of sensitive species.</p>
Nitrogen deposition	<p>The pollutants that contribute to the total nitrogen deposition derive mainly from oxidized (e.g. NO<sub>x</sub>) or reduced (e.g. NH<sub>3</sub>) nitrogen emissions (described separately above). While oxidized nitrogen mainly originates from major conurbations or highways, reduced nitrogen mostly derives from farming practices.</p> <p>The N pollutants together are a large contributor to acidification (see above).</p>	<p>All plants require nitrogen compounds to grow, but too much overall N is regarded as the major driver of biodiversity change globally.</p> <p>Species-rich plant communities with high proportions of slow-growing perennial species and bryophytes are most at risk from N eutrophication. This is because many semi-natural plants cannot assimilate the surplus N as well as many graminoid (grass) species.</p> <p>N deposition can also increase the risk of damage from abiotic factors, e.g. drought and frost.</p>
Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> )	<p>A secondary pollutant generated by photochemical reactions involving NO<sub>x</sub>, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and sunlight. These precursors are mainly released by the combustion of fossil fuels (as discussed above).</p> <p>Increasing anthropogenic emissions of ozone precursors in the UK have led to an increased number of days when ozone levels rise above 40ppb ('episodes' or 'smog'). Reducing ozone pollution is</p>	<p>Concentrations of O<sub>3</sub> above 40 ppb can be toxic to both humans and wildlife, and can affect buildings.</p> <p>High O<sub>3</sub> concentrations are widely documented to cause damage to vegetation, including visible leaf damage, reduction in floral biomass, reduction in crop yield (e.g. cereal grains, tomato, potato), reduction in the number of flowers, decrease in forest production and altered species composition in semi-natural plant communities.</p>

Pollutant	Source	Effects on habitats and species
	believed to require action at international level to reduce levels of the precursors that form ozone.	

- 4.39 Sulphur dioxide emissions overwhelmingly derive from power stations and industrial processes that require the combustion of coal and oil, as well as (particularly on a local scale) shipping<sup>80</sup>. Ammonia emissions originate from agricultural practices<sup>81</sup>, with some chemical processes also making notable contributions. As such, it is unlikely that material increases in SO<sub>2</sub> or NH<sub>3</sub> emissions will be associated with the emerging SLP.
- 4.40 In contrast, NO<sub>x</sub> emissions are dominated by the output of vehicle exhausts (more than half of all emissions). A 'typical' housing development will contribute by far the largest portion to its overall NO<sub>x</sub> footprint (92%) through its associated road traffic. Other sources, although relevant, are of minor importance (8%) in comparison<sup>82</sup>. The emerging SLP, which will increase the population of Selby District, can therefore be reasonably expected to increase emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> through an increase in vehicular traffic.
- 4.41 According to the World Health Organisation, the critical NO<sub>x</sub> concentration (critical threshold) for the protection of vegetation is 30 µg m<sup>-3</sup>; the threshold for sulphur dioxide is 20 µg m<sup>-3</sup>. In addition, ecological studies have determined 'critical loads'<sup>83</sup> of atmospheric nitrogen deposition (that is, NO<sub>x</sub> combined with ammonia NH<sub>3</sub>).
- 4.42 According to the Department of Transport's Transport Analysis Guidance, beyond 200m, the contribution of vehicle emissions from the roadside to local pollution levels is insignificant (Figure 3 and see reference <sup>84</sup>). This is therefore the distance that has been used throughout this HRA to identify major commuter routes along European Sites, which are likely to be significantly affected by development outlined in the SLP.



**Figure 3: Traffic contribution to concentrations of pollutants at different distances from a road (Source: DfT<sup>85</sup>)**

- 4.43 The following European sites within 10km of Selby District are sensitive to atmospheric pollution arising from urban growth, primarily due to a significant increase in the number of two-way vehicle trips through or within 200m of these sites (the sites in bold are taken forward into the following chapters):

<sup>80</sup> [http://www.apis.ac.uk/overview/pollutants/overview\\_SO2.htm](http://www.apis.ac.uk/overview/pollutants/overview_SO2.htm).

<sup>81</sup> Pain, B.F.; Weerden, T.J.; Chambers, B.J.; Phillips, V.R.; Jarvis, S.C. 1998. A new inventory for ammonia emissions from U.K. agriculture. *Atmospheric Environment* **32**: 309-313

<sup>82</sup> Proportions calculated based upon data presented in Dore CJ et al. 2005. UK Emissions of Air Pollutants 1970 – 2003. UK National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory. <http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/index.php>

<sup>83</sup> The critical load is the rate of deposition beyond which research indicates that adverse effects can reasonably be expected to occur

<sup>84</sup> [dft.gov.uk/webtag/documents/expert/unit3.3.3.php#013](http://dft.gov.uk/webtag/documents/expert/unit3.3.3.php#013); accessed 12/05/2016

<sup>85</sup> [dft.gov.uk/ha/standards/dmrb/vol11/section3/ha20707.pdf](http://dft.gov.uk/ha/standards/dmrb/vol11/section3/ha20707.pdf); accessed 13/07/2018



- **Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC**
- **Skipwith Common SAC**
- **Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC**
- **Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA**
- **Thorne Moor SAC**

DRAFT

## 5. Screening for Likely Significant Effects (LSEs)

### Recreational Pressure

#### Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar

- 5.1 The Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar is designated for a range of overwintering and breeding waterfowl, waders and birds of prey. While inter-specific differences in sensitivity to disturbance are likely to be present, all qualifying species are potentially impacted by recreational activities. In the case of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar this is most likely to arise from dog walking but also other activities, such as recreational boating, walking and wildlife watching.
- 5.2 The SPA / Ramsar stretches along the boundary of Selby District on a north-south axis. The closest point of the SPA / Ramsar (the Brighton Meadows SSSI) lies approx. 5.6km from the Selby-Barlby-Osgodby agglomeration, the closest urban population centre to the site. However, the Derwent Ings SSSI, the most likely component of the SPA / Ramsar to be visited due to the convenience of access along the A163 and the presence of a car park, is slightly further away from the SPA / Ramsar (5.9km). While this is a distance beyond that observed for many inland nature conservation sites, the SPA / Ramsar is likely to be one of the recreational honeypot sites in Selby District. Furthermore, some settlements (e.g. North Duffield) in the district lie very close to the SPA / Ramsar and concentrated growth in these areas could significantly increase the recreational burden in the site. Overall, the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar is screened in for Appropriate Assessment in relation to recreational pressure.

#### Lower Derwent Valley SAC

- 5.3 The Lower Derwent SAC is designated for lowland hay meadows and alluvial forests, as well as otters. Furthermore, the SAC entirely overlaps with the SPA / Ramsar, and a similar geographic distance to the Selby District's main population centre therefore applies. Recreational pressure could lead to trampling damage, soil compaction and erosion around the root system of the alluvial forests. However, Natural England's Site Improvement Plan (SIP) does not highlight recreational pressure as a threat to the SAC features. However, because the SIP refers to the impacts of public access along the floodbanks, it is considered that recreation might lead to disturbance on the SAC otter population.
- 5.4 Overall, recreational pressure effects on the SAC features are of secondary importance compared to those in the SPA / Ramsar. However, the Lower Derwent SAC is screened in for Appropriate Assessment in relation to recreational pressure as a precautionary measure and because the same evidence base as relevant to the SPA / Ramsar applies.

#### Skipwith Common SAC

- 5.5 The Skipwith Common SAC is designated for northern Atlantic wet heaths (with *Erica tetralix*) and European dry heaths. The main recreational pressure concerns for this site include off-trail trampling (such as through the formation of new desire lines) and nutrient enrichment from dog walkers. Studies in other nature conservation sites (e.g. the Burnham Beeches SSSI) have documented the vast amount of nitrogen deposited annually in dog faeces and urine in sensitive habitats. Heathlands are known to be depauperate ecosystems and a significant increase in nutrient concentrations could lead to a modal shift in ecological communities towards more competitive grass species. Generally, recreational pressure is considered to be a major threat to the integrity of heathlands (for reference see Thames Basin Heaths or Wealden Heaths case studies).
- 5.6 The Skipwith Common SAC lies in the north-east of Selby District, approx. 2km from the main population centre in the Selby-Barlby-Osgodby agglomeration. While this National Nature

Reserve lies in a rural part of the district, it is therefore easily reached by car. Given its proximity to residential development and its management as a high-profile National Nature Reserve (NNR) – which is likely to increase the recreational draw of the site – LSEs of the SLP on the site cannot be excluded and the SAC is screened in for Appropriate Assessment regarding recreational pressure.

## River Derwent SAC

- 5.7 The River Derwent SAC is designated for its water course from plain to montane level with *Ranunculus fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation. Furthermore, the SAC supports several anadromous fish species as well as otter. One of the primary threats to riverine systems is typically recreational boating and associated anchoring activities, because these may directly damage the vegetation and / or disturb substrates required for spawning, such as silt and gravel beds. However, the SIP does not highlight boating in the River Derwent as an issue. Therefore, recreational pressure effects on these interest features are screened out.
- 5.8 Otters are highly mobile and depend on the habitat quality adjacent to the river. Areas with bankside vegetation are particularly important in providing otter refuges adjacent to paths / trails that are accessible to the public. Natural England's SIP highlights public access on public and non-Public Rights of Way (PRoW), particularly along floodbanks, as a cause of increasing disturbance. Given that otters rely on networks of linked, disturbance-free habitats, LSEs of the SLP on the River Derwent SAC regarding recreational pressure cannot be excluded.

## Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar

- 5.9 Similar to the River Derwent SPA / Ramsar, the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar is designated for a range of waterfowl, waders and birds of prey. These bird species have varying degrees of sensitivity to recreational pressure, most notably from dog walkers. The estuary extends on a west-east axis from Goole to Grimsby, and the closest section of the SPA / Ramsar lies approx. 1km to the east of the Selby District boundary. However, it is noted that the distance from the estuary to the town of Selby, the main population centre in the district, is much greater (approx. 11.8km). Given the general rural nature of Selby, it is considered that its overall contribution to recreational pressure in the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar is likely to be relatively small. However, if significant residential growth in the SLP was allocated around the settlements of Drax, Carlton and Newland, this may affect the analysis.
- 5.10 Overall, it is considered that an assessment of the geographic distribution of residential growth is required in relation to the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar. LSEs of the SLP on the site cannot be excluded and the site is screened in for Appropriate Assessment.

## Humber Estuary SAC

- 5.11 The Humber Estuary SAC is designated for several habitats, primarily estuaries and intertidal mud- and sandflats. Furthermore, other habitats such as Atlantic saltmarsh and shifting dunes are also present within the estuary. If recreational activities are carried out in the intertidal zone, this could lead to trampling or vehicular damage to the salt meadows. Furthermore, recreational access of dune systems – if excessive – can result in dune erosion or dislodgement dune-associated vegetation.
- 5.12 Given that the SAC overlaps with the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar, its location in relation to the Selby District boundary and the town of Selby is the same. Therefore, while it is unlikely that the SLP will contribute significantly to the recreational footprint in the Humber Estuary SAC, the site is screened in for Appropriate Assessment as a precautionary measure.

## Screening of SLP Policies and Site Allocations – Recreational Pressure

- 5.13 The following individual allocations are screened in for potential recreational pressure effects 'alone' due to their proximity to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC:

- Land North of A163, North Duffield (NDUF-D) – 45 dwellings within 328m from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC
- Land at Gothic Farm, Back Lane, North Duffield (NDUF-L) – 10 dwellings within 481m from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC

5.14 LSEs for the following SLP policies regarding recreational pressure cannot be excluded:

- Preferred Approach SG2 – Spatial Approach (specifies that a minimum of 8,040 dwellings will be delivered between 2020 and 2035 and outlines the applicable settlement hierarchy)
- Preferred Approach EM5 – Tourist, Recreation and Cultural Facilities (supports tourism and recreation developments across the district)
- Preferred Approach EM6 – Holiday Accommodation (supports the provision of various types of holiday accommodation, such as hotels, guest houses and holiday cottages)
- Preferred Approach HG1 – Meeting Local Housing Needs (specifies the delivery of 6,967 net new dwellings across the district; i.e. the quantum that needs assessment)
- Preferred Approach HG2 – Windfall Developments (hypothetically enables the provision of further dwellings – in addition to those detailed in Preferred Approach HG1)
- Preferred Approach HG13 – Gypsy & Traveller Sites (provides for 12 Gypsy and Traveller Pitches in Newthorpe)

## Loss of Functionally Linked Habitat

### Lower Derwent SPA / Ramsar

- 5.15 The Lower Derwent SPA / Ramsar is designated for several species of waterfowl, which are all mobile and are expected to routinely use habitats beyond the designated site boundary for roosting or foraging. Most notable are two bird species, Bewick's swan and European golden plover, which are known to be tightly associated with agricultural land parcels. Natural England's Site Conservation Objectives Supplementary Advice Note highlights for both species that they are frequently found in surrounding farmland. However, it is to be noted that some of the other waterfowl species (e.g. Northern shoveler, Eurasian wigeon and Eurasian teal) are found on seasonally flooded grasslands, which may also lie outside the designated site boundary.
- 5.16 The SPA / Ramsar also needs to be considered in the context of the surrounding landscape, which is mainly rural in nature and comprises large tracts of undeveloped greenfield land, such as intensively cultivated arable land parcels. Overall, a review of Google Maps indicates that there is a vast number of potential functionally linked feeding sites for Bewick's swans and golden plovers surrounding the SPA / Ramsar.
- 5.17 Given that the potential for functional linkage in Selby District is high, LSEs of the SLP on the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar regarding the loss of functionally linked habitat cannot be excluded.

### Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar

- 5.18 The Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar qualifies as a SPA / Ramsar due to the presence of a range of waterfowl, waders and birds of prey. These species require a range of supporting habitats to complete all necessary stages of their breeding cycle and / or overwintering period. For example, marsh harriers are known to hunt in agricultural land, such as fields with herbaceous cropping (e.g. irrigated maize, cereal and alfalfa). Functional linkage of habitats outside the designated site areas for marsh harriers has been highlighted by Natural England in relation to numerous planning applications (e.g. <sup>86</sup>). Usage of inland areas of wet grassland, rough grassland and

<sup>86</sup> Cleve Hill Solar Park. (November 2018). Environmental Statement including Natural England's Discretionary Advice Service Response. Available at: [infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-)

agricultural land has also been documented for hen harriers, golden plovers, black-tailed godwits, redshanks and ruffs.

- 5.19 Where there is clearly the potential for functional linkage in relation to the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar, its geographic situation in relation to Selby District also requires consideration. The most westerly point of the SPA / Ramsar lies approx. 1km to the east of the district boundary. Generally, it is considered that most off-site land usage will be concentrated around the estuary itself. Furthermore, much of the bird interest in the SPA / Ramsar is likely to be concentrated further eastwards in the SPA / Ramsar, further away from Selby District. Notwithstanding this, LSEs of the SLP on the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar regarding the loss of functionally linked habitat cannot be excluded, particularly if development in the south-east of the district comes forward.

## Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA

- 5.20 The Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA is designated for its significant population of breeding nightjar. Nightjars build their nests in bare patches on the ground (typically heathland) with widely scattered trees, in order to have clear sightlines for predator detection. They forage for insects in a variety of habitats up to 6km from their nests, including the interface between heaths and woodland, woodland clearings and rotationally managed woodland plantations. Generally, the loss of such habitats may affect the ecological functioning of the SPA population.
- 5.21 Selby District lies approx. 5.4km to the north of the closest point in the Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA, which is close to the maximum foraging distance of nightjars (6km). A review of habitat mapping on MAGIC indicates that there is no heathland or woodland plantation in the south-eastern part of Selby District. Considering the long flight distance and the absence of habitats typically used by nightjars, it is concluded that LSEs of the SLP on the Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA regarding the loss of functionally linked habitat can be excluded. The site is screened out from Appropriate Assessment in relation to this impact pathway.

## Kirk Deighton SAC

- 5.22 The SAC is designated for a large great-crested newt population that inhabits its temporary pond system. While the ponds on site are integral to the breeding success of this species, great-crested newts also use a range of terrestrial habitats for foraging and hibernation. While great-crested newts have relatively limited mobility, such supporting habitats may lie up to 500m from the designated site boundary. Therefore, a loss of the supporting habitat mosaic surrounding newt breeding ponds due to development proposals should be avoided. However, Selby District lies approx. 6.7km to the south-east of the Kirk Deighton SAC, which is far beyond the distance that great-crested newts from the site are realistically expected to travel. Overall, it is concluded that the SLP will not affect the ecological integrity of the SAC's newt population and the site is therefore screened out from Appropriate Assessment.

## Screening of SLP Policies and Site Allocations – Loss of Functionally Linked Habitat

- 5.23 The following individual allocations are screened in for Appropriate Assessment 'alone' because they lie within the typical foraging ranges of particular SPA / Ramsar waterfowl / waders associated with the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and / or the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar:
- Land at Turnhead Farm, Barlby (BARL-K) – 6.1km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
  - Lake View Farm, Osgodby (OSGB-G) – 5.7km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
  - Land east of Sand Lane (OSGB-I) – 5.5km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar

- Land north of Beech Grove, Camblesforth (CAMB-C) – 8km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and 8.6km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar
- Land north of Mill Lane, Carlton (CARL-G) – 9km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and 8.2km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar
- Bon Accord Farm, Main Street, Cliffe (CLIF-B) – 3.7km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and 8.9km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar
- Land north of Cliffe Primary School (CLIF-O) – 3.8km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and 9km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar
- Land South of Orchard End, Hemingbrough (HEMB-I) – 3.3km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and 6.8km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar
- Land East of Mill Lane, Hemingbrough (HEMB-J) – 3.1km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and 6.7km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar
- Land South of School Road, Hemingbrough (HEMB-K) – 2.6km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and 6.6km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar
- Land North of A163, North Duffield (NDUF-D) – 328m from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
- Land at Gothic Farm (NDUF-L) – 481m from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
- Cross Hills Lane, Selby (SELB-BZ) – 9.1km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
- Land on the former Rigid Paper site, Denison Road, Selby (SELB-AG) – 7.5km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
- Industrial Chemicals Ltd, Canal View, Selby (SELB-B) – 8.1km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
- Land west of Bondgate, Selby (SELB-D) – 9km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
- Olympia Park, Barlby Road, Barlby (SELB-CA) – 6.4km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
- Former Burn Airfield, Burn (BURN-G) – 9.6km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
- Land to the south of Cawood Road, Stillingfleet (STIL-D) – 9.5km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar

5.24 Furthermore, for the following SLP policies LSEs regarding functionally linked habitat loss cannot be excluded:

- Preferred Approach SG2 – Spatial Approach (specifies that a minimum of 8,040 dwellings will be delivered between 2020 and 2035 and outlines the applicable settlement hierarchy)
- Preferred Approach EM1 – Meeting Employment Needs (provides for two employment allocations in Sherburn in Elmet and Selby, totalling an area of 90.95ha)
- Preferred Approach EM5 – Tourist, Recreation and Cultural Facilities (supports tourism and recreation developments across the district)
- Preferred Approach EM6 – Holiday Accommodation (supports the provision of various types of holiday accommodation, such as hotels, guest houses and holiday cottages)
- Preferred Approach HG1 – Meeting Local Housing Needs (specifies the delivery of 6,967 net new dwellings across the district; i.e. the quantum that needs assessment)

- Preferred Approach HG2 – Windfall Developments (hypothetically enables the provision of further dwellings – in addition to those detailed in Preferred Approach HG1)
- Preferred Approach HG13 – Gypsy & Traveller Sites (provides for 12 Gypsy and Traveller Pitches in Newthorpe)

## Water Quality

### Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar

- 5.25 The Lower Derwent Valley SPA's / Ramsar's qualifying species are not directly sensitive to water negative water quality changes (unless in relation to direct toxicity effects of certain chemicals). However, bird populations may be negatively impacted by water quality via cascading effects up the food chain. For example, invertebrates or aquatic macrophytes, the foraging resources of most waterfowl, may experience changes in their abundance and community structure as a result of eutrophication, mediated through spikes in phosphorus loading (the limiting nutrient in freshwater bodies). The main source of phosphorus from Local Plans is in treated sewage effluent discharged from Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTWs). The SPA / Ramsar straddles the boundary of Selby District and, depending on the location of new urban surfaces, there is thus also the potential for overflow from sewage systems or Package Treatment Plants (PTPs) to reach the site via surface run-off.
- 5.26 Depending on the condition assessment of local watercourses, the discharge location of WWTWs and the available headroom at those works, LSEs of the emerging SLP on the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar regarding water quality cannot be excluded.

### Lower Derwent Valley SAC

- 5.27 In contrast to the qualifying species of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar, which overlaps the SAC, the habitats of the SAC are directly sensitive to negative changes in water quality. Both the lowland hay meadows and the alluvial forests have a high degree of hydrological connectivity with the River Derwent, and their plant species could be negatively impacted by phosphate-related eutrophication resulting from point-source discharges from WWTWs. Like the overlapping SPA / Ramsar, the Lower Derwent SAC straddles the boundary of Selby District and, depending on the location of new urban surfaces, there is the potential for overflow from sewage systems or Package Treatment Plants (PTPs) to reach the site via surface run-off.
- 5.28 As for the SPA / Ramsar, a more detailed assessment of the condition of SSSI components, discharge locations and available headroom of potential WWTWs is required. Overall, LSEs of the emerging SLP on the Lower Derwent Valley SAC regarding water quality cannot be excluded.

### River Derwent SAC

- 5.29 The water quality in the River Derwent SAC is crucial to its water course and the associated *Ranunculus fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation. The extent of this type of vegetation has been recently reduced by nutrient enrichment from sewage as well as agricultural inputs. However, the Annex II species for which this SAC is notified (river lamprey, sea lamprey, bullhead) are also sensitive to water quality changes. Nutrient enrichment from treated sewage effluent in WWTWs can lead to the loss of suitable spawning substrate as a result of benthic algal growth and associated anoxia. Furthermore, low dissolved oxygen concentration in the SAC are known to impede the upstream migration of both river and sea lampreys. The River Derwent SAC straddles the boundary of Selby District on a north-south axis and, depending on the location of new urban surfaces, there is the potential for overflow from sewage systems or Package Treatment Plants (PTPs) to reach the site via surface run-off.
- 5.30 Of all sites notified within the Lower Derwent Valley, the River Derwent SAC is considered to have the highest sensitivity to water quality impacts. Therefore, LSEs of the emerging SLP on the SAC cannot be excluded and the site is screened in for Appropriate Assessment.

## Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar

- 5.31 The Humber Estuary SPA's / Ramsar's waterfowl, waders and birds of prey are all indirectly sensitive to water quality changes. High nutrient concentrations (since this is an estuary both phosphorus and nitrogen are likely to be important) are likely to cause phytoplankton and macroalgal blooms. In turn, eutrophication can lead to reduced dissolved oxygen (DO) levels, with potentially lethal and sub-lethal effects on infauna, epifauna and fish. Overall, this could mean that SPA / Ramsar bird species that are reliant on these affected species as a nutritional resource, have fewer food sources available.
- 5.32 It is noted that the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar lies outside of Selby District and has a relatively long flow distance to the nearest WwTW located in Selby District (Hemingbrough WwTW). It is likely that natural attenuation processes would reduce the nutrient load in the River Ouse over this distance. However, it is also noted that the Humber Estuary receives the combined treated wastewater load from two rivers (River Ouse and River Derwent) and numerous WwTWs in Selby District (Hemingbrough, Selby, Barlby and Wheldrake WwTWs). In-combination with the wastewater contributed by adjoining authorities, it is concluded that LSEs of the SLP on the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar in relation to water quality cannot be excluded.

## Humber Estuary SAC

- 5.33 The Humber Estuary SAC comprises several habitats and fish / mammal species that are dependent on good water quality. The Environment Agency's Weight of Evidence approach assesses the risk of eutrophication across the estuary as low. Furthermore, between 2009 and 2012 the dissolved oxygen concentration in the SAC was classified as being in 'good ecological status'. However, in the years of 2013 and 2014, the Upper Humber failed its Water Framework Directive (WFD) targets due to a decline in DO concentrations. Importantly, Natural England's Site Conservation Objectives Supplementary Advice Note highlights that the DO sag is not currently affecting any of the qualifying habitats / species. However, to be precautionary, and in line with the screening decision for the overlapping Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar, the SAC is screened in for Appropriate Assessment.

## Thorne Moor SAC

- 5.34 Generally, the Thorne Moors SAC depends on the input of water of sufficient quality to maintain the ecological viability of its active raised bog feature, including plants such as bog-mosses *Sphagnum* spp., heather and cross-leaved heath. This is important because many of these species are adapted to low-nutrient conditions and would be at a competitive disadvantage to other plants under higher nutrient regimes. However, the SAC lies approx. 3.5km from the Humber estuary, which would be the only realistic pathway to water-quality issues arising from the SLP. At this distance it is considered unlikely that the development in Selby District would materially contribute to the nutrient load in the SAC. Overall, LSEs regarding water quality can be excluded and the site is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.

## Kirk Deighton SAC

- 5.35 The Kirk Deighton SAC is sensitive to negative changes in water quality due its great-crested newts. A significant increase in phosphorus levels (the limiting nutrient in freshwater environments) could lead to eutrophication, with concomitant low DO levels and high turbidity. High turbidity, in particular, has been observed in the SAC previously and could lead to the blocking of gills, hampering newt displaying behaviour and reducing invertebrate numbers. While the Kirk Deighton SAC is sensitive to water quality impacts in principle, it lies in a different hydrological catchment than the waterbodies receiving treated sewage from the SLP. Therefore, LSEs of the SLP on the SAC can be excluded and the site is screened out from Appropriate Assessment in relation to the impact pathway water quality.

## Screening of SLP Policies and Site Allocations – Water Quality

- 5.36 Some allocations may have the potential for impacting the water quality in aquatic European sites through direct surface run-off (such as from overflowing sewerage systems or Package



Treatment Plants; PTPs). The following individual development allocations are screened in for Appropriate Assessment 'alone' because they lie in close proximity to European sites that are dependent on good water quality:

- Land South of Orchard End, Hemingbrough (HEMB-I) – 1.3km from the River Derwent SAC
- Land East of Mill Lane, Hemingbrough (HEMB-J) – 1.2km from the River Derwent SAC
- Land South of School Road, Hemingbrough (HEMB-K) – 1.5km from the River Derwent SAC
- Land North of A163, North Duffield (NDUF-D) – 328.1m from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
- Land at Gothic Farm, Back Lane, North Duffield (NDUF-L) – 481m from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar

5.37 Furthermore, for the following SLP policies LSEs regarding water quality impacts cannot be excluded, including:

- Preferred Approach SG2 – Spatial Approach (specifies that a minimum of 8,040 dwellings will be delivered between 2020 and 2035 and outlines the applicable settlement hierarchy)
- Preferred Approach EM1 – Meeting Employment Needs (provides for two employment allocations in Sherburn in Elmet and Selby, totalling an area of 90.95ha)
- Preferred Approach EM5 – Tourist, Recreation and Cultural Facilities (supports tourism and recreation developments across the district)
- Preferred Approach EM6 – Holiday Accommodation (supports the provision of various types of holiday accommodation, such as hotels, guest houses and holiday cottages)
- Preferred Approach HG1 – Meeting Local Housing Needs (specifies the delivery of 6,967 net new dwellings across the district; i.e. the quantum that needs assessment)
- Preferred Approach HG2 – Windfall Developments (hypothetically enables the provision of further dwellings – in addition to those detailed in Preferred Approach HG1)
- Preferred Approach HG13 – Gypsy & Traveller Sites (provides for 12 Gypsy and Traveller Pitches in Newthorpe)

## Water quantity, level and flow

### Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar

5.38 Most of the qualifying bird species in the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar are dependent on water availability within naturally fluctuating limits. For example, golden plovers feed on a range of prey species (e.g. earthworms, leatherjackets, beetles and spiders) and thus require the maintenance of the overall area of wet / flooded grassland. Furthermore, ruff depend on an optimal water depth of between 1-3cm to roost and forage. Both the drying out (this will reduce prey abundance) and increased flooding (most birds are visual predators and will find it difficult to forage in deeper water) of land could affect the ability of this species to meet its nutritional needs. In the Site Conservation Objectives Supplementary Advice Note, Natural England identifies that water levels in the SPA / Ramsar are primarily the result of climate change and water level conditions in rivers, primarily the River Derwent. Depending on the source of potable water to meet the growing water demand in Selby District, LSEs of the SLP on the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar regarding water quantity, level and flow cannot be excluded.

## Lower Derwent Valley SAC

- 5.39 The Lower Derwent Valley SAC is designated for its lowland hay meadows and alluvial forests, both of which depend on the hydrological input from the River Derwent. The hay meadows depend on seasonal flooding for its associated nutrient input. In order to guarantee this, the SAC requires near-surface water tables all year, ranging from 35cm below ground level (bgl) in winter to 70cm bgl in summer. Natural England's Site Conservation Objectives Supplementary Advice Note highlights that the SAC's ecosystem needs a cumulative flooding duration of 10 days in winter and none in the summer period. Like the overlapping SPA / Ramsar, the integrity of SAC habitats clearly depends on maintaining the hydrological regime within relatively narrow limits.
- 5.40 The SLP will increase the water demand in Selby District and, depending on whether additional water resources will have to be explored to meet this demand, could result in more freshwater being abstracted from the wider River Derwent catchment. Overall, LSEs of the SLP on the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar regarding water quantity, level and flow cannot be excluded.

## River Derwent SAC

- 5.41 The River Derwent SAC is designated for its water course and several fish species. All these features depend on maintaining the hydrological integrity of the river system. For example, the sea lamprey is an anadromous species that spawns in freshwater and completes its life cycle in the sea. Low river flows can impede this species' ability to reach upstream gravel substrate needed for spawning. River flows are less of a threat to river lamprey, as this species is less mobile and tends to remain in the lower reaches of rivers. A stable flow regime with fast flows is also integral for all aspects of the bullhead life cycle. The river flows are also important to the *Ranunculus fluitantis* and the *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation, as this determines bed hydraulics, wetted area, and the temperature / dissolved oxygen regimes. Natural England's SIP lists water abstraction (and resulting reduced flows) as a threat to the integrity of this riverine SAC. For example, a largely unrestricted drinking water abstraction point at Elvington is thought to impact on observed flows in the river. Overall, LSEs of the SLP on the River Derwent SAC regarding water quantity, level and flow cannot be excluded.

## Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar

- 5.42 The Humber Estuary SPA's / Ramsar's wide array of qualifying species (including waterfowl, waders and bird of prey) depends on stable hydrological patterns and water areas within the estuary and its wider network of supporting habitats. For example, black-tailed godwits, golden plovers and redshanks require the maintenance of sufficient areas of grassland in wet / flooded conditions. In contrast, breeding species such as avocets and bitterns depend on water levels to be maintained below a 2cm fluctuation to avoid nests being flooded. Most SPA / Ramsar species require a water depth within relatively narrow limits for optimal foraging or roosting. While a review of Natural England's SIP does not list water abstraction or hydrology as a threat to the SPA / Ramsar, the site is screened in as a precautionary measure due to the sensitivity of its qualifying species to changes in water levels.

## Humber Estuary SAC

- 5.43 The overlapping Humber Estuary SAC is designated for a diverse array of habitat types, including estuaries, mudflats and sandflats, Atlantic saltmarsh and different variants of dune habitats. Furthermore, the SAC also supports river lamprey, sea lamprey (an anadromous species) and grey seal. Natural England's Conservation Objectives Supplementary Advice Note specifies that the magnitude of freshwater input to estuaries is vital in maintaining its water circulation and salinity gradient. Therefore, an appropriate hydrological connectivity to upstream fluvial catchments needs to be maintained. Water flow rates are of primary importance for anadromous species (e.g. sea lamprey) that need to reach upstream spawning habitats (see screening section on the River Derwent SAC). Low flow rates might result in the severance of upstream migratory routes and prevent lampreys from reaching their established breeding grounds. Overall, LSEs of the emerging SLP on the Humber Estuary SAC regarding water quantity, level and flow cannot be excluded.

## Skipwith Common SAC

5.44 The SAC's qualifying wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* have some dependence on hydrological supply. Given the relatively long distance to the nearest major rivers (Rivers Derwent and Ouse) it is considered that the SAC will be primarily groundwater-fed. All WwTWs identified in Selby District discharge into surface waterbodies and it is extremely unlikely that the effluent discharge locations will have hydrological connectivity with the Skipwith Common SAC. Therefore, LSEs of the SLP on the SAC can be excluded and the site is screened out from Appropriate Assessment in relation to this impact pathway.

## Kirk Deighton SAC

5.45 The ecological integrity of the Kirk Deighton SAC, which supports a large breeding population of great-crested newts in one of its ponds, is clearly dependent on water supply. The main breeding pond within the site has a highly fluctuating water level, which sometimes leads to pond desiccation. However, this is not affecting the population size of newts here. Natural England's SIP does not highlight water abstraction or hydrology as a specific threat / pressure to the site's integrity. Therefore, it is not considered that additional water abstraction for the SLP could realistically impact the water level in the Kirk Deighton SAC. The site is screened out from Appropriate Assessment in relation to this impact pathway.

## Screening of SLP Policies and Site Allocations – Water Quantity, Level and Flow

5.46 Overall, LSEs of several SLP policies on the water quantity, level and flow in these European sites cannot be excluded, including:

- Preferred Approach SG2 – Spatial Approach (specifies that a minimum of 8,040 dwellings will be delivered between 2020 and 2035 and outlines the applicable settlement hierarchy)
- Preferred Approach EM1 – Meeting Employment Needs (provides for two employment allocations in Sherburn in Elmet and Selby, totalling an area of 90.95ha)
- Preferred Approach EM5 – Tourist, Recreation and Cultural Facilities (supports tourism and recreation developments across the district)
- Preferred Approach EM6 – Holiday Accommodation (supports the provision of various types of holiday accommodation, such as hotels, guest houses and holiday cottages)
- Preferred Approach HG1 – Meeting Local Housing Needs (specifies the delivery of 6,967 net new dwellings across the district; i.e. the quantum that needs assessment)
- Preferred Approach HG2 – Windfall Developments (hypothetically enables the provision of further dwellings – in addition to those detailed in Preferred Approach HG1)
- Preferred Approach HG13 – Gypsy & Traveller Sites (provides for 12 Gypsy and Traveller Pitches in Newthorpe)

## Atmospheric Pollution (Through Nitrogen Deposition)

### Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar

5.47 The Lower Derwent Valley SPA is designated for several species of waterfowl, which require a range of food resources, such as grasses and different types of invertebrates. However, the impacts of atmospheric nitrogen deposition from road traffic on these foraging resources are not clear-cut. For example, APIS identifies that the impact of nitrogen deposition on the food of wigeons and golden plovers may be positive or negative. Teal might actually benefit from additional nutrient loadings in their habitats, because the seeds or invertebrates they rely on

could increase under higher nutrient regimes. Overall, given that the implications of atmospheric pollution for many of the SPA's / Ramsar's qualifying species are uncertain, LSEs of the SLP on the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar are considered unlikely. The site is therefore screened out from Appropriate Assessment in relation to this impact pathway (however, see screening for the overlapping SAC below).

## Lower Derwent Valley SAC

5.48 The Lower Derwent Valley SAC is designated for lowland hay meadows for which APIS identifies a critical nitrogen load of 20-30 kg N/ha/yr. An exceedance of this critical load could result in a transition of the SAC's ecosystem towards tall grasses and lower overall biodiversity. Review of habitat mapping on APIS indicates that qualifying meadow habitat lies directly adjacent to the A163 (and therefore within a 200m screening distance used for road traffic impacts), connecting Selby District with the authority of East Riding of Yorkshire. The A163 is one of the main transport arteries connecting the two authorities and is likely to be used by residents commuting to their respective workplaces in the two districts. Overall, LSEs of the emerging SLP on the Lower Derwent Valley SAC cannot be excluded.

## Skipwith Common SAC

5.49 The qualifying Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* and the European dry heaths within the SAC both have a critical nitrogen load of 10-20 kg N/ha/yr. Heathlands are nutrient-poor habitats and resident species have specifically adapted to these conditions. An exceedance of the critical load would lead to a transition from heather to more competitive grasses. Furthermore, excessive nitrogen deposition leads to a decline in lichen abundance and diversity, changes in plant biochemistry and increased susceptibility of abiotic stress (e.g. frost and drought). However, a review of the road infrastructure surrounding the SAC indicates that the closest major road (the A163) lies approx. 386m from the site boundary. This is beyond the distance (200m) that road traffic has been shown to materially contribute to nitrogen deposition in European sites.

5.50 Therefore, LSEs of the SLP on the Skipwith Common SAC can be excluded. The site is screened out from Appropriate Assessment in relation to this impact pathway.

## Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar

5.51 The Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar supports populations of waterfowl, waders and birds of prey. The sensitivity of these species to nitrogen deposition varies considerably, with some species likely to benefit from higher food availability under higher nutrient loadings. Some of the SPA's / Ramsar's breeding species (e.g. little tern, marsh harrier and bittern) might be negatively impacted by an increase in atmospheric pollution because an increase in nutrient flux would lead to reduced breeding opportunities for the species. Other species, such as the dark-bellied brent goose, specialise in feeding on saltmarsh plant. APIS identifies saltmarsh as being sensitive to atmospheric nitrogen deposition (critical nitrogen load of 20-30 kg N/ha/yr).

5.52 The main roads that are most relevant to commuter traffic arising from the SLP and the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar are sections of the A63 and the M62. Both roads have high traffic volumes and traverse the western-most part of the estuary. However, a review of habitat mapping on APIS indicates that none of the habitats (with a critical nitrogen load available) supporting SPA / Ramsar occur in this area of the site. Nitrogen-sensitive habitats relevant to breeding and / or foraging birds include coastal saltmarsh, vegetated shingle, reedbeds and sand dunes). The only habitat mapped within 200m of the A63 and the M62 are mudflats, which do not have a critical nitrogen load.

5.53 Overall, given a detailed appraisal of supporting habitats within the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar, it is concluded that the emerging SLP will not result in LSEs on the SPA / Ramsar regarding atmospheric pollution. The site is screened out from Appropriate Assessment in relation to this impact pathway.

## Humber Estuary SAC

5.54 Given that the Humber Estuary SAC overlaps with the SPA / Ramsar, the same road links (i.e. sections of the A63 and the M62) are relevant in relation to the SAC. However, as highlighted above, none of the nitrogen-sensitive habitats occur within 200m from these roads. Therefore, in line with the above, the Humber Estuary SAC is screened out from Appropriate Assessment in relation to this impact pathway.

## Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA

5.55 The Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA lies approx. 5.4km to the south-east of Selby District and therefore within the average distance travelled by commuters in the UK. The site is designated for breeding nightjar, which are sensitive to atmospheric nitrogen deposition because they build their 'nests' as bare scrapes on the ground. An exceedance of the site's critical nitrogen load (10-20 kg N/ha/yr for European dry heaths) could lead to the loss of suitable nightjar nesting habitat. However, a review of the local road infrastructure highlights that the M18 is the closest major road, approx. 1.3km away. This is beyond the screening distance of 200m used for nitrogen deposition effects from roads. Therefore, LSEs of the SLP on the Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA can be excluded. The site is screened out from Appropriate Assessment in relation to this impact pathway.

## Thorne Moor SAC

5.56 The degraded raised bogs in the Thorne Moor SAC are highly sensitive to atmospheric nitrogen deposition from road traffic. APIS specifies a critical nitrogen load of 5-10 kg N/ha/yr for this habitat and exceedances can result in the growth of vascular plants, the loss of bryophyte cover and a reduction in photosynthetic activity. However, the Thorne Moors SAC overlaps with the northern section of the Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA and does not lie within 200m of a major road. Therefore, LSEs of the SLP on the Thorne Moor SAC can be excluded. The site is screened out from Appropriate Assessment in relation to this impact pathway.

## Hatfield Moor SAC

5.57 The Hatfield Moor SAC is designated for raised and blanket bogs, which have a critical nitrogen load of 5-10 kg N/ha/yr. An exceedance of this load is likely to result in changes to the SAC's community composition, such as an increase in shading vascular plants and declines in bryophyte abundance and diversity. However, the closest major road to the SAC is the M180 at approx. 838m distance. On its western edge, the A614 is about 371m from the Hatfield Moors SAC. Therefore, both roads lie beyond the 200m distance for which road effects on nitrogen deposition would arise. LSEs of the SLP on the Hatfield Moor SAC can be excluded. The site is screened out from Appropriate Assessment in relation to this impact pathway.

## Screening of SLP Policies and Site Allocations – Atmospheric Pollution

5.58 The following SLP policies have the potential to increase regular commuter traffic and are screened in for Appropriate Assessment regarding the impact pathway atmospheric pollution:

- Preferred Approach SG2 – Spatial Approach (specifies that a minimum of 8,040 dwellings will be delivered between 2020 and 2035 and outlines the applicable settlement hierarchy)
- Preferred Approach EM1 – Meeting Employment Needs (provides for two employment allocations in Sherburn in Elmet and Selby, totalling an area of 90.95ha)
- Preferred Approach HG1 – Meeting Local Housing Needs (specifies the delivery of 6,967 net new dwellings across the district; i.e. the quantum that needs assessment)
- Preferred Approach HG2 – Windfall Developments (hypothetically enables the provision of further dwellings – in addition to those detailed in Preferred Approach HG1)

- Preferred Approach HG13 – Gypsy & Traveller Sites (provides for 12 Gypsy and Traveller Pitches in Newthorpe)

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## 6. Appropriate Assessment

### Recreational Pressure

- 6.1 An assessment of the distribution of housing growth across Selby District, indicated that the following European sites were most likely to be impacted by a significant increase in recreational footfall:
- Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC
  - Skipwith Common SAC
  - Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC
- 6.2 The following individual allocations were screened in for potential recreational pressure effects 'alone' due to their proximity to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC:
- Land North of A163, North Duffield (NDUF-D) – 45 dwellings within 328m from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC
  - Land at York Road, North Duffield (NDUF-L) – 10 dwellings within 481m from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC
- 6.3 The previous chapter identified several SLP policies for which LSEs regarding recreational pressure could not be excluded, including:
- Preferred Approach SG2 – Spatial Approach (specifies that a minimum of 8,040 dwellings will be delivered between 2020 and 2035 and outlines the applicable settlement hierarchy)
  - Preferred Approach EM5 – Tourist, Recreation and Cultural Facilities (supports tourism and recreation developments across the district)
  - Preferred Approach EM6 – Holiday Accommodation (supports the provision of various types of holiday accommodation, such as hotels, guest houses and holiday cottages)
  - Preferred Approach HG1 – Meeting Local Housing Needs (specifies the delivery of 6,967 net new dwellings across the district; i.e. the quantum that needs assessment)
  - Preferred Approach HG2 – Windfall Developments (hypothetically enables the provision of further dwellings – in addition to those detailed in Preferred Approach HG1)
  - Preferred Approach HG13 – Gypsy & Traveller Sites (provides for 12 Gypsy and Traveller Pitches in Newthorpe)

### Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar

- 6.4 According to the Natural England's Site Improvement Plan (SIP), the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC is sensitive to recreational pressure. A review in the ViewRanger application highlights that most of the paths permeating the site run along the banks of the River Derwent, which is where the SIP also identifies the focal point of recreational pressure to be located. There are relatively few formal car parks distributed within the site (providing access to the Derwent Ings in its northern section near Wheldrake and in its southern part around Bubwith), indicating that much of the recreational pressure is likely to arise locally from settlements near the valley and within easy walking distance (e.g. c. 1km).
- 6.5 The residential allocations in North Duffield (Land North of A163, Land at York Road) were screened in for recreational pressure effects 'alone', given their proximity to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC of under 1km. This falls within the walking distance that local residents can reasonably be expected to walk from home to reach a destination for recreation.

Furthermore, much of the land around the Lower Derwent Valley is intensive arable land, such that the valley with its wildlife interest is likely to represent the main draw for visitors in the area. The two allocations would result in a combined increase of 55 residential dwellings or 132 additional people living in close proximity to the site. These dwellings could, due to their proximity, result in elevated recreational footfall in the SPA / Ramsar / SAC, particularly of regular 'on-foot' visitors.

- 6.6 To evaluate whether this would have the potential to result in significant disturbance of SPA / Ramsar waterfowl and, ultimately, might result in adverse effects on site integrity, levels of visitor use in the site require assessment. Selby District Council and York City Council commissioned a visitor survey at key access locations in the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC, which was undertaken by Footprint Ecology in 2018. Visitor counts and interviews were conducted at three car parks, likely to be the main access locations to the site. The survey locations included a car park (North Duffield Carrs) on the north side of the A163 near North Duffield, which is the site entrance that would be most relevant for pedestrian visitors from the two sites allocated in North Duffield.
- 6.7 Importantly, at the North Duffield access point, no visitors were counted over two survey days (a total of 16 hours of surveying). This does not mean that no-one visits this part of the site but does highlight that the part of the SPA / Ramsar / SAC closest to North Duffield is currently receiving very low recreational footfall. Of course, visitors from North Duffield could use other parts of the valley (e.g. the Wheldrake lngs or Bank Island, two locations further north that were also surveyed). However, the maximum number of people entering the site at any of these further locations was 2.8 people per hour (with a maximum of 0.4 dogs per hour), indicating that levels of recreational use are low across the entire floodplain. Most notably, the site does not seem particularly popular with dog walkers, which tend to have the greatest disturbance impact in nature conservation sites.
- 6.8 Overall, notwithstanding the allocation of 55 residential dwellings in North Duffield, it is unlikely that these would result in adverse effects on the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC 'alone'. This conclusion is mainly informed by Footprint Ecology's visitor survey report, which documented no recreational use at the car park closest to the settlement, north of the A163. While the two residential sites allocated in North Duffield add to the urban fabric around the valley, ultimately making the area around the valley 'less rural', this site clearly has additional capacity to absorb further recreational pressure before significant adverse disturbance effects on the qualifying waterfowl species would arise.

### In-Combination Assessment

- 6.9 In addition to the individual sites in North Duffield, the SLP's anticipated overall residential growth of 8,040 dwellings over the plan period was also screened in, particularly in-combination with growth allocated in adjoining authorities, such as the City of York. Of the 8,040 dwellings, the emerging SLP allocates only 226 dwellings (equating to 542 future residents) within 5km of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC. 5km is the zone within which most frequent or regular visitors to an inland European site derive and growth within this zone is thus expected to significantly contribute to the recreational footprint in such sites.
- 6.10 This level of growth needs to be set into the context of growth in other nearby authorities as specified in the emerging plans for the City of York (11,788 dwellings) and the East Riding of Yorkshire (20,000 dwellings). The western part of East Riding of Yorkshire, the area that is closest to the Lower Derwent SPA / Ramsar / SAC, is very rural and unlikely to significantly contribute to recreational pressure in the site. Residential growth in the City of York conurbation, due to its proximity to the northern part of the SPA / Ramsar / SAC, is likely to have a much more significant contribution to the site's overall recreational footprint.
- 6.11 Footprint Ecology's 2018 visitor survey provides the evidence base for the in-combination assessment of recreational pressure. As discussed in relation to growth in North Duffield, the overall number of visitors in the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC is low. Only 69 visitors with a total of 6 dogs were counted across three survey points over a total of 16 hours of surveying at each location. Compared to many other European sites, this is a very low level of recreational use and indicates that the site has residual recreational capacity (see above).



- 6.12 Other results from the visitor interviews indicate that the impact of those people that do visit, is relatively low. For example, walking and bird watching in the SPA / Ramsar / SAC (69% of interviewees) was far more popular than dog walking (10.3%). Therefore, recreation in the site appears to centre around less disturbing activities, which are likely to have lower impacts on the qualifying bird species. Furthermore, most visitors do not visit frequently, with approx. 75% visiting at most '2 to 3 times per month'. There was no clear seasonal trend in visit patterns, although slightly more interviewees preferred to visit the site in spring / summer (41.3%) than in autumn / winter (34.4%). A clearer preference for the months when overwintering waterfowl are not present within the SPA / Ramsar / SAC, may have further reduced recreational pressure impacts.
- 6.13 Interviewees were also asked for their home postcodes, which is important for establishing a core recreational catchment (typically the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of 'distance to home' data) for European sites and identifying the contribution by different Local Planning Authorities to the in-combination recreational footprint. Overall, of the 48 successfully geo-referenced visitor postcodes, 14 visitors (27%) were from Selby (although 12 of these were interviewed on the Skipwith Common SAC) and 19 visitors (40%) originated from the City of York. These data highlight that Selby District is currently making a very small contribution to the recreational pressure in the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC and that is likely to continue to be the case.
- 6.14 In terms of straight-line distances to home from relevant survey points, 75% of visitors at Wheldrake Ings travelled from within 14.42km from home and at Bank Island the 75% percentile was higher still at 38.78km. These data highlight the large recreational catchment of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC, which would include large parts of the Selby District, although the large zone is probably also a function of the relative remoteness of the SPA from major population centres (even York, by far the largest settlement within the core catchment, is almost 8km to the north west of the SPA). Moreover, these results need to be set into the context of the low overall levels of recreational use in the site despite the proximity of a city (York) with a population of more than 150,000 people. The number of interviews per property (expressed as the number of interviews divided by the total number of dwellings in given distance bands) decline markedly beyond 5km, suggesting that housing has little importance for recreational footfall at greater distances.
- 6.15 As highlighted above, the City of York contributes a significantly larger 'recreational load' to the SPA / Ramsar than Selby District. The emerging City of York Local Plan (CYLP) allocates two large sites within relatively close proximity to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar. Land West of Elvington Lane is a new garden village allocated for 3,339 dwellings (approx. 2.5km from the SPA / Ramsar) and Station Yard, Wheldrake allocates 147 dwellings in Wheldrake (directly adjacent to the busiest part of the SPA / Ramsar, the Wheldrake Ings SSSI). Given the existing recreation patterns in the SPA / Ramsar (most notably that the northern part of the site is much more popular), it is likely that sites allocated in the CYLP will have a disproportionately larger effect in the European site and a new garden village only a few kilometres from the SPA/Ramsar could change recreational patterns entirely without mitigation. To mitigate recreational pressure in the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar, the CYLP therefore requires both allocations to deliver bespoke on-site measures. For example, the garden village will need to deliver a detailed site wide recreation and access strategy to minimise indirect recreational disturbance resulting from the development. Both allocations will need to create additional on-site open space and play facilities to enhance the recreational draw for future residents. As mentioned in the HRA of the CYLP, these mitigation measures are necessary due to the large number of dwellings proposed and the proximity of the site allocations to the SPA / Ramsar. According to the CYLP HRA, there is no significant potential for in-combination recreational pressure effects in the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar with the ERYC Local Plan or Selby Local Plan as York is by far the largest source of new housing within the core catchment of the SPA / Ramsar.
- 6.16 The SLP, once adopted, will be supported by a Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy. **Preferred Approach NE2 (Protect and Enhance Green and Blue Infrastructure)** provides extensive references to the importance of green infrastructure, with a strong focus on improving access to greenspace for recreation and leisure. The policy specifies that the Council will '*seek to protect, maintain, enhance and, where possible, restore and extend Selby District's green and blue infrastructure assets (GBI).*' The policy goes on to state that development proposals must '*protect and enhance the functionality and connectivity of green and blue infrastructure and corridors*

*having regard to the latest GBI audits and strategies.* Furthermore, the policy states *'that the GBI should principally benefit the development and enhance or create or facilitate links to connect to the wider network.'* While the GI Strategy is still being developed, it is considered that improvements to locally available greenspace is likely to help reduce recreational visits to more protective European sites, such as the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and further underline the conclusion of no adverse effects on integrity from the residual small amount of housing planned for the core catchment in Selby (226 dwellings within 5km), once the main new housing in York is mitigated. Any enhancements to the local GI fabric would have to be strategically placed, such the likelihood of attracting new residents would be maximised. For example, in relation to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar, GI improvements around North Duffield (particularly between the settlement and the closest access point to the SPA / Ramsar) are likely to be most effective.

## Conclusion

- 6.17 The data of Footprint Ecology's visitor survey report indicate that the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC is currently not experiencing a high level of recreational pressure, highlighted primarily by the low hourly visitor volume and the small number of dog walkers. Furthermore, data relating to the frequency of visits indicate that most site usage is not regular (daily / several times per week), reflecting the relatively large core catchment zone of the site. In addition, Natural England has not identified a strategic recreational pressure issue for the SPA / Ramsar / SAC, although they have identified a specific localised issue of increasing visitor use of the flood banks of the river.
- 6.18 The additional growth planned within Selby District within 5km of the SPA / Ramsar / SAC is small (226 dwellings), with most of that housing beyond easy walking distance, and the most likely access point to the European site for Selby residents was the least used in the visitor survey (with no visitors actually being recorded during the survey period). Overall, it is therefore concluded that the emerging SLP will not result in adverse effects on the site integrity of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC regarding recreational pressure. No policy mitigation measures are recommended for the next iteration of the SLP.
- 6.19 Notwithstanding this conclusion, the increasing residential growth in authorities adjoining the SPA / Ramsar (including Selby District) does mean that recreational pressure is important to keep monitored in the event that any mitigation may need introducing in the future, since 5 year plan reviews may well result in further increases in planned housing. **Therefore, to ensure that the integrity of the SPA / Ramsar is maintained in the long-term, it is recommended that visitor monitoring in the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar is undertaken every five years. This could be undertaken as a joint exercise between the authorities of Selby, City of York and the East Riding of Yorkshire. The results would then be taken into account in the 5-yearly Local Plan reviews.**

## Skipwith Common SAC

- 6.20 The Skipwith Common SAC is designated for heathland habitats, which are sensitive to recreational trampling, soil compaction, erosion and nutrient enrichment. The SAC is located in the rural eastern part of Selby District, approx. 2.1km from the Selby-Barlby-Osgodby agglomeration. Overall, of its total growth of 8,040 residential dwellings, the SLP allocated 450 dwellings within 5km from the Skipwith Common SAC, a distance that typically reflects the core recreational catchment of heathland sites. It is considered unlikely that specific allocations would have an impact on the SAC 'alone' and the remainder of this assessment thus considers the impacts of Policy 3 (Preferred Spatial Approach), particularly in-combination with residential growth projected in the City of York.

## In-Combination Assessment

- 6.21 Footprint Ecology's visitor survey (commissioned jointly by Selby District Council and York City Council) also covered the main access point (car park on Cornelius Causeway) to Skipwith Common SAC, including visitor counts and interviews. Over two survey days a total of 81 visitors (equating to 5.1 people per hour) and 28 dogs (equating to 1.8 dogs per hour) were counted. Compared to many European sites with high levels of recreational pressure, the SAC currently clearly is subject to relatively low recreational footfall.

- 6.22 Dog walking was the most popular recreational activity in the SAC (13 out of 21 interviewees, 62%), followed by walking (5 interviewees, 24%). Despite the SAC's low overall busyness, this may highlight a potential concern with respect to nutrient enrichment in the SAC's sensitive habitat features. Approx. 40% of interviewees are frequent site visitors (coming between daily and several times per week), highlighting that the site's recreational burden is likely to be consistent with a high number of repeat visitors. This was supported by 34% of interviewees who stated that all or more than 75% of their greenspace visits take place on the Skipwith Common SAC.
- 6.23 To assess the origin of visitors, interviewees were also asked for their postcodes. In total, 12 out of 21 interviewees (57.1%) lived in Selby District, compared to only 14.3% that travelled from the City of York. Therefore, while the Skipwith Common SAC is not overly busy, Selby District clearly contributes a significant portion to the recreational footprint. The 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of interviewees (the cut-off point frequently used to delineate core recreational catchments) had a straight-line distance of 15.53km to home. This would place most of Selby District and the housing sites allocated in the SLP in the core catchment of the SAC. However, the number of interviews per property (calculated by dividing the number of interviews by the number of residential properties in 1km distance bands) declines considerably beyond 4km from the SAC. Therefore, any residential housing delivered beyond 4km is unlikely to materially increase the recreational footfall in the SAC. The large catchment zone obtained for the SAC is, at least to some degree, likely to be an artefact of the small number of interviews obtained for the survey.
- 6.24 As was discussed in relation to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar, the delivery of the GI Strategy is likely to help reduce recreational pressure in the Skipwith Common SAC as at least some new residents will be attracted to this improved network of open spaces and Public Rights of Ways.

## Conclusion

- 6.25 Overall, notwithstanding the low overall level of access, there is some indication that the Skipwith Common SAC is used by local dog walkers. It is important to set the low visitor number in relation to the sensitivities of the site. Recreational pressure is listed as the SAC's main current threat in Natural England's Site Improvement Plan, including issues such as conflict with grazing management through off-lead dogs, contamination of pools in the wet heath, trampling damage and nutrient enrichment. Therefore, evidently, the SAC is sensitive to recreational pressure in principle, particularly if the pattern of housing development surrounding the site significantly changes.
- 6.26 Within 4km from the SAC (the area from which most interviewees derive), Footprint Ecology reports 3,814 dwellings. The SLP allocates 354 dwellings within 4km of the Skipwith Common SAC, which would result in a 4.8% increase in the housing development within this main catchment area of the site. Extrapolating from the 9 visitors that were interviewed from the first 4km distance bands, this would be expected to lead to an increase in one interviewee in the SAC.
- 6.27 Evidently, such an increase is still very small and unlikely to result in adverse effects on the heathland habitats within the SAC, even in-combination with the growth in adjoining authorities. Therefore, it is concluded that the emerging SLP will not lead to adverse effects on the integrity of the Skipwith Common SAC regarding recreational pressure, either alone or in-combination.
- 6.28 However, as a precautionary measure and in line with the Footprint Ecology report, long-term monitoring of visitor numbers is recommended in the site. Over time, the changing housing patterns surrounding the SAC may lead to changes in how the site is used for recreation. Furthermore, the visitor interviews also highlighted that there is demand for an increased commercialisation of the site, such as a café, toilets and a visitor centre. This may also increase the appeal of the site to visitors, resulting in increasing recreational footfall.
- 6.29 **While an adverse effect on integrity is not expected, it is recommended that future visitor monitoring in the Skipwith Common SAC is undertaken. This would provide reassurance to Natural England regarding the long-term sustainable recreational use of the SAC, especially in the context of increasing urbanisation around the site and any potential impacts on the heathland as a result of trampling or nutrient enrichment associated with dog fouling. This could be undertaken as a joint exercise between the authorities of Selby,**

**City of York and the East Riding of Yorkshire. The results of this future visitor monitoring could then be taken into account as necessary in the 5-yearly Local Plan reviews.**

## Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC

- 6.30 The Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC is a well-established recreation destination in the region. Recreational activities on the floodbank have the potential to cause disturbance to the resident bird populations, while human activity in the intertidal zone or on the water can affect SAC features, including saltmarsh and mudflats. Natural England's SIP indicates that recreational disturbance, particularly from dog walkers and birders, along floodbanks may be contributing to the local declines in breeding and migratory bird species at certain locations in the estuary. At its closest point, the SPA / Ramsar / SAC boundary lies approx. 1km to the east of Selby District. Therefore, while a large part of the district's population is unlikely to be visiting the site regularly, residential growth in the south-east of Selby District could lead to an increase in recreational pressure, in-combination with population increases in the East Riding of Yorkshire, Doncaster District and North Lincolnshire. This section will assess the spatial distribution of residential growth detailed in the SLP and place it into context of the Footprint Ecology visitor survey undertaken in the estuary to establish a baseline of visitor pressure.
- 6.31 The Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC is particularly appealing to wildlife watchers, dog walkers and walkers. The section of the estuary most likely to be visited by Selby residents, based on proximity to home, is the western-most part of the site around Goole. The estuary around Goole provides good accessibility, with the Trans Pennine Trail (a well-publicised long-distance hiking trail) running along the northern bank of the River Ouse. Notwithstanding this, based on satellite mapping, there do not appear to be many formal car parks in this part of the estuary, which would decrease the likelihood that this part of the estuary is a regular destination for Selby residents. Based on the distance to the closest significant settlement in Selby District (Drax at approx. 5.6km straight-line distance), the Humber Estuary is only considered to be a realistic destination for motorists, but not for on-foot visitors. The distance to Selby District and the lack of settlements in the south-eastern part of the district, indicate that the SLP could only materially contribute to recreational pressure in-combination with other plans and projects.

## In-Combination Assessment

- 6.32 Footprint Ecology undertook a visitor survey at 20 different survey points in winter (November – March) 2011 / 2012. The survey coverage included a survey point at Goole, the closest part of the estuary to Selby District. The main purpose of this survey was to identify the level of access across the SPA / Ramsar / SAC, to determine the recreational activities that people were undertaking and to establish where visitors were travelling from to visit the site (i.e. gaining an understanding of the site's core recreational catchment).
- 6.33 One of the features of the survey is its thorough coverage of the estuary and the high survey effort, totalling 320 hours of wintering counting / interviewing. Over the entire survey duration, a total of 2,177 visitors were counted entering the SPA / Ramsar / SAC, indicating that the site is very popular for recreational use. In terms of busyness, Goole has intermediate levels of recreational use (43 people and 14 dogs entering the site). This recreational pressure is higher than in some locations (e.g. Easington Bank), but much lower than at other access points (Donna Nook; 726 people and 20 dogs entering). The temporal characteristics of recreational visits indicate that there is a large proportion of repeat visitors to the site. For example, approx. 60% of interviewees are regular visitors, coming 'daily', 'most days' or '1 to 3 times a week'. Importantly, repeat visitors make up 94% of the recreational burden at Goole, indicating this area of estuary is particularly important for local residents.
- 6.34 As part of the questionnaire, interviewees were also asked for their home postcode in order to determine the straight-line distances that they travelled from home. Overall, 50% of people visiting from home (i.e. the visitor group that is most likely to contribute to the regular recreational burden) travelled a distance of 4.42km to their survey point (n=513). Clearly, the draw of different survey points differs based on their distance to nearby settlements and how well they are advertised for recreation. 50% of the visitors interviewed in Goole lived within 0.4km. When considering only car-based visitors (the group most likely to be relevant for Selby District), 50% of interviewees lived within 5km of Goole (and several other survey points across the estuary). The median distance travelled by dog walkers to visit the site was 3km, indicating that this user

group mainly derives from settlements close to the estuary. This is important as dog walking is one of the activities resulting in the strongest disturbance responses in sensitive bird species.

## Conclusion

6.35 The residential sites closest to the Humber Estuary allocated in the SLP are in Hemingbrough, amounting to a relatively modest increase of 82 dwellings over the plan period. At their closest point, these new dwellings will be approx. 6.6km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC. Furthermore, it is to be noted that most allocations, especially the larger settlements, lie further than 10km from the site. Given the data presented above, in particular the distance that 50% of visitors travel to the site (4.42km), it is considered unlikely that residential growth in Selby District will materially increase recreational pressure along the Humber estuary, 'alone' or in-combination.

## Loss of Functionally Linked Habitat

6.36 An assessment of the distribution of housing growth across Selby District, indicated that the following European sites could be impacted through the loss of functionally linked habitats:

- Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
- Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar

6.37 The following individual allocations were screened in for Appropriate Assessment 'alone' because they lie within the typical foraging ranges of particular SPA / Ramsar waterfowl / waders associated with the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and / or the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar:

- Land at Turnhead Farm, Barlby (BARL-K) – 6.1km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
- Lake View Farm, Osgodby (OSGB-G) – 5.7km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
- Land east of Sand Lane (OSGB-I) – 5.5km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
- Land north of Beech Grove, Camblesforth (CAMB-C) – 8km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and 8.6km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar
- Land north of Mill Lane, Carlton (CARL-G) – 9km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and 8.2km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar
- Bon Accord Farm, Main Street, Cliffe (CLIF-B) – 3.7km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and 8.9km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar
- Land north of Cliffe Primary School (CLIF-O) – 3.8km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and 9km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar
- Land South of Orchard End, Hemingbrough (HEMB-I) – 3.3km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and 6.8km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar
- Land East of Mill Lane, Hemingbrough (HEMB-J) – 3.1km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and 6.7km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar
- Land South of School Road, Hemingbrough (HEMB-K) – 2.6km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and 6.6km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar
- Land North of A163, North Duffield (NDUF-D) – 328m from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
- Land at Gothic Farm (NDUF-L) – 481m from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
- Cross Hills Lane, Selby (SELB-BZ) – 9.1km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
- Land on the former Rigid Paper site, Denison Road, Selby (SELB-AG) – 7.5km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar

- Industrial Chemicals Ltd, Canal View, Selby (SELB-B) – 8.1km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
- Land west of Bondgate, Selby (SELB-D) – 9km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
- Olympia Park, Barlby Road, Barlby (SELB-CA) – 6.4km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
- Former Burn Airfield, Burn (BURN-G) – 9.6km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
- Land to the south of Cawood Road, Stillingfleet (STIL-D) – 9.5km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar

6.38 Furthermore, the previous chapter identified several SLP policies for which LSEs regarding functionally linked habitat loss could not be excluded, including:

- Preferred Approach SG2 – Spatial Approach (specifies that a minimum of 8,040 dwellings will be delivered between 2020 and 2035 and outlines the applicable settlement hierarchy)
- Preferred Approach EM1 – Meeting Employment Needs (provides for two employment allocations in Sherburn in Elmet and Selby, totalling an area of 90.95ha)
- Preferred Approach EM5 – Tourist, Recreation and Cultural Facilities (supports tourism and recreation developments across the district)
- Preferred Approach EM6 – Holiday Accommodation (supports the provision of various types of holiday accommodation, such as hotels, guest houses and holiday cottages)
- Preferred Approach HG1 – Meeting Local Housing Needs (specifies the delivery of 6,967 net new dwellings across the district; i.e. the quantum that needs assessment)
- Preferred Approach HG2 – Windfall Developments (hypothetically enables the provision of further dwellings – in addition to those detailed in Preferred Approach HG1)
- Preferred Approach HG13 – Gypsy & Traveller Sites (provides for 12 Gypsy and Traveller Pitches in Newthorpe)

## Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar

6.39 Both the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar are designated for mobile bird species, including waterfowl, waders and birds of prey. These species are likely to routinely forage or roost beyond the designated site boundary, implying that the designated populations might depend on such functionally linked habitats for their long-term survival. Consequently, a loss of individual such land parcels may affect the functionality of the network of supporting sites and, ultimately, may have adverse effects on site integrity. Various parameters are likely to determine whether a site is functionally linked, including its distance to the SPA / Ramsar, size (ha), habitat, the extent of surrounding development and the nature of flightlines to / from the designated sites. The following section will assess the sites allocated in the SLP for these parameters (note that sites beyond the core foraging / roosting areas for SPA / Ramsar species have already been screened out and are not discussed further).

6.40 Natural England has published guidance on Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) for SSSIs (the individual management constituents of European sites). The guidance note specifies the impact distances of different types of development (e.g. rural residential development) as well as the extent to which different bird populations depend on functionally linked habitat. Functional habitat linkage may extend up to the maximum foraging distance for designated species, however it should be noted that the number of birds foraging in off-site habitats will decrease with distance from the designated site boundary.

6.41 A review of the IRZ guidance note highlights that both SPAs / Ramsars are designated for species that may forage in lowland farmland at great distances from the site boundary. For example, golden plovers (qualifying species of both sites) have maximum foraging distances of 15-20km from their roost sites. NE has denoted IRZs of 5km for rural residential developments (over 50 units) and non-residential developments (over 1ha in size) for this species. Bewick's swans (qualifying feature of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar only) have a maximum foraging range of 10km and similar 5km IRZs have been identified for this species. Notwithstanding these IRZs, this HRA adopts a precautionary approach and uses 10km as the distance to flag potential functionally linked habitat.

6.42 Table 1 below provides an assessment of the allocations screened in for Appropriate Assessment, including the following parameters: distance to relevant SPAs / Ramsars, site size (ha), habitat type, the extent of surrounding development and the nature of the flightlines to and from relevant sites. In determining whether an allocation has the potential to be functionally linked to a SPA / Ramsar, the following criteria have been considered in sequential order:

- Distance from the SPA / Ramsar – Any allocations beyond 10km from both SPAs / Ramsars were not included in the assessment
- Site size – Allocations below 2ha in size are unlikely to provide sufficient resources to support 1% of the qualifying population of a species (although exceptions were made for sites close to the 2ha area, if other criteria were fulfilled)
- Habitat type – Sites without arable land or wet grassland were considered unsuitable for golden plovers and Bewick's swans
- Surrounding development – SPA / Ramsar waterfowl generally prefer rural habitats and sites in a highly urbanised context are less likely to be chosen
- Nature of flightlines – SPA / Ramsar birds are likely to navigate more easily to foraging sites that support uninterrupted flightlines (due to the use of visual cues)

**Table 4: Characterisation of the sites allocated in the Selby Local Plan, which fall within the maximum foraging distances for golden plovers and Bewick's swans.**

Allocation Ref	Site Name	Distance to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar	Distance to the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar	Size (ha)	Habitat Type	Surrounding Development	Nature of Flightlines to / from the SPAs / Ramsars	Potential Implications for SPA / Ramsar waterfowl
BARL-K	Land at Turnhead Farm, Barlby	6.1km	13.6km	1.02	Existing brownfield development	Rural	Relatively uninterrupted flightline to the SPA / Ramsar	No
OSGB-G	Lake View Farm, Osgodby	5.7km	11.6km	0.69	Largely existing brownfield development	Semi-rural, amidst residential dwellings	Relatively uninterrupted flightline to the SPA / Ramsar	No
OSGB-I	Land east of Sand Lane, Osgodby	5.5km	11.3km	2.81	Arable land (probably cereal)	Rural	Relatively uninterrupted flightline to the SPA / Ramsar	Yes
CAMB-C	Land north of Beech Grove, Camblesforth	8km	8.6km	4.73	Arable land and lowland grazing	Semi-rural	Flightline potentially impeded by residential and industrial development	Yes

CARL-G	Land north of Mill Lane, Carlton	9km	8.2km	5.12	Arable land	Rural	Relatively uninterrupted flightlines to both SPAs / Ramsars	Yes
CLIF-B	Bon Accord Farm, Main Street, Cliffe	3.7km	8.9km	0.64	Some brownfield development and small section of grassland	Amidst existing residential dwellings and next to major A road	Relatively uninterrupted flightlines to both SPAs / Ramsars	No
CLIF-O	Land north of Cliffe Primary School, Main Street, Cliffe	3.8km	9km	3.03	Arable land (probably cereal)	Semi-rural	Flightlines to both SPAs / Ramsars potentially impeded by residential development	Yes
HEMB-I	Land South of Orchard End, Hemingbrough	3.3km	6.8km	0.86	Arable land	Semi-rural	Relatively uninterrupted flightline to the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar	No
HEMB-J	Land East of Mill Lane, Hemingbrough	3.1km	6.7km	1.59	Arable land (potentially cereal)	Rural	Relatively uninterrupted flightlines to both SPAs / Ramsars	Yes
HEMB-K	Land South of School Road, Hemingbrough	2.6km	6.6km	0.21	Arable land	Rural	Relatively uninterrupted flightlines to both SPAs / Ramsars	No
NDUF-D	Land North of A163, North Duffield	328m	11.4km	1.76	Arable land	Rural, on eastern edge of North Duffield	Uninterrupted and short flightline to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar	Yes
NDUF-L	Land at Gothic Farm, Back Lane, North Duffield	481m	11.8km	0.33	Brownfield development	Rural, on eastern edge of North Duffield	Uninterrupted and short flightline to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar	No
SELB-BZ	Cross Hills Lane, Selby	9.1km	13.8km	80.38	Mostly arable land and some grassland	More urbanised, on the western edge of Selby town	Flightlines to both SPAs / Ramsars potentially impeded by residential development	Yes
SELB-AG	Land on the former Rigid Paper Site, Denison Road, Selby	7.5km	12.3km	7.53	Wet grassland	Urban	Flightline to the Lower Derwent SPA / Ramsar potentially interrupted	No
SELB-B	Industrial Chemicals Ltd, Canal View, Selby	8.1km	12.6km	15.02	Brownfield development and approx. 50% grassland	Urban	Flightline to the Lower Derwent SPA / Ramsar potentially interrupted	No
SELB-D	Land west of Bondgate, Selby	9km	14.1km	0.27	Semi-improved grassland	Semi-rural (on northern edge of Selby town)	Flightline to the Lower Derwent SPA / Ramsar potentially interrupted	No



SELB-CA	Olympia Park, 6.4km Barlby Road, Barlby	11.2km	33.6	Brownfield development and a portion of arable fields	Semi-rural (on eastern edge of Selby town, but opening towards the countryside)	Relatively uninterrupted flightline to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar	Yes	
BURN-G	Former Airfield, Burn	9.6km	>15km	228.8	Large parcels of agricultural land, some grassland	Rural	Relatively uninterrupted but long flightline to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar	Yes
STIL-D	Land to the south of Cawood Road, Stillingfleet	9.5km	>15km	173	Large parcels of agricultural land, some grassland	Rural	Relatively uninterrupted but long flightline to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar	Yes

6.43 The assessment in Table 1 above highlights that several sites allocated in the SLP have the potential to be functionally linked to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and / or the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar. This data also highlights that the identification of functionally linked habitat in relation to growth in Selby District is not straightforward. For example, the sites allocated in Camblesforth and Carlton are large (both around 10ha in size) and both comprise arable land, which is suitable foraging habitat for golden plovers and Bewick's swans. However, both allocations lie quite far from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar (between 8 and 9km), which is close to the maximum foraging distances for these species. Notwithstanding this, as a precautionary measure, these sites have been flagged as having potential implications for SPA / Ramsar waterfowl.

6.44 While few allocations fulfil all criteria of functionally linked habitats, development proposals in several areas are of primary concern:

- One allocation (Land north of A163) in North Duffield is sufficiently large and constitutes arable land. Furthermore, the allocation has a very short, uninterrupted flightline to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar. Accounting for the fact that birds are likely to select foraging habitats close to their roost sites to minimise energy expenditure, this allocation has a high potential for being functionally linked to the SPA / Ramsar.
- The site allocated at Olympia Park, Barlby Road, Barlby (SELB-CA) is large and lies on the eastern edge of Selby town. While the site does comprise brownfield elements, the eastern section of the allocation constitutes entirely arable land. At a relatively uninterrupted flightline distance of 6.4km to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar, it cannot be excluded that this allocation constitutes functionally linked habitat.
- Two very large sites are allocated at Burn (228.8ha) and Stillingfleet (173ha), both of which comprise large tracts of agricultural land in a very rural setting. While flight distances to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar from these allocations are approx. 9.5km and 9.6km respectively, these sites are flagged on the basis of their large size.

6.45 Overall, it is considered that policy mitigation in relation to the above site allocations is required, to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar regarding the loss of functionally linked habitat.

### Mitigation in the Selby Local Plan

6.46 In the first instance, the SLP was reviewed to assess whether relevant / appropriate mitigation wording is already included in the plan. It is considered that two policies in the SLP contain protective policy wording that is supportive for the preservation of foraging habitats. **Preferred Approach NE2 (Protect and Enhance Green and Blue Infrastructure)** states that *'The Council's preferred approach is to seek to protect, maintain, enhance and, where possible, restore and extend Selby District's green and blue infrastructure assets (GBI).'* While the policy

does not refer to functionally linked habitats for birds, it provides general protection to all green infrastructure, which includes habitats that the birds may forage in (albeit not arable land).

- 6.47 Furthermore, and more importantly, **Preferred Approach NE4 (Protecting Designated Sites and Species)** contains wording that extends protection to European sites, and their qualifying species and habitats. For example, the policy states that *'relating to Internationally and Nationally Protected habitats and species: ... 2. ... ensure development does not negatively impact on the district's European designations (Lower Derwent Valley, Skipwith Common and River Derwent).'*
- 6.48 Policy 32 then goes on to place onus on individual planning applications by stating that *'Planning applications for proposals which are likely to impact on the above (International, National and Local) assets must be accompanied by an ecological assessment proportionate to the development as set out in the Council's Validation Checklist.'* Effectively, while not explicitly mentioning any assessments, this wording ensures that bespoke HRAs for planning applications will be required, which will need to demonstrate that significant harm can be avoided, mitigated or, where applicable, compensated for.

## Policy Recommendations

- 6.49 While the SLP already requires for proportionate ecological assessments, AECOM recommends that further wording requiring the need for overwintering bird surveys is included in the next iteration of the plan to provide further specificity. At present, adverse effects (without mitigation) arising from some of the sites allocated in the SLP cannot be excluded, particularly in relation to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar.
- 6.50 Therefore, it is recommended that the following text (or similar) is inserted into Preferred Approach NE4 (Protecting Designated Sites and Species): **'To meet the requirements of the Habitats Directive, developers should provide evidence that relevant proposals will not result in adverse effects on qualifying bird populations of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar regarding the loss of functionally linked habitat. Therefore, a survey of the current site usage (if any) of overwintering SPA / Ramsar bird species will be required at the planning application stage to assess if the land parcel supports a significant population (typically defined as 1% of the qualifying population) of designated bird species. These non-breeding bird surveys will need to be undertaken during autumn, winter and spring. If site allocations or directly adjacent land are identified to be functionally linked to the SPA / Ramsar, avoidance measures and mitigation will be required, and the planning application will need to be assessed through a project specific Habitats Regulations Assessment to ensure that the development does not result in adverse effects on site integrity.'**
- 6.51 It is acknowledged that this text is too long to be contained in a policy. Therefore, the issue of functionally linked habitat loss should be acknowledged in Preferred Approach NE4 and it is recommended that the above paragraph is included in the supporting text of that policy. Provided that this wording (or an appropriate alternative) is inserted to the next iteration of the SLP, adverse effects on the integrity of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar can be excluded.

## Water Quality

- 6.52 An assessment of the European sites linked to development across Selby District, indicated that the following European sites could be impacted through the loss of functionally linked habitats:
- Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC
  - River Derwent SAC
  - Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC
- 6.53 While the water quality impact pathway is usually considered at the Local Plan level, effectively a larger spatial scale, some allocations may have the potential for impacting the water quality in aquatic European sites through direct surface run-off (such as from overflowing sewerage systems or Package Treatment Plants; PTPs). The following individual development allocations were screened in for Appropriate Assessment 'alone' because they lie in close proximity to European sites that are dependent on good water quality:

- Land South of Orchard End, Hemingbrough (HEMB-I) – 1.3km from the River Derwent SAC
- Land East of Mill Lane, Hemingbrough (HEMB-J) – 1.2km from the River Derwent SAC
- Land South of School Road, Hemingbrough (HEMB-K) – 1.5km from the River Derwent SAC
- Land North of A163, North Duffield (NDUF-D) – 328.1m from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar
- Land at Gothic Farm, Back Lane, North Duffield (NDUF-L) – 481m from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar

6.54 Furthermore, the previous chapter identified several SLP policies for which LSEs regarding water quality impacts could not be excluded, including:

- Preferred Approach SG2 – Spatial Approach (specifies that a minimum of 8,040 dwellings will be delivered between 2020 and 2035 and outlines the applicable settlement hierarchy)
- Preferred Approach EM1 – Meeting Employment Needs (provides for two employment allocations in Sherburn in Elmet and Selby, totalling an area of 90.95ha)
- Preferred Approach EM5 – Tourist, Recreation and Cultural Facilities (supports tourism and recreation developments across the district)
- Preferred Approach EM6 – Holiday Accommodation (supports the provision of various types of holiday accommodation, such as hotels, guest houses and holiday cottages)
- Preferred Approach HG1 – Meeting Local Housing Needs (specifies the delivery of 6,967 net new dwellings across the district; i.e. the quantum that needs assessment)
- Preferred Approach HG2 – Windfall Developments (hypothetically enables the provision of further dwellings – in addition to those detailed in Preferred Approach HG1)
- Preferred Approach HG13 – Gypsy & Traveller Sites (provides for 12 Gypsy and Traveller Pitches in Newthorpe)

6.55 The following Appropriate Assessment combines the discussion of the River Derwent SAC and the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC, because these are hydrologically connected, interdependent sites. The Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC, while also in wider hydrological connectivity with the River Derwent, is discussed separately; especially due to it being a considerable distance (in terms of flowpath) from the River Derwent.

## River Derwent SAC and the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC

6.56 The River Derwent SAC and the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar both lie in the wider Humber River Basin District and in the Environment Agency's Derwent Management Catchment. The Derwent Lower Yorkshire operational catchment covers an area ranging from Elvington down to Barmby on the Marsh (where the River Derwent meets the River Ouse), which encompasses large parts of the River Derwent SAC and the Lower Derwent Valley floodplains.

6.57 The land surrounding these European sites is largely low-lying agricultural land and the EA's Catchment Data Explorer highlights that agriculture is by far the most important Reason For Not Achieving Good Status (RNAGS), followed by the water industry, which includes Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTWs). The SIP for the River Derwent SAC lists water pollution as one of the main threats to the site, highlighting that diffuse sediment run-off is the and cattle trampling are the primary issues in the SAC. Point-source contributions from WwTWs are not specifically mentioned. The SIP for the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC does not mention water pollution as a threat. Notwithstanding this, AECOM considers that the SPA / Ramsar / SAC is

sensitive to changes in water quality, particularly from high phosphate loadings in treated sewage effluent.

- 6.58 A review of the European Commission urban wastewater website indicates that Selby District only has one major WwTW at Wheldrake, which discharges into the River Derwent. The emerging SLP allocates only few sites that are likely to produce wastewater that discharges into the R. Derwent, including the residential sites in North Duffield and Barmby on the Marsh. The remaining site allocations, particularly urban growth around Selby town and the new settlement proposals at Burn (3,900 dwellings of which 1,260 are to be delivered in the plan period), Church Fenton Airbase (3,000 dwellings) and Stillingfleet (3,952 dwellings of which 1,050 dwellings are to be delivered in the plan period), will all be treated by WwTWs discharging into the River Ouse. The R. Ouse meets the R. Derwent downstream from the River Derwent SAC and the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar, meaning that a significant proportion of the volume of treated sewage effluent associated with growth allocated in the SLP will not be in hydrological continuity with these sites.
- 6.59 Five site allocations were screened in for Appropriate Assessment 'alone', due to their proximity to the River Derwent SAC and, particularly, the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar. On urban development sites, the high coverage of the ground by impervious surfaces (e.g. roads, parking areas, rooftops) prevents most of the water from infiltrating the ground, where natural attenuation processes would result in some pollutant removal. Instead, surface run-off either reaches surface waterbodies directly or is transported to recipient streams via storm sewer systems. The pollutants that might affect the water quality in that way include sediment, oil / grease, toxic chemicals from cars, pesticides from urban greenspaces, road salts and heavy metals. Furthermore, surface run-off typically has higher temperatures, which can impair the health and reproduction of aquatic life.
- 6.60 The type of sewage treatment in place will also have potential water quality effects, particularly in the allocations in North Duffield. Not all properties are connected to the mains sewerage system and thus have in-situ wastewater treatment solutions, such as septic tanks and small Package Treatment Plants (PTPs). Septic tanks are very basic systems that separate liquids from solids and allow the natural breakdown of the sludge by bacteria. PTPs provide more advanced cleaning of wastewater by utilising air flow to maximise the breakdown of chemical contaminants. Notwithstanding this, they are subject to tight regulations by the Environment Agency. Both in-situ technologies are associated with risks such as failure, leakage and overflow, with the potential to result in localised water quality impacts.
- 6.61 Given the proximity of the residential allocations in Hemingbrough and North Duffield to sensitive European sites, **AECOM recommends that a presumption against private sewage treatment facilities in sewered areas is included in the next iteration of the SLP. If new developments must be served by private sewage treatment solutions, the best available technology should be used to minimise the discharge of the total phosphorus load.**

### In-Combination Assessment

- 6.62 Notwithstanding the relatively small overall amount of growth in Selby District that may impact the water quality in the Lower Derwent Valley, this needs to be set into the context of the in-combination growth delivered across the authority of East Riding of Yorkshire. Several WwTWs serving this authority (e.g. Pocklington and Melbourne WwTWs along the Pocklington Canal, and Stamford Bridge WwTW further upstream on the R. Derwent) will also discharge into the R. Derwent, and potentially lead to in-combination water quality effects in the river and associated European sites.
- 6.63 The available headroom at WwTWs is the primary factor in determining whether additional growth can be supported. The Environment Agency sets permit levels for aquatic pollutants (this includes nutrients such as phosphorus) for WwTWs. These permits identify the maximum amount of pollutants that can be discharged from sewage works without putting the Conservation Objectives of European sites at risk. If permit limits are exceeded, mitigation measures are required to ensure that adverse effects on the integrity of linked European sites are prevented. Mitigation measures may include technological improvements at WwTWs, off-site measures (e.g. downstream construction wetlands) or rerouting of sewage to works that have remaining capacity.

- 6.64 At the time of writing this HRA, AECOM has contacted Yorkshire Water (the sewage treatment provider for Selby District) whether there is remaining headroom in WwTWs discharging into the River Derwent to accommodate the growth anticipated in the relevant WwTW catchments. If this is confirmed to be the case, adverse effects on the integrity of the River Derwent SAC can be excluded. **If sufficient headroom is unavailable, additional policy wording will be recommended for insertion into the SLP. This would include a requirement for phasing developments, particularly in the larger site allocations, to keep pace with the available headroom at identified WwTWs.** It will need to be confirmed that sewage treatment capacity is available, before any residential dwellings can become occupied.

## Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC

- 6.65 Given it is an intertidal waterbody, with both freshwater and seawater input being important, it is considered that the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC is sensitive to both increased phosphorus and nitrogen loadings. The potential eutrophication associated with high nutrient input to the estuary has the potential to alter the structure of SAC habitats (such as the Atlantic saltmarsh) and to affect qualifying waterfowl and waders by impacting their food resources. The flowpath distance between the confluence of the Rivers Derwent and Ouse and the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC is approx. 7.2km. While some degree of nutrient attenuation is likely to occur over this distance, the estuary will receive the in-combination treated sewage effluent from the entire Selby District and most of the City of York (York WwTW also discharges to the R. Ouse). Clearly, the discharge of nutrients in sewage requires further consideration, especially considering that none of the WwTWs in these two authorities have bespoke nitrogen or phosphorus removal in place.
- 6.66 Natural England's SIP identifies water pollution as the most important threat / pressure to the integrity of the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC. One of the main concerns is an annual dissolved oxygen (DO) sag in the River Ouse, which may have implications for the upstream migration of sea lamprey and other qualifying species. While the reasons for these low annual DO levels are unknown, it cannot be excluded that nutrient discharge from WwTWs is a contributing factor. Furthermore, there are several point sources contributing high phosphorus loadings to the estuary, including a former smelting plant and several clay pits. These sources all have the potential to act in-combination with the growth allocated in the SLP.
- 6.67 Review of the Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer highlights that the R. Ouse from the River Wharfe to the Upper Humber had moderate ecological status in 2019. Specifically, the physico-chemical parameters failed to achieve good status because the phosphate concentrations in the R. Ouse were rated as 'Moderate'. Various RNAGS are given, including point-source continuous discharge of treated sewage effluent. Overall, these data highlight that the water entering the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC is currently not meeting its water quality targets in terms of phosphorus. The Middle Humber also has a 'Moderate' classification for nitrogen, illustrating that the overall nitrogen loading may also represent an issue for the ecological integrity of the site.
- 6.68 The R. Ouse is likely to receive the in-combination treated sewage effluent from 8,040 dwellings allocated in the SLP and the 11,788 dwellings allocated in the emerging City of York Local Plan. Therefore, it is important to ensure that there remains sufficient headroom in the WwTWs serving Selby District (see earlier AA on the River Derwent SAC and the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC), in order to ensure that the integrity of the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC is protected.
- 6.69 AECOM has contacted Yorkshire Water (the sewage treatment provider for Selby District) to evaluate whether there is sufficient remaining headroom in WwTWs serving Selby District to accommodate the growth allocated in the SLP. If this is confirmed to be the case, adverse effects on the integrity of the River Derwent SAC can be excluded. **If sufficient headroom is unavailable, additional policy wording will be recommended for insertion into the SLP. This would include a requirement for phasing developments, particularly the larger sites, to keep pace with the available headroom at identified WwTWs.** It will need to be confirmed that sewage treatment capacity is available, before any residential dwellings can become occupied.

## Water Quantity, Level and Flow

6.70 Delivery of the SLP will inevitably result in an increase on the potable water demand within the district, which may be associated with a requirement for further water abstraction. The following European sites depend on an appropriate supply of freshwater:

- River Derwent SAC
- Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC
- Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC

6.71 The previous chapter identified several SLP policies for which LSEs on the water quantity, level and flow in these European sites could not be excluded, including:

- Preferred Approach SG2 – Spatial Approach (specifies that a minimum of 8,040 dwellings will be delivered between 2020 and 2035 and outlines the applicable settlement hierarchy)
- Preferred Approach EM1 – Meeting Employment Needs (provides for two employment allocations in Sherburn in Elmet and Selby, totalling an area of 90.95ha)
- Preferred Approach EM5 – Tourist, Recreation and Cultural Facilities (supports tourism and recreation developments across the district)
- Preferred Approach EM6 – Holiday Accommodation (supports the provision of various types of holiday accommodation, such as hotels, guest houses and holiday cottages)
- Preferred Approach HG1 – Meeting Local Housing Needs (specifies the delivery of 6,967 net new dwellings across the district; i.e. the quantum that needs assessment)
- Preferred Approach HG2 – Windfall Developments (hypothetically enables the provision of further dwellings – in addition to those detailed in Preferred Approach HG1)
- Preferred Approach HG13 – Gypsy & Traveller Sites (provides for 12 Gypsy and Traveller Pitches in Newthorpe)

6.72 It is to be noted that the above listed European sites have the highest potential to be impacted by the further exploration of water resources. However, even the Skipwith Common SAC (due to the presence of wet heaths), the Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA, the Thorne Moor SAC and the Hatfield Moor SAC rely on hydrological linkages with groundwater and / or surface waterbodies. However, these sites are not discussed here because their dependence on hydrological input is variable and difficult to quantify.

6.73 The River Derwent SAC is designated for being a water course of plain to montane levels with *Ranunculus fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation. Furthermore, the river supports several fish species (e.g. river lamprey and bullhead), as well as the anadromous species sea lamprey travelling upstream from the Humber Estuary. Sufficient water levels / flows are especially important for anadromous species in order to enable their migratory routes, which are essential to the species' reproductive success. Natural England's SIP highlights water abstraction as one of the threats to the integrity of the SAC. A sufficient supply of freshwater from the River Derwent (via flooding or surface water and groundwater connectivity) is also integral in supporting the habitats and species of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC.

6.74 A sufficient input of freshwater is also integral to the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC that lies downstream from the confluence of the River Ouse and the River Derwent. The Humber Estuary SAC is also designated for sea lamprey and a reduced in-combination input of freshwater input from the R. Ouse and its upstream tributaries, may prevent this species from reaching its spawning grounds. The volume of freshwater input also influences salinity gradients, tidal mixing processes, DO concentrations and prey availability in the estuary, with potential knock-on impacts on qualifying SPA / Ramsar waterfowl.

6.75 The process of water abstraction and the public water supply are generally considered on large spatial scales and it is generally not possible (nor appropriate) to assess individual site allocations for their potential effects on water levels and flows. Water companies publish Water Resource Management Plans (WRMPs) and associated HRAs that are 'regional' documents that by definition consider in-combination impacts across multiple authorities. Therefore, the following AA merges the discussion on relevant European sites, making explicit reference to sites where necessary.

## In-Combination Assessment

6.76 To assess potential adverse impacts of the SLP on the water quantity, level and flow in relevant European sites, the latest WRMP published by Yorkshire Water (the company responsible for the potable water supply in Selby District) was reviewed. The company's latest WRMP was published in April 2020 and provides an appraisal of different water resource options likely to be required to serve the growing population. Generally, any water resource options that do not increase the existing consented abstractions or 'exploit' new resources are unlikely to represent a threat for the integrity of European sites. Consented abstractions would have been previously subject to HRA. Instead, proposals for increased abstraction volumes or the development of previously unused water resources, are most likely to be a risk for the hydrological integrity of aquatic sites. For example, a supply management option that represents a particular issue for marine sites is the desalination of saltwater, which effectively removes marine habitat and alters the solute balance in the aquatic environment.

6.77 The WRMP comprises two Water Resource Zones (WRZs) that make up the Yorkshire Water supply area, namely the Grid Surface Water Zone (GSWZ) and the East Surface Water Zone (ESWZ). Selby District lies in the GSWZ, which is a large conjunctive use zone in which water resources can be shared between different geographic areas according to need. Yorkshire Water has an agreement with Severn Trent Water for the abstraction of 21,550 MI/yr from the Derwent Valley reservoirs, which is used to supply large parts of South Yorkshire including Selby District. Another feature of Yorkshire Water's water supply is that it derives from different sources, including 45% from impounding reservoirs, 30% from rivers and 25% from boreholes. Abstracting water from various resources ensures flexibility and enables Yorkshire Water to better respond to environmental pressures, such as decreases in the Deployable Output from rivers.

6.78 The Environment Agency (EA) publishes Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) for all major waterbodies in the UK. The CAMS ensure that enough water is available for people, while sufficient water remains in the waterbodies to support a healthy environment. As such the EA may attach certain conditions to abstraction licenses (e.g. time limitations or Hands-Off Flows) or may make certain resources unavailable for licensing. The CAMS for the River Derwent indicates that water availability is not an issue at high, mid and low flows. However, at very low flows only limited water may be available for use. However, most Assessment Points in the R. Derwent have at least restricted water available for licensing at very low flows.

6.79 Notably, Yorkshire Water's WRMP provides a forecast of the supply-demand balance over the plan period. This balances the Deployable Output (i.e. the water available for use) from a 1 in 200-year severe drought against an unconstrained demand year. In other words, this balance is precautionary as it models a scenario in which groundwater levels or river flows are much lower than normal, restricting the amount of water available for abstraction. The key challenges that were taken into account in determining the supply-demand balance for the WRMP included:

- A projected increase of the Yorkshire population by one million by 2045;
- Losses resulting from climate change, amounting to 100 MI/d;
- Environmental pressure to reduce the amount of water that is abstracted;
- Process losses and leakages; and
- Provision of resilience.

6.80 The WRMP shows that it will be in a supply-demand surplus between 2015/16 and 2035/36. However, subsequently demand is modelled to outpace supply, leading to a supply-demand

deficit of 6.49 MI/d in 2035/36 and 33.97 MI/d by 2044/45. Yorkshire Water identifies this deficit to be the result of the risks associated with climate change and sustainability reductions applied at some point in the WRMP period. The supply-demand deficit highlights that further resource options required appraisal.

- 6.81 Water companies respond to supply-demand deficits by considering development options required to meet the growing water demand in the WRMP period. These options may involve a combination of demand management (e.g. investments to reduce leakage reduction, install smart meters, etc.) and supply-side (e.g. bulk water transfer, desalination, water reuse schemes and new groundwater / river abstractions). Typically, demand management is regarded as less 'invasive' and preferable regarding the environment, but it is often insufficient to meet the growing water demand. In contrast, the exploitation of new water resources or increases to existing abstractions are considered primary means through which adverse effects on European sites might occur. The list of potential options then undergoes several rounds of screening from an 'unconstrained', a 'constrained' to a 'feasible' options list. The feasible options then undergo detailed environmental assessments following statutory requirements, including HRA and Water Frameworks Directive Assessment (WFDA).
- 6.82 Yorkshire Water's preferred solution to meet the projected water demand primarily involves a significant leakage reduction programme. This is aiming to reduce leakage to 150 MI/d by 2044/45. However, the company also considers taking forward several supply-side solutions, including groundwater options in North and East Yorkshire and an abstraction license increase for the River Wharfe (which feeds into the R. Ouse and ultimately contributes freshwater input to the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC. The River Wharfe proposal is for an annual abstraction limit increase of 10 MI/d, which would have a potential moderate impact on the river flow. However, a review of the CAMS for the Wharfe and Lower Ouse, highlights that Assessment Point 2 (River Wharfe) currently has water available for licensing.
- 6.83 The HRA of Yorkshire Water's WRMP is not publicly accessible and AECOM has requested the document from the water company, in order to assess potential implications of the River Wharfe abstraction increase. However, given that the R. Wharfe has water available for licensing, it is not expected that an increase of 10 MI/d will lead to material effects on the river. Furthermore, consent to the proposal will have to be granted by the Environment Agency. This process guarantees that adverse effects on the integrity of the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC will not occur.

## Atmospheric Pollution

- 6.84 The screening for LSEs section identified that the Lower Derwent Valley SAC was the only site that required an Appropriate Assessment regarding atmospheric pollution. This was due to the fact that pollution-sensitive hay meadows lie directly adjacent to the A163, a potential commuter route linking Selby District with the authority of East Riding of Yorkshire.
- 6.85 The following SLP policies with the potential to increase regular commuter traffic were identified and screened in for Appropriate Assessment (it is to be noted that Preferred Approaches EM6 and EM7, both promoting tourism opportunities, were not screened in because they will not increase the 'regular' traffic burden in the district):
- Preferred Approach SG2 – Spatial Approach (specifies that a minimum of 8,040 dwellings will be delivered between 2020 and 2035 and outlines the applicable settlement hierarchy)
  - Preferred Approach EM1 – Meeting Employment Needs (provides for two employment allocations in Sherburn in Elmet and Selby, totalling an area of 90.95ha)
  - Preferred Approach HG1 – Meeting Local Housing Needs (specifies the delivery of 6,967 net new dwellings across the district; i.e. the quantum that needs assessment)
  - Preferred Approach HG2 – Windfall Developments (hypothetically enables the provision of further dwellings – in addition to those detailed in Preferred Approach HG1)



- Preferred Approach HG13 – Gypsy & Traveller Sites (provides for 12 Gypsy and Traveller Pitches in Newthorpe)

## Lower Derwent Valley SAC

- 6.86 As discussed earlier in the report, the qualifying lowland hay meadows in the SAC have a critical nitrogen load of 20-30 kg N/ha/yr. An exceedance of the critical load could lead to an increase in tall grasses and to a decline in overall plant diversity. This sensitivity needs to be set into the context of the current maximum deposition rates within the site, which amount to a maximum deposition rate of 48.7 kg N/ha/yr (within the 5km grid square in which the SAC is situated) and an average deposition rate within the same grid square of 22.5 kgN/ha/yr, thus already exceeding the critical load. Given this baseline, there is a risk of in-combination growth in Selby District and the East Riding of Yorkshire resulting in adverse effects on the integrity of the Lower Derwent Valley SAC regarding atmospheric pollution. Notwithstanding this, it is noted that source apportionment data for the SAC show that livestock (33%) and fertilisers (8%) make a much greater contribution to nitrogen deposition within the grid square than road transport (5%, which is very low compared to many other SACs and almost certainly attributable to the absence of major roads and other significant combustion sources around the site). Moreover, the Local Plans will only make a potentially significant contribution to nitrogen deposition within the SAC in a very localised area, up to 200m from major journey to work routes. Despite this, a further assessment of nitrogen deposition from commuter traffic is required.
- 6.87 In this rural part of Selby District, the A163 is one of the main roads connecting Selby District with the East Riding of Yorkshire and is the only such connection through the SAC. The Department for Transport's road traffic statistics show that this A road is fairly quiet, with 2,637 cars, 568 Light Goods Vehicles and 203 Heavy Goods Vehicles being counted at manual count point 73457 near Skipwith Common in 2019. It is likely that the primary journey-to-work routes between Selby District and the East Riding of Yorkshire would involve the A163. For example, according to Google Maps, the fastest routes between Selby and Market Weighton or Beverley (two of the main settlements in the southern part of East Riding and Yorkshire) would be along that road. Even for a trip between Selby town and the City of Hull, one of the three suggested routes involves the A163 (with little difference in distance or journey time between the route options).
- 6.88 Therefore, as a second step it was important to establish the likely commuter flux between Selby District and East Riding of Yorkshire. Census 2011 data shows that of 10,870 commuters travelling into Selby District for work, 2,043 (18.8%) people travel from the East Riding of Yorkshire. Only Wakefield District contributes a higher proportion of commuters (2,111 people, 19.4%). When considering the outflow of commuters from Selby District, Leeds and York are both more important workplace destinations. Notwithstanding this, the East Riding of Yorkshire still is the 4<sup>th</sup> most important destination (1,461 commuters, 8.4%). The importance of Selby District as a workplace destination for residents from the East Riding of Yorkshire is particularly important, because the SLP allocates a minimum of 110ha of employment land (most of it around Selby town). This could lead to an increase in the number of commuters along the A163 through the Lower Derwent Valley SAC and corresponding elevations in nitrogen deposition rates.
- 6.89 In the first instance, AECOM identified a section of the A163 that cuts through the SAC, with sensitive lowland hay meadow habitat along its northern and southern boundary. A transport modelling exercise is being undertaken, in order to model 24hr two-way AADT (this is the parameter that reflects the projected increase in commuter traffic), average vehicle speeds and percentage heavy goods vehicles (HGVs). The traffic data will need to be modelled for three different scenarios:
- Baseline (provides a current estimate of AADT as a consequence of existing growth)
  - 2037 Do Minimum (DM; accounts for the growth allocated in Local Plans or Core Strategies of adjoining authorities)
  - 2037 Do Something (DS; models the growth in surrounding authorities in-combination with the growth allocated in the SLP)

- 6.90 The DM and DS scenarios are key to the in-combination traffic modelling exercise, because they allow the contribution of the SLP to the future traffic scenario to be identified. Generally, if the difference between the DM and DS scenarios is greater than trivial (i.e. in high double numbers), adverse effects on the European site adjacent to the modelled road link cannot be excluded. At the time of writing, the traffic modelling is to be undertaken and may constitute a joint exercise between Selby District Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council. If the increase in AADT is anything other than nugatory, an Air Quality Impact Assessment (AQIA) modelling nitrogen deposition rates at identified transects along the A163 will be required.
- 6.91 Until results of the traffic modelling are received and a decision on the potential requirement of AQIA is made, adverse in-combination effects on the integrity of the Lower Derwent Valley SAC cannot be excluded. This impact pathway will be revisited for an update to this HRA report as new evidence becomes available.

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## 7. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 7.1 This HRA discussed potential implications of the SLP on European sites within Selby District and up to 10km from the authority boundary. Several impact pathways were identified to be relevant to the SLP, including recreational pressure, loss of functionally linked habitat, water quality, water quantity, level and flow, and atmospheric pollution. At the LSEs stage, all impact pathways were taken forward to Appropriate Assessment, for a more detailed appraisal of potential effects on European sites. Due to an absence of LSEs, the Kirk Deighton SAC, the Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA and the Thorne Moor SAC were excluded from Appropriate Assessment. The following paragraphs summarise the main conclusions and recommendations arising from work carried out in the Appropriate Assessment.

### Recreational Pressure

#### Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC and the Skipwith Common SAC

- 7.2 It was determined that the SLP would lead to a relatively small amount of growth (226 dwellings) within 5km of the SPA / Ramsar / SAC, with most housing lying beyond easy walking distance. The access point to the European site most relevant to Selby District was least busy in Footprint Ecology's visitor survey (no visitors were recorded over 16 hours of surveying). Overall, given this evidence, it was concluded that the emerging SLP will not result in adverse effects on the site integrity of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC regarding recreational pressure. No policy mitigation measures are recommended for the next iteration of the SLP.
- 7.3 Furthermore, the SLP provides for 354 dwellings within 4km of the Skipwith Common SAC, the distance beyond which visitors reduce significantly. This represents a 4.8% increase on the 3,814 dwellings reported by Footprint Ecology in this distance band. Extrapolating from the 9 visitors that were interviewed from the first 4km distance bands, this would be expected to lead to only one additional interviewee in the SAC. It was determined that such an increase is very small and unlikely to result in adverse effects on the heathland habitats within the SAC, even in-combination with the growth in adjoining authorities. Therefore, it was concluded that the emerging SLP will not lead to adverse effects on the integrity of the Skipwith Common SAC regarding recreational pressure, either alone or in-combination. No policy mitigation measures are recommended for the next iteration of the SLP.
- 7.4 Notwithstanding these conclusions, the increasing residential growth in authorities adjoining the SPA / Ramsar (including Selby District) does mean that recreational pressure is important to keep being monitored in the event that any mitigation may need introducing in the future, since 5 year plan reviews may well result in further increases in planned housing. **Therefore, to ensure that the integrity of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC and the Skipwith Common SAC is maintained in the long-term, it is recommended that visitor monitoring in these sites is undertaken every five years. This could be completed as a joint exercise between the authorities of Selby, City of York and the East Riding of Yorkshire. The results would then be taken into account in the 5-yearly Local Plan reviews.**

### Loss of Functionally Linked Habitat

#### Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar

- 7.5 The Appropriate Assessment indicated that several of the residential and employment sites allocated in the SLP lie within the maximum foraging distances of Bewick's swans and golden plover, qualifying species of nearby European sites such as the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar. Furthermore, sites comprise suitable foraging habitat and are sufficiently large to be potentially linked to European sites. While the SLP already

requires for proportionate ecological assessments, AECOM recommends that further wording requiring the need for overwintering bird surveys is included in the next iteration of the plan to provide further specificity. At present, adverse effects (without mitigation) arising from some of the sites allocated in the SLP cannot be excluded, particularly in relation to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar.

- 7.6 Therefore, it is recommended that the following text (or similar) is inserted into the next iteration of the SLP: **'To meet the requirements of the Habitats Directive, developers should provide evidence that relevant proposals will not result in adverse effects on qualifying bird populations of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar regarding the loss of functionally linked habitat. Therefore, a survey of the current site usage (if any) of overwintering SPA / Ramsar bird species will be required at the planning application stage to assess if the land parcel supports a significant population (typically defined as 1% of the qualifying population) of designated bird species. These non-breeding bird surveys will need to be undertaken during autumn, winter and spring. If site allocations or directly adjacent land are identified to be functionally linked to the SPA / Ramsar, avoidance measures and mitigation will be required, and the planning application will need to be assessed through a project specific Habitats Regulations Assessment to ensure that the development does not result in adverse effects on site integrity.'**
- 7.7 It is acknowledged that this text is too long to be contained in a policy. Therefore, the issue of functionally linked habitat loss should be acknowledged in Preferred Approach NE4 (Protecting Designated Sites and Species) and it is recommended that the above paragraph is included in the supporting text of that policy. Provided that this wording (or an appropriate alternative) is inserted to the next iteration of the SLP, adverse effects on the integrity of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar can be excluded.

## Water Quality

### River Derwent SAC, Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar

- 7.8 The qualifying habitats and species of the River Derwent SAC, the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar are sensitive to negative changes in water quality, particularly the discharge of phosphorus in wastewater. Potential sources of phosphorus from development sites include surface runoff from impermeable surfaces and leaking / overflowing Package Treatment Plants (PTPs), as well as treated sewage effluent from Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTWs).
- 7.9 Given the proximity of the residential allocations in Hemingbrough and North Duffield to the River Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar, **AECOM recommends that a presumption against private sewage treatment facilities in sewered areas is included in the next iteration of the SLP. If new developments must be served by private sewage treatment solutions, the best available technology should be used to minimise any potential discharge of phosphorus.**
- 7.10 Regarding the discharge of treated sewage effluent, by far the most important contributor of these sources to phosphorus loading in freshwater systems, AECOM has contacted Yorkshire Water (the sewage treatment provider for Selby District) to determine whether there is remaining headroom in WWTWs discharging into the Rivers Derwent and Ouse to accommodate the growth anticipated in Selby District. If this is confirmed to be the case, adverse effects on the integrity of the River Derwent SAC can be excluded. **If sufficient headroom is unavailable, additional policy wording will be recommended for insertion into the SLP. This would include a requirement for phasing developments, particularly in the larger site allocations, to keep pace with the available headroom at identified WWTWs.** It will need to be confirmed that sewage treatment capacity is available, before any residential dwellings can become occupied.

## Atmospheric Pollution

### Lower Derwent Valley SAC

- 7.11 The lowland hay meadows in the Lower Derwent Valley SAC are sensitive to atmospheric pollution. The Appropriate Assessment determined that the A163, a likely commuter route between the East Riding of Yorkshire and Selby District, bisects the SAC and could lead to an increase in nitrogen deposition in sensitive habitats.
- 7.12 In the first instance, AECOM identified a road link along the A163 with sensitive lowland hay meadow habitat along its northern and southern boundary. A transport modelling exercise is being undertaken, in order to model 24hr two-way AADT, average vehicle speeds and percentage heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) for Baseline, Do Minimum and Do Something growth scenarios. If any increase in AADT is negligible (i.e. in the low double numbers), there will be no adverse effects on site integrity. If the increase in AADT is anything other than nugatory, an Air Quality Impact Assessment (AQIA) modelling nitrogen deposition rates at identified transects along the A163 will be required.
- 7.13 **Until results of the traffic modelling are received and a decision on the potential requirement of AQIA is made, adverse in-combination effects on the integrity of the Lower Derwent Valley SAC cannot be excluded.** This impact pathway will be revisited for an update to this HRA report as new evidence becomes available.

## Appendix A Maps *TO BE ADDED*

Figure 4: Map of the sites allocated in the Selby Local Plan and European sites within 10km of Selby District.

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# Appendix B Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) Screening Tables

**Table 5: Screening table of the policies included in the Selby Local Plan. Where a policy is shaded green, there are no linking impact pathways to European sites and LSEs can be excluded. Where the screening outcome is shaded orange, LSEs cannot be excluded and the policy is screened in for Appropriate Assessment.**

Policy number/ name	Policy detail	Likely Significant Effects Screening Assessment.
<b>Section 4: Spatial Growth Strategy</b>		
<p><b>Preferred Approach SG1 - Achieving Sustainable Development</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is that when considering development proposals the Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. It will always work positively with applicants jointly to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.</p> <p>B. Planning applications that accord with the policies in the Local Plan (and, where relevant, with policies in neighbourhood plans) will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.</p> <p>C. In the absence of a five-year housing supply or where policies are out of date (as defined by the National Planning Policy Framework) at the time of making the decision then the Council will grant permission, which is consistent with the role of the settlement hierarchy set out in preferred approach SG2 unless material considerations indicate otherwise, taking into account whether:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework taken as a whole; or</li> <li>2. Specific policies in that Framework indicate that development should be restricted.</li> </ol>	<p>LSEs of this policy on European Sites can be excluded.</p> <p>This is a development management policy that aims for sustainable development in Selby District. It specifies that planning applications in line with the National Planning Policy Framework and the policies in the Selby Local Plan will be approved.</p> <p>However, the policy does not provide a quantum and / or location of employment development. There are no impact pathway present.</p> <p>This policy is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach SG2 - Spatial Approach</b></p>	<p>A. In order to meet the Council's Vision to be a great place to live, enjoy, grow and deliver great value and support proposals for a circular economy, the preferred</p>	<p>Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy cannot be excluded.</p>

	<p>approach is for provision to be made over the Local Plan period 2020 to 2035 for a minimum of 110ha of employment land and at least 8,040 new homes as required by the 2020 Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment. The need for new homes and jobs will be met through;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The allocation of land for new housing and employment growth to support the growth of Selby Town reflecting it's role as the District's Principal Town, with a range of services, whilst recognising the opportunities for the regeneration of the town centre due to its connectivity with the Leeds City Region and the availability of previously developed land.</li> <li>2. The allocation of land for new housing in Tadcaster to support a heritage-led approach to the regeneration of the historic brewing centre.</li> <li>3. The limited further expansion of Sherburn in Elmet reflecting its role as a Local Service Centre with a range of employment opportunities, shops and facilities.</li> <li>4. The allocation of land representing a large expansion of the settlement of Eggborough due to its sustainable location, railway access to Leeds and proximity to the emerging employment locations at the former Kellingley Colliery and the former Eggborough power station.</li> <li>5. The provision of a new settlement on land east of Stillingfleet Mine or Church Fenton Airfield or Burn Airfield to accommodate the longer term growth of the District through the allocation of a minimum of 3,000 new homes.</li> <li>6. The allocation of land for new housing in the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Villages of an appropriate scale reflecting each settlement's role in the hierarchy.</li> <li>7. Supporting small scale windfall development within and adjacent to the main built up area of Smaller Villages where it is considered appropriate to their scale, form and character to support their continued vitality.</li> <li>8. Providing support for the redevelopment of previously developed land for new rail focused employment opportunities at Gascoigne Wood rail interchange and the opportunity to redevelop Olympia Park for employment use making the most of it's sustainable location on the edge of Selby Town.</li> </ol>	<p>This policy specifies the preferred spatial development approach for Selby District. The policy sets out the broad development to be delivered across the district, including at least 8,040 new homes and a minimum of 110ha of employment land.</p> <p>The Preferred Approach SG2 also provides detail on where this development will be delivered, which will mostly occur as redevelopment of existing brownfield sites in Selby Town and Tadcaster. However, an expansion of Sherburn and Eggborough, and a completely new settlement of 3,000 dwellings are also provided for. Some growth will occur in Tier 1 and Tier 2 villages.</p> <p>The following impact pathways on European sites are linked to this policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational Pressure</li> <li>• Loss of Functionally Linked Habitat</li> <li>• Water Quality</li> <li>• Water Quantity, Level and Flow</li> <li>• Atmospheric Pollution</li> </ul> <p>Overall, Preferred Approach SG2 is screened in for Appropriate Assessment.</p>
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9. Development in the Countryside to support agriculture, the local rural economy, tourism and recreation where it does not detract from the intrinsic character of the surrounding area.

B. Development will be supported in line with the settlement hierarchy below.

<b>Hierarchy</b>	<b>Settlement</b>
Principal Town	Selby Urban Area
Local Service Centre	Sherburn in Elmet and Tadcaster
New Settlement Option	Stillingfleet or Church Fenton Airbase or Burn Airfield
Tier 1 Villages	Barby & Osgodby; Brayton; Byram and Brotherton; Eggborough & Whitley; Hemingbrough; Riccall; South Milford; and Thorpe Willoughby
Tier 2 Villages	Appleton Roebuck; Camblesforth; Carlton; Cawood; Church Fenton; Cliffe; Escrick; Fairburn; Hambleton; Hensall; Kellington; Monk Fryston & Hillam; North Duffield; Ulleskelf and Wistow
Smaller Villages	Barkston Ash; Barlow; Beal; Bilbrough; Bolton Percy; Burn; Burton Salmon; Chapel Haddlesey; Church Fenton Airbase; Drax; Hirst Courtney; Kelfield; Kirk Smeaton; Little Smeaton; Saxton; Skipwith; Stillingfleet; Stutton; Thorganby; Towton; West Haddlesey; Womersley; Biggin; Birkin; Colton; Cridling Stubbs; Gateforth; Healaugh; Heck; Kellingley; Little Fenton; Lumby; Newland; Newton Kyme; Ryther cum Ossendyke; and South Duffield

<p><b>Preferred Approach SG3 - Selby Town Regeneration Area</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is that proposals for sites located in the Selby Town Regeneration Area (shown on the map below) will be supported where they help to deliver the Councils objectives to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve pedestrian access to Selby Town Centre from the Railway Station;</li> <li>2. Improve the public realm around the station and the Ousegate riverside corridor;</li> <li>3. Promote opportunities to increase active travel into Selby town and access to the wider Leeds City Region; and</li> <li>4. Promote opportunities to bring residential uses back into the town centre.</li> </ol>	<p>LSEs of this policy on European Sites can be excluded.</p> <p>This is a development management policy that supports development proposals in the Selby Town Regeneration Area. While the policy does not specify the nature of proposals, these would be restricted to brownfield sites.</p> <p>Furthermore, the policy does not provide a quantum of residential or employment development. There are no impact pathway present.</p> <p>Overall, Preferred Approach SG3 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach SG4 - Development Limits</b></p>	<p>The preferred approach to development limits is that;</p> <p>A. They will be defined around Selby Town, Tadcaster, Sherburn in Elmet and the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Villages. Within Development Limits the preferred approach is that proposals will be supported for small scale infill development, the re-development of previously developed land and the conversion/change of use of existing buildings.</p> <p>B. They will not be defined around the Smaller Villages in order to support development of a very small scale development commensurate with the character of the individual settlement in accordance with preferred approach HG2.</p> <p>C. Outside areas identified in the settlement hierarchy, proposals will only be supported where they are in accordance with other policies in this plan, an adopted Neighbourhood Plan, or National Policy.</p>	<p>LSEs of this policy on European Sites can be excluded.</p> <p>This is a development management policy that defines developments limits in key areas of the settlement hierarchy. Importantly, proposals outside these set boundaries will have to be in accordance with National Policy as well as policies in this Local Plan.</p> <p>The policy does not provide a quantum or location of residential or employment development. There are no impact pathway present that link to European sites.</p> <p>Overall, Preferred Approach SG4 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>

<p><b>Preferred Approach SG5 - Development in the Countryside</b></p>	<p>A. In order to ensure that Selby District remains a special place to live the preferred approach is to seek to protect and enhance the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside recognising the important role it plays in the local economy, for the health and well-being of local residents and as a biodiversity resource. The countryside is defined in preferred approach SG2 as land outside the existing built form and excludes hamlets or small groups of buildings which are not included in the Settlement Hierarchy.</p> <p>B. Development in the countryside will be limited to activities which have an essential need to be located in the open countryside and are supported by other Local Plan policies or national policy and;</p> <p>1. Would not harm the character, appearance and environmental qualities of the area in which it is located; and</p> <p>2. Protects the best and most versatile land by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoiding the irreversible loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land (Grade 1 to 3a) where possible; and</li> <li>• Avoiding Grade 1 agricultural land unless there are exceptional circumstances where the benefits of the proposal significantly outweigh the loss of land.</li> </ul> <p>Where the Council accepts that the applicant has demonstrated that there is a need for best and most versatile land to be developed and there is a choice between sites or areas of land in different grades; land of the lowest grade available must be used except where other policy or material considerations outweigh land quality issues. Proposals for development should demonstrate that soil resources have been protected and used sustainably in line with best practice.</p>	<p>LSEs of this policy on European Sites can be excluded.</p> <p>This is a policy that manages development in the countryside. The policy particularly relates to the protection of agricultural land (Grades 1 to 3a) and thus has no real bearing on European sites.</p> <p>The policy does not provide a quantum or location of residential or employment development. There are no impact pathways present that link to European sites.</p> <p>Overall, Preferred Approach SG5 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach SG6 - Strategic Countryside Gaps</b></p>	<p>The preferred approach is that proposals for development which impact the Strategic Countryside Gaps as defined on the Policies Map will only be supported where it has been demonstrated that there will be no adverse effect on the character of the countryside or where the gap between settlements will not be compromised.</p>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This is a development management strategy that protects strategic countryside gaps from development. However, the protection of such gaps has no bearing on European sites.</p>

		<p>Overall, there are no impact pathways present and Preferred Approach SG6 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach SG7 - Green Belt</b></p>	<p>The extent of the West Yorkshire and City of York Green Belts are illustrated on the draft Policies Map. The preferred approach is that proposals for development of land within the designated Green Belt identified on the draft Policies Map will be determined in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework or its successor.</p>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This is a development management strategy that establishes the Green Belts of West Yorkshire and the City of York. Establishing the development criteria for proposals in the Green Belt has no bearing on European sites.</p> <p>Overall, there are no impact pathways present and Preferred Approach SG7 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach SG8 - Neighbourhood Planning</b></p>	<p>The preferred approach is that the Council will support Neighbourhood Plans which are considered to be in general conformity to the Local Plan Strategic Policies. Emerging Neighbourhood Plans will be expected to promote additional sites to those identified through the site allocations in the Local Plan or alternative suitable sites where it has been demonstrated that allocations will no longer be delivered.</p> <p>At the time the Local Plan was produced the following Neighbourhood Plans had been formally made:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appleton Roebuck and Acaster Selby (2018)</li> </ul> <p>The following are formal designated Neighbourhood Plan areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ulleskelf</li> <li>• Brayton</li> <li>• Tadcaster</li> <li>• Selby Town</li> <li>• Escrick</li> <li>• Church Fenton</li> </ul>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy establishes the formal designated Neighbourhood Plan (NP) areas for which NPs will be forthcoming. However, the delineation of such areas has no relevance to European sites. Any additional development allocated in NPs would be subject to its own HRA.</p> <p>Overall, there are no impact pathways present and Preferred Approach SG8 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>

<p><b>Preferred Approach SG9 - Design of New Development</b></p>	<p>A. In order to make Selby District a great place to live and enjoy, the preferred approach is that all new development should be of high quality design which responds positively to the special character and local distinctiveness of the area. In order to achieve this all new development should seek to reflect the National Design Guide and Principles for Building a Healthy Life or their successors.</p> <p>B. All development proposals should seek to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reinforce the character of the local area having regard to the existing form, scale, density, layout and building materials;</li> <li>2. Respond to its location in terms of the natural, historic and built environment reflecting important views and landscapes;</li> <li>3. Promote active travel and healthy lifestyles through the promotion of walking and cycling links and access to areas for recreation;</li> <li>4. Provide sufficient private amenity space which is appropriate to the type of development proposed;</li> <li>5. Provide improvements and connections to existing open spaces, green infrastructure networks and public rights of way outside of the development boundary;</li> <li>6. Provide specific and dedicated spaces for wildlife to encourage a more robust and connected network of habitats;</li> <li>7. Provide safe and secure places to live and work by designing out antisocial behaviour through the creation of developments with natural surveillance having regard to Secured by Design principles;</li> <li>8. Seek to protect residential amenity by ensuring proposals do not have adverse impact on overlooking, loss of privacy, light or disturbance from noise, vibration, odour or fumes.</li> <li>9. Make efficient use of land by not adversely affecting the potential development of a wider area of land which could otherwise be available for development. This can be achieved by ensuring that allocated sites which are built out in part, leave an access into the remainder of the site;</li> <li>10. Make sure that adequate access and internal roads are provided to ensure safe internal vehicular movements; and</li> <li>11. Ensure that all technical supporting information meets the relevant professional standards.</li> </ol> <p>C. Where applicable, schemes should take account of local design guides and codes</p>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy sets out various design criteria for new developments in Selby District, such as the provision of private amenity space, connections to open spaces and green infrastructure networks, and considerations of wildlife and local heritage.</p> <p>Much of the policy detail is positive, however there are unlikely to be any impacts on European sites. Specifically, the policy does not provide a quantum and / or location of residential or employment growth.</p> <p>Overall, there are no impact pathways present and Preferred Approach SG9 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
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	<p>including in Neighbourhood Plans to inform good design.</p>	
<p><b>Preferred Approach SG10 - Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change</b></p>	<p>All new development proposals will be expected to support appropriate measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change in order to protect health and well-being and ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts and meet national and local targets on net zero carbon emissions including the aim for the York and North Yorkshire area to become the first negative carbon sub region. The preferred approach is that this will be achieved through supporting proposals which:</p> <p><b><u>Communities and Infrastructure Resilience</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid increased vulnerability to, and take into account the long-term implications of climate change such as for flood risk, water supply, biodiversity and landscape, and the risk of over-heating from rising temperatures;</li> <li>• Incorporate suitable adaptation measure such as green infrastructure.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise energy and water consumption through location, orientation and design of buildings;</li> <li>• Ensure a fabric first approach and low carbon designs;</li> <li>• Promote the adaptation of existing buildings; and</li> <li>• Seek to provide on-site energy provision through renewable and low carbon sources.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Contributing to Low Carbon Travel</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support new development in sustainable locations and maximise opportunities for active travel;</li> <li>• Ensure all new residential developments provide electric car charging points; and</li> <li>• Ensure all new commercial developments shall make provision for areas where electric vehicles can be charged.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Renewable Energy Development</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support proposals to develop new technological advances in carbon capture, agri-technology; and</li> </ul>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy specifies Selby District’s approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, including the target to achieve net-zero carbon emissions. The policy includes many positive aspects, such as communities and infrastructure resilience, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and aims for Low Carbon Travel.</p> <p>However, while positive, this policy is unlikely to be relevant to European sites. Specifically, the policy does not provide a quantum and / or location of residential or employment growth.</p> <p>Overall, there are no impact pathways present and Preferred Approach SG10 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support proposals for renewable energy and low carbon installations, where there is appropriate infrastructure and which are not located in areas identified as highly sensitive landscapes in the Landscape Sensitivity Study 2020. In the case of community-led initiatives for renewable energy / low carbon installations these will be supported, including land identified and brought forward by Neighbourhood Plans.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Improvements to the Natural Environment</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect and enhancing ecological habitats recognising their importance for carbon sequestration;</li> <li>Support the creation of natural capital networks; and</li> <li>Support tree planting, new hedgerows and the creation of wetlands.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Preferred Approach SG11 - Flood Risk</b></p>	<p>A. To enable communities to manage, be resilient and adapt to flood risk, the preferred approach is that development will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal does not increase the risk of flooding off-site; and</li> <li>Where the site falls within the functional floodplain, only essential or critical infrastructure that cannot be relocated and water compatible uses that do not impede the functional flood plain and flood flows, or adversely affect the ability or access to flood defences, or which increase the risk of flooding elsewhere will be allowed;</li> <li>The site falls within flood zone 1 as set out in the most up-to-date Environment Agency flood risk maps and/ or Selby District's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) maps; or</li> <li>The site has been passed through a sequential test as set out in the NPPF (minus any exempt development); or</li> <li>Where there are no sequentially preferable sites, the site has been assessed through the application of the Exception Test as set out in the NPPF (Minus any exempt development).</li> </ol> <p>B. If the development is acceptable in principle in terms of flood risk the following will need to be applied where appropriate and practicable to design and layout of the scheme to make it acceptable in detail:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where the development is located in flood zone 2 (or higher) and does not constitute minor development or a change of use the Development layout within the</li> </ol>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy provides detailed criteria that development proposals will have to meet to minimize flood risk (both in the allocated themselves and adjacent parts of the district).</p> <p>Importantly, the policy stipulates that Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) will have to be used and that hard surfaces should be permeable, where possible. This is particularly important for proposals in North Duffield, which have the potential to result in water quality and water quantity, level and flow impacts in the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC and the River Derwent SAC. At its closest point, the SPA / Ramsar is only approx. 330m from the allocation 'Land North of A163, North Duffield'.</p>

	<p>site will be subject to the sequential approach, with the highest vulnerability development located in areas at lowest flood risk within the site;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. Flood resilience construction methods identified through an up to date site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) should be implemented in those areas that fall outside the areas of lowest risk (FZ1) to reduce the impact and likelihood of a flood event;</li><li>3. Where the development has existing trees, woodland and/or hedgerows these should be retained where possible, and if not retained the developer must agree a tree planting scheme in line with the preferred approach for EN14 and EN3b that will help reduce flood risk;</li><li>4. The development is designed so that the flooding of property in and adjacent to the development would not occur for a 1 in 100 year event (or 1 in 200 year for tidal events), plus an allowance for climate change and in the event of a local drainage system failure;</li><li>5. The features that manage surface water are commensurate with the design of the development in terms of size, form and materials and make a positive contribution to reducing flood risk;</li><li>6. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) are incorporated in accordance with the NPPF and latest Sustainable Drainage Systems Design Guidance and agreed with the Lead Local Flood Authority that the measures are suitable and there is a management and maintenance plan for the lifetime of the development;</li><li>7. Floor levels are 300mm above the modelled 1 in 100 year flood level (or 1 in 200 year for tidal events) plus an allowance for climate change flood level and/or 300mm above adjacent highway levels;</li><li>8. Hard surfaces on developments should be permeable where practicable in line with highways guidance from North Yorkshire County Council unless proven not to be possible by site investigation;</li><li>9. Watercourses are not culverted and any opportunity to remove culverts is taken; and</li><li>10. Where development is adjacent or can impact a water body, the development should actively seek to enhance the water body in terms of its hydromorphology, biodiversity and water quality.</li></ol> <p>C. In some developments, e.g. commercial/industrial, raising floor levels may not be possible due to operational requirements and therefore this must be considered and alternative measures implemented.</p>	<p>The policy does not provide a quantum and / or location of residential or employment growth.</p> <p>Overall, there are no impact pathways linking this policy to European sites and Preferred Approach SG11 is therefore screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
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	<p>D. Where required by the NPPF and set out in Technical Guidance, proposals for development should be accompanied by a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA). The FRA should demonstrate that the development will be safe over the lifetime of the development, including access, without increasing flood risk elsewhere, and, where possible, will reduce flood risk overall taking account of any climate change allowances.</p> <p>E. Safety risks will be determined with reference to the Defra guidance on flood risk safety FD2320 or successor guidance, on the basis that development should be 'safe for all' for a 1:100 annual probability flood event, for the lifetime of the development.</p>	
<p><b>Preferred Approach SG12 - Proposals which affect the Historic Environment</b></p>	<p>A. Proposals for development that affect heritage assets should conserve, and where appropriate, enhance those elements that contribute to their significance. Such proposals will be determined in accordance with national planning policy.</p> <p>B. Proposals affecting a Conservation Area or its setting should be in accordance with the guidance set out in adopted Conservation Area Appraisals.</p> <p>C. Harm to elements which contribute to the significance of a designated heritage asset or archaeological sites of national importance will be only supported where this is clearly justified and outweighed by the public benefits of the proposal. Substantial harm or total loss to the significance of such assets will be permitted only in exceptional circumstance.</p> <p>D. Proposals which would remove, harm or undermine the significance of a non-designated heritage asset will be permitted only where benefits are considered sufficient to outweigh harm.</p>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy provides protection to heritage environments and assets. It stipulates that such assets should be conserved or enhanced through development proposals.</p> <p>However, the preservation of historic environments has no relevance to European sites.</p> <p>Overall, there are no impact pathways linking this policy to European sites and Preferred Approach SG12 is therefore screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach SG13 - Heritage at Risk</b></p>	<p>A. In order to ensure a sustainable future for the district's designated and non-designated heritage assets at greatest risk of loss or decay, proposals will be supported where;</p> <p>1. the sympathetic re-use of vacant and "at risk" buildings, prevents the further deterioration of their condition, aids in their protection, and reduces the number of heritage assets on the "Heritage at Risk" register.</p>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy provides protection to heritage assets that are at risk of decay and loss. However, the preservation of historic environments has no relevance to European sites.</p>

	<p>2. proposals for works to heritage assets or their setting will be supported where design will better reveal the significance through repairs, reinstatement of lost architectural features and the reversal of previous inappropriate alterations.</p>	<p>Overall, there are no impact pathways linking this policy to European sites and Preferred Approach SG13 is therefore screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>												
<p><b>Section 5: Supporting a Diverse Local Economy and Thriving Town Centres</b></p>														
<p><b>Preferred Approach EM1 - Meeting Employment Needs</b></p>	<p>The preferred approach is that the Council will support sustainable economic growth by supporting economic development proposals at the following sites:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="504 531 1516 647"> <thead> <tr> <th>Site Ref.</th> <th>Settlement</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Ha.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SHER-AA</td> <td>Sherburn in Elmet</td> <td>Gascoigne Wood</td> <td>57.35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SELB-CA</td> <td>Selby</td> <td>Olympia Park</td> <td>33.6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Site Ref.	Settlement	Location	Ha.	SHER-AA	Sherburn in Elmet	Gascoigne Wood	57.35	SELB-CA	Selby	Olympia Park	33.6	<p>Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy cannot be excluded.</p> <p>This policy supports economic growth in two employment allocations in Sherburn in Elmet and Selby respectively, totaling 90.95ha in area.</p> <p>The allocation of new employment land could potentially lead to the loss of supporting habitats for SPA / Ramsar birds (such as from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar or the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar). Furthermore, it is likely to increase commuter traffic within Selby District, as well as contributing to the volume of potable water used and treated sewage produced.</p> <p>The following impact pathways on European sites are linked to this policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of Functionally Linked Habitat</li> <li>• Water Quality</li> <li>• Water Quantity, Level and Flow</li> <li>• Atmospheric Pollution</li> </ul> <p>Overall, the Preferred Approach EM1 is screened in for Appropriate Assessment.</p>
Site Ref.	Settlement	Location	Ha.											
SHER-AA	Sherburn in Elmet	Gascoigne Wood	57.35											
SELB-CA	Selby	Olympia Park	33.6											

<p><b>Preferred Approach EM2 - Protection of Employment Land</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is that the following defined Key Employment Areas, as shown on the Policies Map, will be retained in order to safeguard existing or potential jobs:</p>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy protects existing employment land across Selby District to ensure that existing or future jobs are safeguarded. While the allocation of employment land is associated with various impact pathways, this policy relates to existing or permitted employment land, which would have already been assessed in a previous HRA. Therefore, there are no additional impact pathways present</p> <p>Overall, Preferred Approach EM2 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>																										
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<p>B. The development of these areas for non-employment uses will only be supported where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The proposal is for an ancillary use; and</li> <li>2. Development would not result in a significant loss of existing jobs or employment potential.</li> </ol>																												
<p>C. On all other existing employment sites / premises (i.e. those not in defined Key Employment Areas) a change of use to non-employment uses will be resisted unless it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There will still be an adequate supply of employment land in the locality; and</li> </ol>																												

	<p>2. The land or premises cannot satisfactorily support continued employment use as demonstrated by the submission of evidence which demonstrates that the site or premises has been actively marketed for a period of 12 consecutive months.</p>	
<p><b>Preferred Approach EM3 - New Economic Development</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is that employment development, including change of use, on land not allocated for employment development, will be supported within existing settlements where all the following criteria can be met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development is of a scale appropriate to the hierarchy of the settlement in which it is proposed;</li> <li>2. Development is of a type and design sympathetic to the location within which it is proposed;</li> <li>3. Development would not have an unacceptable impact on highways or other forms of infrastructure and provides electric vehicle charging points; and</li> <li>4. Development would not cause harm to local amenity, landscape, ecology, historic environment or other environmental and cultural heritage considerations.</li> </ol>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy defines more general criteria that must be met by successful development proposals. Among the criteria is that such development should not cause harm to ecological features.</p> <p>However, the policy does not provide a quantum and / or location of employment growth.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach EM3 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach EM4 - The Rural Economy</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is that a viable rural economy will be supported by allowing development in the open countryside, including farm diversification, if it:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Results in the growth of new micro-businesses or expands existing businesses through the conversion of existing buildings or well-designed new buildings; or</li> <li>2. Redevelops an existing or former employment site or premises; or</li> <li>3. Supports the sustainable diversification of agricultural and other land-based businesses; or</li> <li>4. Is related to tourism or recreation, subject to the requirements of preferred approach EM5; or</li> <li>5. Improves the range and quality of local services in existing settlements.</li> </ol> <p>B. Development in rural areas will be expected to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be of a scale commensurate with an existing use, or that reasonably required for a new use, and with the rural character of the location; and</li> </ol>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy generally supports small-scale economic proposals in the countryside, provided they meet certain criteria. Development proposals should not have harmful effects on biodiversity.</p> <p>However, the policy does not provide a quantum and / or location of employment growth.</p>

	<p>2. Successfully mitigate any harmful impacts on the countryside, biodiversity, landscape or local character of the area; and</p> <p>3. Protect the areas of best quality of agricultural land.</p>	<p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach EM4 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach EM5 - Tourist, Recreation and Cultural Facilities</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is that proposals for tourist, recreation and cultural facilities will be permitted provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The nature and scale of the proposal would be appropriate to the locality;</li> <li>2. The proposal would not have a significant adverse effect on the character and appearance of the area;</li> <li>3. The proposal would not create conditions prejudicial to highway safety or which would have a significant adverse effect on local amenity; and</li> <li>4. For proposals that come forward within the open countryside, and subject to compliance with preferred approach EM4, justification will need to be provided that the use requires a rural location and that it cannot be accommodated within an existing settlement.</li> </ol>	<p>Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy cannot be excluded.</p> <p>This policy supports development proposals for tourist and recreation opportunities. Several European sites in Selby District are sensitive to recreational pressure and, depending on the nature and location of tourism proposals, this could increase the recreational footfall in sensitive areas. Tourism development is also associated with other impact pathways (see below).</p> <p>The following impact pathways on European sites are linked to this policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational Pressure</li> <li>• Loss of Functionally Linked Habitat</li> <li>• Water Quality</li> <li>• Water Quantity, Level and Flow</li> <li>• Atmospheric Pollution</li> </ul> <p>Overall, Preferred Approach EM5 is screened in for Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach EM6 - Holiday Accommodation</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is that proposals for serviced and non-serviced holiday accommodation, including hotels, guest houses, holiday cottages, static caravans and lodges, will be permitted where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The development is located within an existing settlement; or</li> <li>2. If located in the open countryside the proposal represents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An extension or replacement to existing holiday accommodation; or</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy cannot be excluded.</p> <p>This policy links to Preferred Approach EM5, which provided for tourism development within the district. Preferred Approach EM6 provides support to serviced and non-serviced</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The re-use of an existing building which is structurally capable of conversion; or</li> <li>• Purpose-built new holiday accommodation which can demonstrate the highest possible standards of siting, design and landscaping.</li> </ul> <p>And subject to meeting all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. The size and scale of the proposal would be appropriate to the locality;</li> <li>4. The development does not create an over-concentration of properties in use as tourist accommodation to the detriment of local amenity;</li> <li>5. Development would not have an unacceptable impact on highways or other forms of infrastructure;</li> <li>6. Development would not have a harmful impact on the countryside, biodiversity, landscape or local character of the area; and</li> <li>7. Where the development is for a hotel, the proposal should demonstrate compliance with the sequential approach in accordance with national policy and preferred approach EM7.</li> </ol> <p>B. The preferred approach is that proposals for touring caravan and camping facilities will be supported where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The proposal would not have a significant impact on the character and open appearance of the countryside or harm recognised nature conservation interests;</li> <li>2. The proposal would be well screened and would not have a significant adverse impact on local amenity;</li> <li>3. The site would have good access to the primary road network and would not have an unacceptable impact on highways;</li> <li>4. Any ancillary buildings or structures are demonstrably essential to providing basic services on the site; and</li> <li>5. The number of pitches proposed are in proportion to the size of the locally resident population so as not to disrupt community life.</li> </ol> <p>C. To ensure that holiday accommodation does not result in the creation of permanent living accommodation, conditions may be imposed which restrict the use and / or period of occupation.</p>	<p>holiday accommodation, potentially in the open countryside.</p> <p>As highlighted in relation to the previous policy, the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC and the Skipwith Common are sensitive to recreational pressure. Depending on the scale and location of holiday accommodation, the recreational footfall in these sites could increase. Holiday accommodation would also contribute to other impact pathways (see below).</p> <p>The following impact pathways on European sites are linked to this policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational Pressure</li> <li>• Loss of Functionally Linked Habitat</li> <li>• Water Quality</li> <li>• Water Quantity, Level and Flow</li> <li>• Atmospheric Pollution</li> </ul> <p>Overall, Preferred Approach EM6 is screened in for Appropriate Assessment.</p>
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<p><b>Preferred Approach EM7 - Town Centres and Retailing</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is that support will be given to maintaining and enhancing the vitality and viability of the following hierarchy of centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selby - Principal Town Centre</li> <li>• Tadcaster and Sherburn in Elmet - Minor Towns Centres</li> </ul> <p>Selby Town Centre is the dominant centre in the district. The preferred approach is that the role of Selby Town as the District's Principal town will be supported through a focus for town centre uses including retail, commercial, leisure, entertainment, food and drink, recreation, arts and cultural uses. The continued renaissance of the town centre will be promoted through the diversification of uses, including the re-purposing of upper floors to residential use, sensitive conservation work, improved pedestrian and cycle linkages and an enhanced evening and visitor economy. A Shop Front Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document will be prepared with a view to help improve the visual character of the High Street. Opportunities will be taken to enhance the town's weekly market and promote town centre spaces for events and leisure activities.</p> <p>Tadcaster and Sherburn in Elmet Town Centres have an important role serving more localised catchments. In Tadcaster, priority will be given to the regeneration of the town centre in a way which utilises the town's high quality built heritage and attractive riverside location.</p> <p>Improvements to the retail offer and range of facilities will be encouraged in Sherburn town centre to ensure that the local community is supported by a wider range of shops and services, including an enhanced evening economy. This may be achieved through an extension or remodelling of the existing town centre.</p> <p>B. Retail development and proposals for other main town centre uses, outside the town centre boundaries of Selby, Tadcaster and Sherburn in Elmet will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meet a purely localised need and conform with preferred approach EM8; or</li> <li>2. Demonstrate compliance with the Sequential Approach; and</li> <li>3. Provide an Impact Assessment for proposals that have a floorspace in excess of 400 sq m gross (280 sq m net)</li> </ol>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This is an economic policy that maintains the Selby, Tadcaster and Sherburn town centres. However, the provision of retail outlets, entertainment and arts in town centres has no bearing on European sites.</p> <p>Preferred Approach EM7 does not provide a quantum and / or location of employment growth.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach EM7 is thus screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach EM8 - Local Shops</b></p>	<p>The preferred approach is that outside established Town Centres, the health and well-being of local shops will be promoted.</p>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p>

	<p>A. Planning permission for the change of use of a local shop, including post offices, pubs and petrol stations, to other uses will only be permitted if it can be shown that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The business is no longer financially viable; or</li> <li>2. There is an appropriate alternative within the same village or community</li> </ol> <p>B. Proposals for new local shops will be permitted where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The shops are of a type and in a place that would meet localised daily needs; and</li> <li>2. The shops are located and designed to encourage trips by pedestrians and cyclists</li> </ol>	<p>This policy promotes local shops outside established Town Centres. Positively, new local shops should encourage sustainable travel modes (e.g. walking and cycling).</p> <p>The policy does not provide a quantum and / or location of employment growth.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach EM8 is thus screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach EM9 - Hot Food Takeaways</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is that proposals for hot food takeaways will only be permitted in locations where they satisfy other relevant policies of the plan and the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. They do not lead to clustering or proliferation of such uses where they undermine objectives to promote healthy living and the vitality and viability of the centre; and</li> <li>2. They do not have a negative impact upon the amenity and safety of residents and other businesses in the area; to include highway safety and parking, hours of operation, control of odours, and litter and waste disposal; and</li> </ol> <p>B. Subject to meeting the above criteria, hot food takeaways which are located within 400 metres of a secondary school or further education college will not be supported unless the opening hours are restricted until after 17:00 on weekdays.</p>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy restricts the delivery of hot food takeaways by specifying further criteria that such businesses must fulfill. However, the provision of takeaways has no bearing on European sites.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach EM9 is thus screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach EM10 - Advertisements</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is that applications for consent to display advertisements will be permitted where the size of the sign and the materials used are appropriate to the street scene and will not have an adverse effect on either the amenity of the area or on public and road safety.</p> <p>B. Proposals for the display of advertisements within Conservation Areas or on Listed Buildings will be granted consent provided the advertisement would not detract from the architectural and historic character of the street scene and / or building in question. The proposed advertisement should use a high standard of materials and it</p>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy relates to the permissiveness of advertisements across Selby District. However, the provision of advertisements has no bearing on European sites.</p>



	<p>is proposed that the advertisement be illuminated, the design, method and degree of illumination should not detract from the overall character of the area.</p>	<p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach EM10 is thus screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Section 6: Providing the Right Infrastructure To Support Local Communities</b></p>		
<p><b>Preferred Approach IC1- Infrastructure Delivery</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is for the Council to work with infrastructure providers to ensure that new development is supported by appropriate improvements to existing or new infrastructure. This includes the provision of education, health and social care, flood alleviation schemes, utilities, community facilities and highways improvements. All infrastructure will be delivered in a timely manner to support development by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. requiring applicants to demonstrate that there is sufficient infrastructure capacity to support all new development proposals;</li> <li>2. requiring developers to provide additional or improved infrastructure, as necessary and evidenced, either through on site provision or proportionate contributions towards the overall costs including ongoing maintenance where required in order to cater for the needs generated by the development; and</li> <li>3. ensuring that new or improvements to local infrastructure are in place no later than the appropriate phase of development which it is required to support.</li> </ol>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This Strategic Policy stipulates that the Council will cooperate with infrastructure providers in securing the delivery of appropriate infrastructure. It also ensures that developers will need to provide financial contributions towards appropriate infrastructure.</p> <p>This is an important policy because it means that appropriate potable water provisioning and wastewater treatment infrastructure will be in place prior to the occupation of residential developments. This is important for protecting the integrity of European sites that are dependent on good water quality or natural flow regimes.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach IC1 is therefore screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach IC2 - Provision of New Infrastructure</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is that key infrastructure such as school provision, new road links and cemeteries required to support new development will be set out clearly in a table. Where infrastructure requirements are specifically for land for example provision of a new school this will also be identified on the Policies Map. This will help to support future funding bids for new infrastructure or secure contributions through planning gain.</p>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy supports the delivery of new infrastructure should an identified need arise from individual site allocation policies.</p>

	<p>B. Proposals for any additional infrastructure provision or change of use of existing facilities, which may come forward during the plan period will be supported where it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. there is an identified local need for the infrastructure; and</li> <li>2. the proposal is closely linked and accessible to the community where the need arises; and</li> <li>3. the location and design will not detract from the character of the local area; and</li> <li>4. satisfactory areas for amenity and circulation are provided to support the scheme.</li> </ol>	<p>However, the general support of infrastructure proposals has no direct bearing on European sites (but see previous policy).</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach IC2 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach IC3 - Protection of Community Facilities</b></p>	<p>A. Development proposals which result in the loss of existing community facilities will only be supported where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It can be demonstrated that there is no longer a functional requirement for its continued use; and</li> <li>2. a robust marketing exercise has been undertaken which demonstrates that the building or land is not required for alternative community uses.</li> </ol>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy protects existing community facilities from conversion to other uses. However, this has no relevance for European sites.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach IC3 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach IC4 - Telecommunications and Digital Infrastructure Provision</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is that proposals for the improvement of digital communication networks including mobile connectivity across Selby District will be supported where the size of the equipment is kept to the minimum size possible and every effort has been made to minimise the visual impact of the proposal on the immediate area.</p> <p>B. The preferred approach is for the provision of digital infrastructure to be integrated into the design of all new residential and commercial developments in order to enable all new dwellings and businesses to access the fastest technical available broadband network or emerging technology where viable. Provision should be available at first occupation or to support delivery at a future date.</p> <p>C. Proposals for the erection of new telecommunications equipment will be supported where providers:</p>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This is a development management policy that supports the delivery of improved telecommunications and digital infrastructure, such as broadband. However, this has no relevance for European sites.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach IC4 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>

	<p>1. demonstrate that it is not feasible to utilise existing masts or structures; and</p> <p>2. the siting, scale and design of the apparatus does not have a significant adverse impact of the character of the host building or wider local area.</p> <p>D. Works should be managed where possible and co-ordinated between providers to minimise disruption to the highways network and local communities.</p>	
<p><b>Preferred Approach IC5 - Sustainable Transport</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is for the Council to work with the relevant highways authorities, stakeholders and transport providers to support sustainable travel accessible to all which delivers net zero carbon emission across Selby District. This will be achieved by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. supporting development proposals in locations which are well served by walking, cycling and public transport, are accessible to all sections of the community and provide linkages to and between developments in order to promote active travel;</li> <li>2. supporting proposals which will provide high quality walking and cycling networks to support the objectives of the Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plans prepared for Selby Town, Sherburn in Elmet and Tadcaster;</li> <li>3. supporting proposals for improvements to increase access to railway stations including car parking provision and other proposals aimed at increasing the use of public transport between settlements in the District and to the cities of York, Leeds and Hull or facilitating reductions in carbon emissions such as electrical car charging points/hydrogen technologies; and</li> <li>4. supporting proposals aimed at improving the local and strategic highway network as identified in Local Transport Plans or Road Investment Strategies and improvement to the accessibility of rural areas in order to address existing issues.</li> </ol> <p>B. Where new developments are considered to have an adverse impact on the highway network contributions will be expected for both on and off site mitigation as necessary; this may include requirements to provide Travel Plans.</p>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This Strategic Policy provides strong support for sustainable transport modes, such as walking, cycling and public transport. The policy stipulates that development proposals with good access to alternative travel modes will be prioritized. It also states that individual developments having a significant impact on road traffic, are expected to provide on- and off-site mitigation.</p> <p>This policy is important because it is likely to help reduce the car-based commuter traffic resulting from the SLP. This could benefit European sites that are sensitive to atmospheric pollution (e.g. the Lower Derwent Valley SAC), as it may help reduce nitrogen deposition along the A163.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach IC5 is therefore screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach IC6 - Parking and Highway Safety</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is that proposals for new development or expansion of an enterprise which leads to the creation of a new access or intensification of an existing access are required to be well related to the existing highways network and will provide:</p>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. safe pedestrian, cycling, vehicular, emergency and refuse vehicle access;</li> <li>2. adequate provision for parking must be incorporated into the design of new development in line with the parking standards for low emission vehicles and charging points, cars, cycles, disabled parking and operational serving requirements published by the Highways Authority;</li> <li>3. charging points for electric vehicles on all new residential developments.</li> </ol>	<p>This is a development management policy, relating to parking and highway safety, such as adequate provision of access. However, safe access arrangements have no relevance for European sites.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach IC6 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach IC7 - Public Rights of Way</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is that development which may have an impact on a public right of way network will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. satisfactory and alternative routes are provided, with adequate signage and the new access is of the same or better standard; and</li> <li>2. Opportunities for enhancement through the addition of new links to the existing network and the provision of improved facilities to make them more attractive to users, and facilitate sustainable access modes, including public transport, cycling and walking which minimise conflicts have been fully explored and, where appropriate, all reasonable and viable opportunities have been taken up.</li> </ol>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy protects the Public Rights of Way (PRoWs). It specifies that development proposals can only impact PRoWs if adequate alternative routes or new links are provided.</p> <p>The protection of PRoWs is integral to maintaining the attractiveness of local greenspaces. Well connected local outdoor spaces are likely to help alleviate recreational pressure in more sensitive sites, such as the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and the Skipwith Common SAC. Therefore, this is a positive policy from an HRA perspective.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach IC7 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach IC8 - Provision of Motorist Service Areas</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is that proposals for the development of new motorway services, lorry parks or the re-development of existing provision along the strategic highway network will be supported where they comply with the preferred approach for landscape NE3 and where located within the Green Belt in accordance with preferred approach SG7.</p>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy supports the provision of new motorist service areas where they comply with</p>

	<p>B. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate that there is robust justification of the need for a new motorway service provision.</p>	<p>Green Belt policies. However, the provision of such services has no bearing on European sites.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach IC8 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>																								
<p><b>Section 7: Creating High Quality Places to Live</b></p>																										
<p><b>Preferred Approach HG1-Meeting Local Housing Needs</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is that the Council will meet its housing requirements over the plan period through;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The completion of 1398 dwellings on sites with implemented planning permissions, as listed in appendix A, and;</li> <li>2. The allocation of sites to provide 895 dwellings on unimplemented residential planning permissions, as seen on the Policies Map and in appendix A, and;</li> <li>3. The allocation of new sites in table 7.3 below and identified on the Policies Map to provide 6,967 dwellings. They will be developed in accordance with the relevant Local Plan policy requirements and the development requirements identified for each site.</li> <li>4. In addition to this, it is expected that approximately 500 dwellings will be delivered as windfall in the smaller villages over the plan period.</li> </ol> <table border="1" data-bbox="504 922 1516 1358"> <thead> <tr> <th>Site Ref</th> <th>Settlement</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Proposed Dwellings over the Plan Period</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>AROE-I</td> <td>Appleton Roebuck</td> <td>Land Adjacent to Maltkiln Lane</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BARL-K</td> <td>Barlby &amp; Osgodby</td> <td>Land at Turnhead Farm</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OSGB-G</td> <td>Barlby &amp; Osgodby</td> <td>Lake View Farn</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OSGB-I</td> <td>Barlby &amp; Osgodby</td> <td>Land east of Sand Lane</td> <td>72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BRAY-B</td> <td>Brayton</td> <td>Land South of Brackenhill Lane</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Site Ref	Settlement	Location	Proposed Dwellings over the Plan Period	AROE-I	Appleton Roebuck	Land Adjacent to Maltkiln Lane	50	BARL-K	Barlby & Osgodby	Land at Turnhead Farm	26	OSGB-G	Barlby & Osgodby	Lake View Farn	21	OSGB-I	Barlby & Osgodby	Land east of Sand Lane	72	BRAY-B	Brayton	Land South of Brackenhill Lane	60	<p>Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy cannot be excluded.</p> <p>This policy expands on the Spatial Strategy provided in Preferred Approach SG2 - Spatial Approach. It provides a detailed breakdown of how the housing need will be satisfied (i.e. implementations of existing planning permissions and new allocations). Furthermore, the policy specifies where 6,967 new residential dwellings will be allocated.</p> <p>The spatial distribution of new housing is important in determining the magnitude of recreational pressure in European sites. For example, allocating sites in the north-eastern part of the authority could place additional burden on the Skipwith Common SAC or the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC. Therefore, the distribution of development will have to be examined further in the Appropriate Assessment.</p> <p>The following impact pathways on European sites are linked to this policy:</p>
Site Ref	Settlement	Location	Proposed Dwellings over the Plan Period																							
AROE-I	Appleton Roebuck	Land Adjacent to Maltkiln Lane	50																							
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BRAY-X	Brayton	Land north of Mill Lane	150	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational Pressure</li> <li>• Loss of Functionally Linked Habitat</li> <li>• Water Quality</li> <li>• Water Quantity, Level and Flow</li> <li>• Atmospheric Pollution</li> </ul> <p>Overall, Preferred Approach HG1 is screened in for Appropriate Assessment.</p>
BRAY-Z	Brayton	Land south of St Wildfred's Close	20	
CAMB-C	Camblesforth	Land north of Beech Grove	121	
CARL-G	Carlton	Land north of Mill Lane	123	
CLIF-B	Cliffe	Land at Bon Accord Farm	19	
CLIF-O	Cliffe	Land north of Cliffe Primary School, Main Street	77	
EGGB-Y	Eggborough	Land West of Kellington Lane	1350	
HAMB-N	Hambleton	Land east of Gateforth Lane	44	
HEMB-I	Hemingbrough	Land South of Orchard End	26	
HEMB-J	Hemingbrough	Land East of Mill Lane	41	
HEMB-K	Hemingbrough	Land south of School Road	8	
HENS-A	Hensall	Land to North of Weeland Road	24	
HENS-L	Hensall	Land north of Wand Lane	57	
KELL-B	Kellington	Land off Church Lane and Lunn Lane	72	
KJELL-G	Kellington	Land east of Manor Garth	27	

HILL-A	Monk Fryston / Hillam	Land West of Main Street, Hillam	33
NDUF-D	North Duffield	Land North of A163	45
NDUF-L	North Duffield	Land at Gothic Farm	10
RICC-J	Riccall	Land at Landing Lane Riccall	180
SELB-AG	Selby	Rigid Paper	330
SELB-B	Selby	Industrial Chemicals Ltd	450
SELB-BZ	Selby	Crosshills Lane	1270
SELB-D	Selby	Land West of Bondgate	9
SHER-H	Sherburn	Land adjacent to Prospect Farm, Low Street	300
TADC-AD	Tadcaster	Barnardo's Wighill Lane	5
TADC-AE	Tadcaster	Land north of Hillcrest Court	30
TADC-J	Tadcaster	Land north of Station Road	104
TADC-H	Tadcaster	Central Area Car Park	43
TADC-I	Tadcaster	Mill Lane	248
TADC-L	Tadcaster	Land to rear of 46 Wighill Lane and Former Coal Yard	17
THRP-I	Thorpe Willoughby	Land north of Field Lane	70
THRP-K	Thorpe Willoughby	Land South of Leeds Road	127

	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>THRP-V</td> <td>Thorpe Willoughby</td> <td>Land at Swallowvale Leeds Road</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ULLE-K</td> <td>Ulleskelf</td> <td>Land south of Barley Horn Road</td> <td>35</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Proposed New Settlement</td> <td>To be confirmed</td> <td>1,260</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: right;">Total Dwellings</td> <td>6,967</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	THRP-V	Thorpe Willoughby	Land at Swallowvale Leeds Road	13	ULLE-K	Ulleskelf	Land south of Barley Horn Road	35		Proposed New Settlement	To be confirmed	1,260	Total Dwellings			6,967	
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	Proposed New Settlement	To be confirmed	1,260															
Total Dwellings			6,967															
<p><b>Preferred Approach HG2 - Windfall Developments</b></p>	<p>The preferred approach is that residential developments on sites not allocated in preferred approach HG1 will be supported;</p> <p>A. In the Selby Urban Area, Sherburn in Elmet, Tadcaster and the Tier 1 and 2 Villages, providing they are within the development limits of these settlements. The types of housing developments supported includes conversions, replacement dwellings, redevelopment of previously developed land, and appropriate scale development on greenfield land, including the conversion and redevelopment of farmsteads.</p> <p>B. In the Smaller Villages, providing they are, for conversions, replacement dwellings, redevelopment of previously developed land, the in-filling of gaps within a continuous frontage, within the main built up area of the settlement. Support for the very small scale development (defined in the glossary) of dwellings adjacent to the built up areas will also be supported where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. it represents the organic growth of the village; and</li> <li>2. is of a high quality of design which reflects the character and form of that part of the village; and</li> <li>3. respects the intrinsic character of the countryside; and</li> <li>4. does not in itself, or in association with other developments, result in a cumulative level of development which is harmful.</li> </ol> <p>C. To meet rural affordable housing need (which meets the provisions of preferred approach HG4) on sites adjacent to the built form of any settlement.</p> <p>D. In the countryside isolated new isolated homes will be resisted unless there are</p>	<p>Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy cannot be excluded.</p> <p>This policy potentially adds to the volume of housing delivered under Preferred Approach HG1. It supports windfall housing development, in principle, in the urban areas and smaller villages of Selby District. While it is acknowledged that most housing to be delivered in the district is specified in other policies, individual housing developments could still add to the identified impact pathways.</p> <p>The following impact pathways on European sites are linked to this policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational Pressure</li> <li>• Loss of Functionally Linked Habitat</li> <li>• Water Quality</li> <li>• Water Quantity, Level and Flow</li> <li>• Atmospheric Pollution</li> </ul> <p>Overall, Preferred Approach HG2 is screened in for Appropriate Assessment.</p>																



	<p>special circumstances such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the essential need for a rural worker to live permanently at or near their place of work in the countryside in accordance with preferred approach #; or</li> <li>2. where such development would represent the optimal viable use of a heritage asset or would be appropriate enabling development to secure the future of heritage assets; or</li> <li>3. where the development would re-use redundant or disused buildings and lead to an enhancement to the immediate setting; or the exceptional quality or innovative nature of the design of the dwelling.</li> </ol> <p>Where relevant, regard should also be taken of the design principles contained in adopted Village Design Statements and Neighbourhood Plans.</p>	
<p><b>Preferred Approach HG3 - Creating the Right Type of Homes</b></p>	<p>The preferred approach is that proposals for all new residential development should provide an appropriate type and size of new homes to meet the current and future housing requirements of local people. Proposals for new residential development will be supported where:-</p> <p>A. A range of house types and sizes, both market and rented, is provided that reflects the identified housing needs and demands of local communities shown in the latest Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment or successor documents; and</p> <p>B. Dwellings meet the Nationally Described Space Standards (2015) or any successor standards or policy; and</p> <p>C. All new homes are built to M4 (2) 'accessible and adaptable' standard, and that on developments over 10 dwellings in size, 5% of new homes are built to M4 (3) 'wheelchair user' standard, having regard to identified need; and</p> <p>D. Development promotes the effective use of land on windfall sites by achieving minimum densities of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35 dwellings per hectare within Selby Town, Tadcaster, Sherburn in Elmet.</li> <li>• 30 dwellings per hectare in Tier 1 &amp; 2 Villages and the proposed New Settlement.</li> <li>• 20 dwellings per hectare in the Smaller Villages.</li> </ul>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This housing management policy provides detail on the type, density and capacity of new housing. However, this will not impact the overall quantum of housing to be delivered. As such, the policy has no bearing on European sites.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach HG3 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>

<p><b>Preferred Approach HG4 - Affordable Housing</b></p>	<p>The preferred approach is that the Council will work with a range of public and private sector partners in order to deliver affordable housing across the District to meet the needs of local people.</p> <p>A. In order to achieve this the Council will seek provision for:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. a minimum of 20% affordable homes on developments of 11 or more dwellings or where the site areas is greater than 0.5 hectares to be provided on site. In exceptional circumstances, all or part of the affordable housing provision may be acceptable off-site or through a commuted sum in lieu of provision, where the agreed approach contributes to the objective of creating mixed and balanced communities; or</li> <li>2. Contributions in lieu of on- site provision where is has been demonstrated that this is not viable on proposed developments of between 6 and 10 dwellings in areas designated as rural areas under Section 157(1) of the Housing Act 1985.</li> </ol> <p>B. In all cases where affordable housing is provided it must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. reflect the appropriate type and size of homes to meet local needs as informed by the Council's latest evidence on local housing need;</li> <li>2. be built to be accessible and adaptable to lifetime homes standards as per policy HG3; and</li> <li>3. be distributed throughout the market housing in any development and the design and layout of the affordable homes should also be indistinguishable from the market housing.</li> </ol> <p>C. Affordable housing sites must provide at least 10% home ownership, including First Homes (unless the development is one of the types listed as an exception under para 64 of the NPPF) and a mix of social rented/affordable rent/intermediate rent.</p> <p>D. Housing sites with multiple phases of development will have the affordable housing provision reviewed in the application for each phase. Proposals on sites which have sub divided into smaller sites to avoid affordable housing contributions will not be supported.</p> <p>E. Where vacant buildings are being reused or redeveloped, affordable housing contributions due should be reduced by a proportionate amount. The precise amount</p>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This housing management policy specifies the amount of affordable housing to be delivered in different types of housing development.</p> <p>However, the policy does not provide a quantum or location of housing growth. As such, the policy has no bearing on European sites.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach HG4 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
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	<p>of affordable housing, or commuted sum payment to be provided is a matter for negotiation at the time of a planning application, having regard to any abnormal costs, economic viability and other requirements associated with the development.</p>	
<p><b>Preferred Approach HG5 - Rural Housing Exception Sites</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach proposals for affordable housing including First Homes and Entry Level Affordable Homes outside of the development limits or the built form of settlements will be supported as an exception to normal planning policy, provided all of the following criteria are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The site is within or adjoining the development limits/built form of a settlement with a population of less than 3000.</li> <li>2. The development is sympathetic to the layout and character of the built form and landscape setting of the village; and</li> <li>3. A local need has been identified through a local housing needs survey, the nature of which is met by the proposed development; and</li> <li>4. An appropriate agreement will be secured, at the time of the granting of planning permission to secure the long-term future of the affordable housing in perpetuity.</li> </ol> <p>B. Small numbers of market homes may be allowed on Rural Exception, First Home and Entry Level sites at the local authority's discretion, for example where essential to enable the delivery of affordable units without grant funding, in accordance with the NPPF.</p> <p>C. 'First Homes' proposals will be acceptable provided they are not larger than one hectare in size and which do not exceed 5% of the size (in dwellings) of the existing settlement at the time of determination.</p>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This housing management policy allows for rural exception sites outside development limits or the built form of settlements.</p> <p>However, the policy does not provide a quantum or location of housing growth. As such, the policy has no bearing on European sites.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach HG5 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach HG6 - Rural Workers Dwellings</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is for proposals for a new dwelling to meet the essential needs of a rural worker(s) to live permanently at or near their place of work in the countryside to be supported where they meet all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a clearly established functional need to support a rural enterprise that has been operational for a minimum period of three years and is demonstrated to be commercially viable; and</li> <li>2. The need relates to a full-time worker who is employed in rural employment; and</li> <li>3. The need could not be met through an existing dwelling or through conversion of a suitable building on the operational unit, or any other existing accommodation in the area which is suitable and available for occupation by the rural worker(s); and</li> </ol>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy, in principle, supports the development of new dwellings in the countryside to accommodate rural workers near their place of work.</p> <p>However, the policy does not in itself provide a quantum or location of housing growth. As</p>

	<p>4. The new dwelling is of a size which is commensurate with the established functional requirement of the enterprise and is appropriately sited within or adjacent to an existing complex of buildings unless it can be clearly established that the requirements of the enterprise necessitate a more isolated location.</p> <p>B. Where a permission has been granted for a temporary basis, it should normally, for the first three years, be provided by a caravan, a wooden structure which can be easily dismantled, or other temporary accommodation.</p> <p>C. Any permission granted will be subject to an occupancy condition restricting the use of the dwelling for the required purpose. The removal of an occupancy condition will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that there is no longer a need for the accommodation in the locality.</p> <p>D. No additional rural workers dwellings will be permitted where a former rural workers dwelling has been approved and then been converted to market housing.</p>	<p>such, the policy has no bearing on European sites.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach HG6 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach HG7 - Self Build and Custom Build Housing</b></p>	<p>A. In order to meet local needs for self build and custom build housing the preferred approach is that;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sites providing more than 50 residential dwellings will be required to supply up to 3% of the total plots to self-builders or to custom house builders subject to appropriate demand being demonstrated through the Local Planning Authority's Self Build and Custom Build register at the time the planning approval is considered and the proposal being demonstrated as viable.</li> <li>2. Support for self build and custom build housing proposals will also be given in line with the preferred approach HG2 for windfall development.</li> <li>3. All self-build/custom build plots are to be to be occupied as homes by the self/custom builders for a period of 3 years. Where plots which have been appropriately marketed for self build and have not sold within a 12 month time period, then, upon approval by the Council, these plots may be built out as conventional market housing by the developers.</li> <li>4. Communities preparing Neighbourhood Plans will be encouraged to consider the identification of sites specifically for self and custom-build projects within their neighbourhood plan area.</li> </ol>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy relates to the provision of self and custom build housing. However, the type of housing provided in allocations has no bearing on European sites.</p> <p>Furthermore, the policy does not in itself provide a quantum or location of housing growth. As such, the policy has no bearing on European sites.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach HG7 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>

<p><b>Preferred Approach HG8 - Older Persons and Specialist Housing</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is that development specifically designed to meet the accommodation needs of ‘older people’ and or ‘People with disabilities’ will be supported where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It supports the right mix of housing as identified in the most up to date Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment; and</li> <li>2. It is in a location accessible by public transport, or within a reasonable walking distance, of essential facilities which include grocery shops, medical services; and public open spaces. Where this is not the case these facilities are to be provided on site;</li> <li>3. Where proposals are in the form of apartments/flats a satisfactory standard of communal areas for occupants in addition to part b) will be sought;</li> <li>4. Where developments fall within use class C3, affordable housing will be required in accordance with the preferred approach of HG4; and</li> <li>5. There is a condition limiting the reoccupation of residences to those who are classed as elderly in the NPPF.</li> </ol>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy relates to the accommodation needs of older people or people with disabilities. However, the type of housing provided in allocations has no relevance to European sites.</p> <p>The policy does not in itself provide a quantum or location of housing growth. As such, the policy has no bearing on European sites.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach HG8 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach HG9 - Householder applications</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is that householder development proposals will be supported where they meet the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The design, layout and architectural detail of the development, new buildings or extensions are appropriate to their setting in terms of scale, height, massing and density, as well as in their relationship to adjoining buildings, spaces around buildings, landscape features and local character;</li> <li>2. The development would not visibly or physically overwhelm the original dwelling;</li> <li>3. The materials to be used respect and complement existing buildings;</li> <li>4. The development respects and positively contributes to any applicable wildlife, landscape character or heritage designations;</li> <li>5. There is no unacceptable impact on any neighbouring property in terms of amenity, noise or access;</li> <li>6. There is no unacceptable loss of parking or garden or amenity area, and;</li> <li>7. The development would not undermine the retention of any occupancy condition.</li> </ol>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy specifies that householder applications for extensions, gardens etc. will be permitted, provided they do not impact on wildlife designations.</p> <p>While this is positive, it is unlikely that any householder applications would directly impact European sites. The policy does not provide a quantum or location of housing growth. As such, the policy has no bearing on European sites.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach HG9 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>

<p><b>Preferred Approach HG10 - Residential Annexes</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is that residential Annexes will be supported where, in addition to the preferred approach for householder applications (HG9);</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the residential annex would be within the curtilage of the principal dwelling, share the same vehicular access, and adequate off-street parking for the occupants of the main house and the annexe would be provided;</li> <li>2. the residential annex has a functional link with the principal dwelling and would remain in the same ownership of the principal dwelling;</li> <li>3. the conversion, extension or new building(s) are not designed to be fully self-contained and / or facilitate the subdivision of the original dwelling into separate dwellings;</li> </ol>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy provides further criteria that applications of householders need to fulfill in order to be accepted.</p> <p>However, the policy does not provide a quantum or location of housing growth. As such, the policy has no bearing on European sites.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach HG10 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach HG11 - Conversions Involving Dwellings</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is that conversions of existing buildings for new housing will be supported where, in addition to the relevant requirements of the preferred approach (HG9);</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the preservation of the building would enhance the immediate setting and</li> <li>2. where it would represent the optimal viable use of a heritage asset; or</li> <li>3. it would re-use a structurally sound redundant or disused building without significant reconstruction, alteration or extension.</li> </ol> <p>B. Conversion of existing buildings outside of the development limits or outside of the main built form of settlements to new housing will be supported, where in addition to the relevant requirements of the preferred approach for householder applications (HG9) and 1-3 above;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The conversion of the rural building and ancillary works within the curtilage would not have a significant adverse effect on the intrinsic character or appearance of the surrounding countryside;</li> <li>2. The rural building is not in close proximity to intensive livestock units or industrial uses which would result in a poor level of amenity for those occupiers of the dwelling;</li> </ol>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy supports the conversion of existing dwellings into new housing. This is generally a positive approach, as the conversion of brownfield sites minimizes the potential for losing functionally linked habitats (e.g. for the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar or the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar).</p> <p>Furthermore, this policy does not provide a quantum or location of housing growth. As such, the policy has no bearing on European sites.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach HG11 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>

	<p>3. In those cases where the proposed residential conversion is part of a scheme for business use, the residential element must be clearly separated from the business use.</p> <p>4. Permitted development rights will be withdrawn for development under this policy where a future alteration or extension could have a detrimental effect on the character or setting of the converted building or area.</p>							
<p><b>Preferred Approach HG12 - Replacement Dwellings</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is that replacement dwellings will be supported where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the original dwelling is redundant or disused, of permanent and substantial construction and in such a state of dereliction or disrepair that significant reconstruction would be required; and</li> <li>2. the original dwelling is not of architectural or historical merit (when restoration and renovation will be preferred to replacement); and</li> <li>3. the new dwelling must be located on the site of, or within close proximity to preclude the use of the existing dwelling that is to be replaced, otherwise a condition will be applied to ensure its demolition on completion of the new dwelling; and</li> <li>4. the design, layout, materials and architectural detailing of the new building are appropriate to the location and setting in terms of scale, height, massing and density, as well as in its relationship to adjoining buildings, spaces around buildings, landscape features and local character; and</li> <li>5. the development respects and positively contributes to any applicable wildlife, landscape character or heritage designations; and</li> <li>6. there is no unacceptable impact on any neighbouring property in terms of amenity, noise or access.</li> </ol>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy supports the provision of replacement dwellings, provided these don't impact on wildlife designations. As was relevant to Preferred Approach HG11, the provision of replacement dwellings will reduce the overall loss of greenfield sites, which may benefit European sites designated for mobile bird species.</p> <p>Furthermore, the policy does not provide a quantum or location of housing growth. As such, the policy has no bearing on European sites.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach HG12 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>						
<p><b>Preferred Approach HG13 - Gypsy &amp; Traveller Sites</b></p>	<p>A. The preferred approach is that the following sites as shown on the Policies Map are allocated for Gypsy and Traveller uses to ensure a deliverable supply of pitches during the plan period:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="504 1225 1516 1361"> <thead> <tr> <th>Site Ref</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Number of Pitches</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>NTHP-A</td> <td>Land at Hillcrest, Old Great North Road, Newthorpe</td> <td>12</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Site Ref	Location	Number of Pitches	NTHP-A	Land at Hillcrest, Old Great North Road, Newthorpe	12	<p>Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy cannot be excluded.</p> <p>This policy provides for 12 gypsy and traveller pitches in Newthorpe over the plan period. While this is a very small amount of residential growth, negative impacts cannot be excluded</p>
Site Ref	Location	Number of Pitches						
NTHP-A	Land at Hillcrest, Old Great North Road, Newthorpe	12						

	<p>B. Proposals for Gypsy and Traveller pitches on non-allocated sites, including new sites or extensions to existing sites, should be considered against the most up-to date Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment and should meet the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be in an area of low flood risk;</li> <li>2. Be unaffected by contamination, unless the site can be adequately remediated;</li> <li>3. Have good access to facilities, including schools and health care facilities;</li> <li>4. Provide a good safe living environment with appropriate standards of residential amenity;</li> <li>5. Be located where there would not be a detrimental impact on highway safety or the flow of traffic;</li> <li>6. Not materially harm the natural and historic landscape;</li> <li>7. Not be located in the Green Belt except in circumstances where very special circumstances can be demonstrated; and</li> <li>8. In rural areas, not be of a size that dominates the nearest settled community.</li> </ol> <p>C. Proposals that would involve the loss of authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches will not be permitted unless new replacement pitches are provided in a suitable location that meets the above criteria.</p>	<p>in-combination with the housing provided through other policies.</p> <p>The following impact pathways on European sites are linked to this policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational Pressure</li> <li>• Loss of Functionally Linked Habitat</li> <li>• Water Quality</li> <li>• Water Quantity, Level and Flow</li> <li>• Atmospheric Pollution</li> </ul> <p>Overall, Preferred Approach HG13 is screened in for Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Section 8: Maintaining a High Quality Natural Environment</b></p>		
<p><b>Preferred Approach NE1 - Protection of Green Spaces</b></p>	<p>The preferred approach is that the Council will protect those Green Spaces which: provide a social and cultural role; or give opportunities for formal and informal recreation; or support health and well-being or contribute to the local form and character of settlements.</p> <p>The proposed protected green space sites are defined on the Policies Map which will be regularly updated through the Council's Green Space Audit/Strategy</p> <p>A. Development will not be permitted within a designated Local Green Space identified either within the Selby District Local Plan on the Policies Map or in an approved Neighbourhood Plan, unless there are very special circumstances where the public benefits of the development proposed would outweigh the harm that would be caused by development, in line with national policy.</p>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy protects local opportunities for recreation, including Local Green Spaces, Recreation Open Space and Local Amenity Space. All these areas are important in providing residents with the opportunity to access the outdoors near their home.</p> <p>In combination with Preferred Approach IC7 - Public Rights of Way, this policy ensures that a significant amount of recreational pressure</p>



	<p>B. Proposals which would result in the loss of the area or function of existing Recreation Open Space as defined on the draft Policies Map will only be permitted where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is clearly demonstrated that the site is no longer in use or is not needed for recreation; or</li> <li>2. A satisfactory replacement facility is provided, and available for use before the existing facility is lost, in a suitable location, accessible to current users, and at least equivalent in terms of size, usefulness, attractiveness and quality; or</li> <li>3. Sports and recreation facilities can best be retained or enhanced through the redevelopment of a smaller part of the site.</li> </ol> <p>C. Proposals for the development of Local Amenity Space as defined on the Policies Map will not be permitted unless the proposed development adds to its local amenity value and does not cause any loss of the area or its function.</p>	<p>will be absorbed locally. This will help reduce recreational pressure in more sensitive sites, such as the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and the Skipwith Common SAC. Therefore, this is a positive policy from an HRA perspective.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach NE1 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach NE2 - Protect and Enhance Green and Blue Infrastructure</b></p>	<p>The Council's preferred approach is to seek to protect, maintain, enhance and, where possible, restore and extend Selby District's green and blue infrastructure assets (GBI) which will be identified through the Selby District Green and Blue Infrastructure Audit and Strategy and support the creation of an integrated network for the benefit of nature, people's health and well-being and the economy including landscapes, ecological networks, natural environment, open spaces, public rights of way, geodiversity, biodiversity, river and waterway assets.</p> <p>A. This will be achieved by supporting development proposals which:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protect and enhance the functionality and connectivity of green and blue infrastructure and corridors having regard to the latest GBI audits and strategies. The GBI should principally benefit the development and enhance or create or facilitate links to connect to the wider network.</li> <li>2. Increase connectivity of habitats by locating features which enlarge, connect or support natural and semi-natural green spaces and protected site for nature conservation in line with Policies NE4 (protected sites and biodiversity net gain).</li> <li>3. Improve access to green space for recreation and leisure for the health and well-being of users having regard to the latest Green Space Audit and in line with Policy NE1 (Green Space).</li> <li>4. For proposals near to waterways, including those which contribute towards delivering identified opportunities and priorities, such as at the river Ouse and Selby</li> </ol>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy aims at protecting and enhancing Selby District's green and blue infrastructure, such as fields, parks, forests and water features. Emphasis is also made on the importance of connectivity between different habitats.</p> <p>While the policy is likely to have beneficial effects for wildlife and biodiversity, it also ensures the provision of greenspaces with high connectivity for local residents. As stated in relation to other policies, this is likely to help mitigate recreational pressure in European sites that are sensitive to recreational pressure. Therefore, this is a positive policy from an HRA perspective.</p>

	<p>Canal at Selby, the river Wharfe at Tadcaster, the river Derwent and river Aire and Aire and Calder Navigation in the rural areas, are in line with Policy NE7 (waterways).</p> <p>B. Planning applications for major residential development (proposals of 10 dwellings or more and non-residential development proposals of 0.5 hectares or more) will be required to provide a Green and Blue Infrastructure Masterplan, as part of the overall master plan for the development site, to be agreed with the planning authority, demonstrating (having regard to the latest GBI audit or strategy) how the development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Avoids loss or damage or deterioration to green and blue infrastructure; and</li> <li>2. Addresses deficiencies of green and blue infrastructure; and</li> <li>3. Creates or enhances green and blue infrastructure; and</li> <li>4. Provides links or access to green and blue infrastructure.</li> </ol>	<p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach NE2 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Approach NE3 - Protect and Enhance Landscape Character</b></p>	<p>The preferred approach is that, proposals which protect, enhance or restore the landscape character of Selby District and the setting of settlements for its own intrinsic value and for its benefit to the economic, environmental and social well-being of the District, will be supported.</p> <p>A. All proposed development must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. promote high quality designs that respond positively to, and where possible, enhance, the distinctive local landscape character as described in the latest 'Selby Landscape Character Assessment'; and</li> <li>2. give particular attention to the design, layout, landscaping of development and the use of materials in order to minimise its impact and to enhance the traditional character of buildings and landscape in the area, reflecting the 17 character areas defined in the 'Selby Landscape Character Assessment'; and</li> <li>3. respect the overall development guidelines in the 'Selby Landscape Sensitivity Study'.</li> </ol> <p>B. In addition, proposals within the three areas designated on the draft Policies Map as Locally Important Landscape Areas (LILAs): the Magnesian Limestone Ridge (north and south); Hambleton Hough and Brayton Barff and Derwent Valley, as high quality valued landscapes, and due to their high sensitivity to inappropriate development, must:</p>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy ensures the protection and enhancement of Selby District's Landscape Character, including the Derwent Valley. However, protection of the landscape character will have no direct relevance for European sites.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach NE3 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. avoid significant loss of key characteristics that contribute to the quality of the LILA; and</li> <li>2. respond to the specific recommendations for each LILA as set out in the Selby District Landscape designation Review 2019 (or subsequent update).</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Preferred Approach NE4 - Protecting Designated Sites and Species (Strategic Policy)</b></p>	<p>The preferred approach is that the District’s wildlife will be protected through promoting its effective stewardship by supporting proposals that protect, restore and enhance features of ecological and geological interest, this will be achieved through:</p> <p>Protecting wildlife and their habitats through safeguarding designated sites commensurate with their status as follows:</p> <p>A. Relating to Internationally and Nationally Protected habitats and species;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proposals will be considered against National Policy and Guidance within the context of the statutory protection afforded to them.</li> <li>2. In order to ensure development does not negatively impact on the district's European designations (Lower Derwent Valley, Skipwith Common and River Derwent), development proposals located within 5km of these sites must: <i>[add outcomes from HRA at next stage]</i>.</li> </ol> <p>B. Relating to Locally Important Protected Sites;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proposals for development which would harm a Locally Important Protected Site (Local Nature Reserve or a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) or a Regionally Important Geological/geomorphological site), will not be permitted unless there are no reasonable alternative means of meeting the development need and it can be demonstrated that there are benefits for the proposal which clearly outweigh the need to safeguard the intrinsic local nature conservation value of the site or feature and its contribution to wider biodiversity objectives and connectivity.</li> <li>2. SINC are identified and designated by the Council and are shown on the Policies Map. Other sites, including those awaiting designation (ratified by the SINC Panel), which can be demonstrated to meet the selection guidelines for SINC will be afforded the same level of protection.</li> </ol> <p>C. Planning applications for proposals which are likely to impact on the above (International, National and Local) protected sites must be accompanied by an</p>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy provides the main protective policy mechanism regarding European sites. It places European sites at the top of the conservation hierarchy and specifies that development proposals must not have negative impacts on the Lower Derwent Valley, Skipwith Common and the River Derwent.</p> <p>The policy also clarifies that planning applications with the potential to affect internationally designated sites must be accompanied by a HRA that demonstrates adequate mitigation of impacts. The detailed requirement for this assessment will by definition ensure that no adverse effects on site integrity would arise.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach NE4 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>

	<p>ecological assessment proportionate to the development as set out in the Council's Validation Checklist. Ecological assessments may not be required where pre-application discussions with the Council have indicated it is not required in a particular case.</p> <p>D. Development affecting a designated site will only be permitted where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the proposal is justified against the relevant criteria in 1 or 2 above, and</li> <li>2. where the assessment has considered alternate sites and demonstrated that significant harm can be avoided or adequately mitigated, and</li> <li>3. where it can be demonstrated that the proposed mitigation or compensatory measures are equivalent to the value assigned to the site / asset in the ecological assessment; or</li> <li>4. if either criteria (1 or 2) cannot be achieved, compensated for.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Preferred Approach NE5 - Biodiversity Net Gain for Ecological Networks (Strategic Policy)</b></p>	<p>The preferred approach is that the District's wildlife will be protected and enhanced by supporting proposals that deliver at least a 10% net gain in biodiversity for ecological networks.</p> <p>This will be achieved by;</p> <p>A. Requiring all development proposals (other than householder applications) to apply the following principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. employ a mitigation hierarchy so that firstly harm is avoided wherever possible, then appropriate mitigation is provided to reduce the impact of any unavoidable harm, and as a last resort compensation is delivered to offset any residual damage to biodiversity;</li> <li>2. retain, protect and enhance the features of biological and geological interest related to the site including buffers around such features and provide and deliver appropriate long-term management of these identified features (and newly created or restored habitats);</li> <li>3. make use of opportunities to restore and re-create priority habitats and other natural habitats within development schemes;</li> <li>4. aim to link, retained and created habitats and features, to the wider ecological network;</li> <li>5. take account of and contribute to meeting the biodiversity priorities for habitats and species for recovering or enhancing biodiversity in line with the priorities set out</li> </ol>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy stipulates that new development proposals will have to deliver a 10% net gain in biodiversity. The policy specifies the mitigation hierarchy as avoiding harm, providing mitigation and, as a last resort, off-site compensation.</p> <p>While positive for wildlife and biodiversity as a whole, the policy is unlikely to have any implication for European sites. Selby District and the surrounding districts do not contain sites designated for bats, which would particularly benefit from net gain delivery.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach NE5 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>

	<p>through the Local Plan and subsequent plans and strategies such as the Local Nature Recovery Strategy;</p> <p>6. demonstrate that the need for a proposal outweighs the value of any features to be lost.</p> <p>B. Produce at least a 10% net gain in biodiversity by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. retaining priority habitats and features of ecological importance on site; where this is not possible, off site compensation will be required (in line with the priorities set out through the Local Plan and subsequent plans and strategies such as the Local Nature Recovery Strategy); and</li> <li>2. using the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric (or other equivalent standard as amended by national guidance or legislation) to demonstrate that the proposal delivers a minimum 10% net gain for biodiversity; and</li> <li>3. designing-in wildlife to the built form (for example through incorporation of design features such as swift bricks, bat boxes and hedgehog holes in boundary treatments) and to spaces between buildings.</li> </ol> <p>C. Refusing planning permission for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including historic wetlands and species-rich grasslands, ancient woodland, including ancient semi-natural woodland and plantations on ancient woodland, and aged or veteran trees, unless the need for and benefits of the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss.</p>	
<p><b>Preferred Approach NE6 - Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows</b></p>	<p>In order to prevent the loss of, and to enhance, trees, woodland and hedgerows, the preferred approach is that:</p> <p>A. Proposals will be supported where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If necessary, there has been a suitable assessment of the woodland, trees and hedgerows, to a recognised professional standard which is able to demonstrate evaluation of these features for realistic long-term retention, and how this has positively informed the design process; and</li> <li>2. It has been demonstrated how retained features are to be protected during development; and</li> <li>3. There has been an appropriate replacement planting scheme agreed in writing to the Local Planning Authority, where the felling of trees or the removal of hedgerow is proved necessary; and</li> </ol>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This is a positive policy, supporting the preservation of trees (particularly mature, veteran and ancient trees). However, while positive for wildlife and the integrity of ecological networks, the policy has no direct relevance for European sites.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach NE6 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>

	<p>4. It prevents the loss or deterioration of woodland unless part of an extant agreed forestry management scheme, and;</p> <p>5. Any proposals for the removal of trees, woodland and/or hedgerows should not increase the risk of flooding; and</p> <p>6. Proposed works to trees under Tree Preservation Orders or within a Conservation Area must not be detrimental to public realm, the character of the designated area, or to the detriment of the health and sustainability of the tree; and</p> <p>7. It promotes and enhances the tree coverage of the Selby District in line with extant and most recent strategies relating to trees, woodlands and hedgerows (e.g. White Rose Forest Partnership Scheme and Conservation Area Appraisals).</p> <p>B. There will be presumption against development that results in the loss or deterioration of ancient woodland and or maturely aged, ancient or veteran trees.</p> <p>C. In order to preserve the ecological, amenity and historical value of veteran trees, proposals will be supported which retain and enhance these assets.</p>	
<p><b>Preferred Approach NE7 - Protect and Enhance Waterways</b></p>	<p>The Council will, through the preferred approach, protect waterways and their environments including riverbanks and water frontages which:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. provide a wide range of important functions in the District to support active access for recreation and health and well-being; or</li> <li>2. have intrinsic amenity value to compliment new development; or</li> <li>3. constitute or have the potential as alternative transport modes for economic prosperity and to reduce carbon emissions; or</li> <li>4. are wildlife corridors to sustain biodiversity; or</li> <li>5. contribute or could support mitigation for flooding and climate change.</li> </ol> <p>This will be achieved:</p> <p>A. For developments within, on top of, adjacent to or near to waterways, by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. taking account of the different existing or potential roles, characteristics and functions of the waterway such as for sustainable transport for water borne freight; for recreational use for walking or cycling; and/or for value as a wildlife corridor;</li> <li>2. taking into account the latest priorities and strategies for waterways;</li> <li>3. safeguarding and improve environmental quality and amenity;</li> <li>4. enhancing the local environment and access to and along waterway corridors;</li> </ol>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy protects and enhances Selby District's waterways, particularly its riverbanks and their functioning as wildlife corridors.</p> <p>Importantly, the policy states that additional recreational facilities in the Lower Derwent Valley Area will not be supported. This is crucial, as this will preserve the rural character of the area surrounding the SPA / Ramsar / SAC and ensure recreational pressure in the site will not significantly increase.</p> <p>In the area around Barlby Bridge and the Selby Urban Area, riverside recreational facilities and additional wharfage will be supported. However, an increase in recreation</p>

	<p>5. taking into account the needs of all users; and 6. avoiding loss, damage or deterioration of waterways assets and ensure they are an integral part of the development.</p> <p>B. For development proposals affecting the Lower Derwent Valley Area of Restraint, by applying the following principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Additional recreational facilities including caravan and camping development, bankside moorings or other boating facilities will not be permitted.</li><li>2. Other development proposals will only be supported which take into account the guidance set out in the Lower Derwent Valley Supplementary Planning Document or its successor.</li></ol> <p>C. Proposals within or adjacent to the defined Development Limits of Barlby Bridge and Selby Urban Area, for riverside recreational facilities will be permitted, provided the proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Would not jeopardise the commercial use of the waterway or the operation of existing businesses;</li><li>2. Would not create conditions prejudicial to highway safety or which would have a significant adverse effect on local amenity;</li><li>3. Is of a nature and scale appropriate to its location and its ability to absorb visitors without suffering environmental damage;</li><li>4. Contains adequate safeguards to prevent the pollution of the waterway; and</li><li>5. Would not harm acknowledged nature conservation interests and wherever possible would strengthen existing wildlife corridors.</li></ol> <p>D. Proposals within or adjacent to the defined Development Limits of Barlby Bridge and Selby Urban Area, for additional wharfage and/or a ships' turning basin and ancillary facilities will be permitted in order to support the expansion of freight trans-shipment and water-borne transport opportunities where proposals make provision for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The safeguarding of long term opportunities for the development of port facilities and a ships' turning basin;</li><li>2. Appropriate landscape planting to safeguard the amenities of existing residents; and</li></ol>	<p>and / or boating traffic in this area, will not affect the Lower Derwent Valley.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach NE7 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
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	<p>3. The retention and diversion of existing rights of way along the east bank of the river Ouse;</p> <p>4. The loss of the existing wharfs and associated infrastructure will be resisted to protect the longer term options for alternative transport modes.</p>	
<p><b>Preferred Approach NE8 - Air Quality</b></p>	<p>The preferred approach is that developments must not:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. result in further significant air quality deterioration, or the need to declare further Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs); and</li> <li>2. result in any increase in the number of people exposed to poor air quality; and</li> <li>3. conflict with elements of an Authority Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP).</li> </ol> <p>Developments will only be permitted if the impact on air quality is acceptable and mechanisms are in place to mitigate adverse impacts and prevent further exposure to poor air quality. This will help to protect human health.</p> <p>This will be achieved by:</p> <p>A. All developments promoting the uptake of low emission mitigation (such as through electric vehicle charging provision) and supporting sustainable travel to reduce air quality impacts.</p> <p>B. Developments in or affecting an AQMA or where pre-application discussions have indicated that the development could result in the designation of an AQMA or where the grant of planning permission would conflict with, or render unworkable, elements of the Authority AQAP, applicants must submit an Air Quality Assessment and/or a Dust Assessment Report and identify mitigation measures to ensure no significant adverse effects where development may:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create significant amounts of traffic (the level at which it has the potential to increase local air pollution, either individually or cumulatively), as determined through a Transport Assessment and/or air quality modelling specific to a planning application; or</li> <li>2. Involve agricultural developments which have the potential to produce ammonia emissions and particulates which could affect residents; or</li> <li>3. Create emissions of dust during demolition, earth moving and construction, or through site operations associated with mineral extraction, waste disposal or agriculture; or</li> </ol>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy stipulates that planning applications with a potential to affect the air quality in SAC, SPA or SSSI, or to create a significant amount of traffic will have to be accompanied by an Air Quality Assessment. The policy also requires that mitigation measures to be provided should be in line with the HRAs of individual planning applications.</p> <p>This policy is important because it will prevent adverse effects on the site integrity of the River Derwent Valley SAC, which is the only European site identified in relation to the SLP, which lies within 200m of a potential major commuter route.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach NE8 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>



	<p>4. Impact on the air quality of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), or Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), or on a non-statutory site where there is a relevant sensitivity.</p> <p>C. Mitigation measures should ensure consistency with the Council's Air Quality Action Plan and the Habitats Regulation Assessment where impacts are related to the diversity of ecosystems, and where impacts are traffic related, the current North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan.</p>	
<p><b>Preferred Approach NE9 - Pollution and Contaminated Land</b></p>	<p>A. Proposals for development which could give rise to, or would be affected by, noise pollution, light pollution, groundwater pollution or contamination of land or water or other environmental pollution or unstable land will not be permitted unless satisfactory remedial or preventative measures are incorporated as an integral element in the scheme. Such measures should be carried out before the use of the site commences. Planning applications must be accompanied by the appropriate assessments in line with the Validation Checklist.</p> <p>B. Where there is a suspicion that the site might be contaminated, (as identified through a preliminary risk assessment, or commonly using the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Pollution Advisory Group (YALPAG) screening assessment form) planning permission may be granted subject to conditions to prevent the commencement of development until a site investigation and assessment has been carried out and development has incorporated all measures shown in the assessment to be necessary.</p> <p>C. Development proposals should be designed to minimise risks of erosion, subsidence and instability, and to exploit opportunities for reclamation and reinstatement of contaminated land.</p> <p>D. Proposals for the redevelopment or re-use of land known or suspected to be contaminated and development or activities that pose a significant new risk of land contamination will be assessed having regard to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The findings of a preliminary land contamination risk assessment;</li> <li>2. The compatibility of the intended use with the condition of the land; and</li> <li>3. The environmental sensitivity of the site.</li> </ol>	<p>There are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of this policy on European Sites.</p> <p>This policy relates to development proposals on polluted or contaminated land. However, such proposals have no direct relevance for European sites.</p> <p>Overall, there are no linking impact pathways present and Preferred Approach NE9 is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>

	E. Proposals that fail to demonstrate that the intended use would be compatible with the condition of the land or which fail to exploit appropriate opportunities for decontamination will be resisted.	
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**Table 6: Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) screening results of individual sites allocated in the Selby Local Plan<sup>87</sup>.**

Site Allocation	Site Allocation Policy Text	Approximate Distances to the most important / relevant European sites (km)	Likely Significant Effects Screening Assessment.
<b>Section 9: New Settlement Proposals</b>			
<b>Allocation Burn: BURN-G</b>	<p>Location: Former Burn Airfield, Burn</p> <p>Total Site Area: 228.8 hectares</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 3,900 dwellings (1,260 of which are projected to be built within the plan period).</p> <p>In addition development should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be developed in a coordinated way, in accordance with the approved masterplan in order to ensure that the appropriate infrastructure is delivered,</li> <li>2. Provide an appropriate mix of dwelling types and tenures;</li> <li>3. Provide a distributor road through the settlement which connects to a new A19 bypass to be provided around Burn Village;</li> <li>4. Provide an interlinked system of amenity space, cyclepaths and footpaths which connect residents with services in the new settlement and to nearby towns and villages;</li> <li>5. Ensure that the proposal preserves or enhances the character of nearby heritage assets;</li> <li>6. Provide 11 hectares of employment land in close proximity to the access to the A19 bypass;</li> <li>7. Establish permanent landscaped boundaries on all the edges of the site; and</li> <li>8. Use a sequential approach to residual flood risk when locating the various uses</li> </ol>	<p><b>9.6km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>8.5km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>12.7km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>6.9km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>The site lies within the potential foraging ranges of birds from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar. The allocation comprises a large area of potentially suitable foraging habitat (agricultural land), which has the potential to be functionally linked to the SPA / Ramsar.</p> <p>However, the allocation lies beyond the distances at which the impact pathways recreational pressure, water quality and water quantity, level and flow are considered relevant.</p>

<sup>87</sup> It is to be noted that the cumulative growth across Selby District is screened in for Appropriate Assessment in relation to recreational pressure, water quality, water quantity, level and flow, and atmospheric pollution. The table below assesses whether any of the site allocations 'alone' may result in LSEs on European sites, such as in relation to the loss of functionally linked habitat, recreational pressure effects or water quality impacts via water surface run-off.

	on the site, in accordance with the requirements set out in the Council's level 2 SFRA. Site specific flood risk assessments will be required to address relative vulnerabilities across the site.		
<b>Allocation Church Fenton: CFAB-A</b>	<p>Location: Land at Church Fenton Airbase</p> <p>Total Site Area: 181 hectares</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 3,000 dwellings (1,260 of which are projected to be built within the plan period).</p> <p>In addition development should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be developed in a coordinated way, in accordance with the approved masterplan in order to ensure that the appropriate infrastructure is delivered;</li> <li>2. Provide an appropriate mix of dwelling types and tenures;</li> <li>3. Be fully integrated by cyclepaths and footpaths, which link residential areas to the local centre and employment land and the village of Church Fenton and the new settlement to the rail station to the east;</li> <li>4. Where possible, well-established hedgerows should also be retained;</li> <li>5. Provide substantial landscaped areas on its boundaries to safeguard the amenity of existing and future residents;</li> <li>6. Protect and enhance ancient monuments on the site - integrate public access to and interpretation of RAF heritage into scheme;</li> <li>7. Provide green buffers to the site's boundaries; and</li> <li>8. Provide opportunities for local employment and training schemes during the construction period.</li> </ol>	<p><b>15.1km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>10.4km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>22.8km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>15.4km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation lies beyond the distance for which the impact pathways recreational pressure and the loss of functionally linked habitat are considered.</p> <p>Furthermore, the distances to European sites relying on good water quality is too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p> <p>There are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>
<b>Allocation Stillingfleet: STIL-D</b>	<p>Location: Land to the south of Cawood Road, Stillingfleet</p> <p>Total Site Area: 173 hectares</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 3,000 Dwellings (1,260 of which are projected to be built within the plan period)</p>	<p><b>9.5km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>5.6km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p>	<p>While the allocation lies relatively close to the Skipwith Common SAC, recreational pressure effects of the site 'alone' are screened out due to the low level of</p>

	<p>In addition development should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be developed in a coordinated way, in accordance with the approved masterplan in order to ensure that the appropriate infrastructure is delivered;</li> <li>2. Provide an appropriate mix of dwelling types and tenures;</li> <li>3. Development of the site must retain and enhance the section of the Trans Pennine Trail which runs directly through the middle of the site, from north to south;</li> <li>4. Should be fully integrated by cyclepaths and footpaths, which link residential areas to the local centre and employment land;</li> <li>5. The site comprises significant areas of established woodland, including Heron Wood, which should be retained as such. Where possible, well-established hedgerows should also be retained. The site must have substantial landscaped areas on its boundaries to safeguard the amenity of existing and future residents;</li> <li>6. Provide 5ha of employment land;</li> <li>7. Provide vehicular access to the site from both the A19 and B1222, including the provision of a new roundabout on the A19;</li> <li>8. Provide green buffers to the site's boundaries; and</li> <li>9. Provide opportunities for local employment and training schemes during the construction period.</li> </ol>	<p><b>19.9km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>9.7km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>recreational pressure in the SAC.</p> <p>The site lies within the potential foraging ranges of birds from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar. The allocation comprises a large area of potentially suitable foraging habitat (agricultural land), which has the potential to be functionally linked to the SPA / Ramsar.</p> <p>The allocation lies beyond the distances at which the impact pathways water quality and water quantity, level and flow are considered relevant.</p>
<b>Section 10 and following sections: Individual Allocations</b>			
<p><b>Allocation Appleton Roebuck: AROE-I</b></p>	<p>Location: Land Adjacent to Malkiln Lane</p> <p>Total Site Area: 3.23 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development.</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 50 dwellings.</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on the site will be required to:</p>	<p><b>13.8km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>10km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>24.1km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>13.9km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation lies beyond the distance for which the impact pathways recreational pressure and the loss of functionally linked habitat are considered.</p> <p>Furthermore, the distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide vehicular access from North Field Close to the East of the site and North Field Way to the South East of the site;</li> <li>3. Be supported by a Heritage Impact Assessment to ensure that those those features which contribute to the setting of the Appleton Roebuck conservation area are protected and enhanced;</li> <li>4. Where possible, retain the mature tree coverage and established hedgerows within the site.</li> </ol>		<p>there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p> <p>Overall, there are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>
<p><b>Allocation Barlby &amp; Osgodby: BARL-K</b></p>	<p>Location: Land at Turnhead Farm, Barlby</p> <p>Total Site Area: 1.02 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 26 dwellings.</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on the site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Establish permanent landscaped boundaries to the eastern, western and northern edge to provide an appropriate landscape buffer with the open countryside.</li> <li>3. Not have adverse impact on any protected species or their habitats and be supported by an Ecological Survey.</li> <li>4. Remediate any contaminated land that is present on the site.</li> <li>5. Provide vehicular access to the site from York Road.</li> <li>6. Provide pedestrian linkages to Barlby.</li> </ol>	<p><b>6.1km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>1.9km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>13.6km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>6.7km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar</b></p>	<p>While the allocation lies close to the Skipwith Common SAC, recreational pressure effects 'alone' are screened out due to the low visitor levels in the SAC.</p> <p>While the allocation lies within the potential foraging distance for waterfowl from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar, the site comprises existing development and is thus unsuitable as foraging habitat.</p> <p>Furthermore, the distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic</p>

			<p>impacts from water surface run-off.</p> <p>Overall, there are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>
<p><b>Allocation Barlby &amp; Osgodby: OSGB-G</b></p>	<p>Location: Lake View Farm, Osgodby</p> <p>Total Site Area: 0.69 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 21 dwellings.</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on the site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide vehicular access from South Duffield Road to the north of the site.</li> <li>3. Not have adverse impact on any protected species or their habitats and be supported by an Ecological Survey.</li> <li>4. Remediate any contaminated land that is present on the site.</li> </ol>	<p><b>5.7km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>2.9km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>11.6km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>5.9km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>While the allocation lies close to the Skipwith Common SAC, recreational pressure effects 'alone' are screened out due to the low visitor levels in the SAC.</p> <p>Furthermore, while within the potential foraging distance for waterfowl from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar, the site comprises existing brownfield development and is thus unsuitable as foraging habitat.</p> <p>The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p>

			Overall, there are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.
<b>Allocation Barlby &amp; Osgodby: OSGB-I</b>	<p>Location: Land east of Sand Lane, Osgodby</p> <p>Total Site Area: 2.81 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development</p> <p>Indicative capacity of the site: up to 72 dwellings.</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on the site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide vehicular access from The Hollies to the north of the site or from Sand Lane to the south of the site.</li> <li>3. Provide appropriate landscaped screening to the site's eastern and southern boundaries.</li> <li>4. Not have adverse impact on any protected species or their habitats and be supported by an Ecological Survey.</li> <li>5. Remediate any contaminated land that is present on the site.</li> </ol>	<p><b>5.5km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>2.9km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>11.3km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>5.7km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>While the allocation lies close to the Skipwith Common SAC, recreational pressure effects 'alone' are screened out due to the low visitor levels in the SAC.</p> <p>However, at 5.5km distance it lies within the foraging ranges of birds from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar. The site comprises suitable foraging habitat (agricultural land) and is large enough to potentially support 1% of the SPA / Ramsar population (&gt;2ha).</p> <p>The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p>
<b>Allocation Brayton: BRAY-B</b>	<p>Location: Land South of Brackenhill Lane, Brayton</p> <p>Total Site Area: 2.34 hectares</p>	<b>10.3km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b>	The allocation lies beyond the distance for which the impact pathways recreational pressure and



	<p>This site is a preferred allocated for residential development.</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 60 dwellings.</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on the site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide vehicular access from Evergreen Way to the south of the site.</li> <li>3. Provide a landscaped screening on the northern and western boundaries of the site.</li> <li>4. Remediate any contaminated land that is present on the site.</li> </ol>	<p><b>7.7km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>14.3km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>8.3km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>the loss of functionally linked habitat are considered.</p> <p>The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p> <p>Overall, there are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>
<p><b>Allocation BRAY-X</b>      <b>Brayton:</b></p>	<p>Location: Land north of Mill Lane, Brayton</p> <p>Total Site Area: 6.24 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development.</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 150 dwellings.</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on the site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide vehicular access from Mill Lane to the south of the site.</li> <li>3. Provide landscape screening to the western boundary of the site.</li> </ol>	<p><b>10.4km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>8.2km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>14.1km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>8.1km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation lies beyond the distance for which the impact pathways recreational pressure and the loss of functionally linked habitat are considered.</p> <p>The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p> <p>Overall, there are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>
<p><b>Allocation BRAY-Z</b>      <b>Brayton:</b></p>	<p>Location: Land south of St Wilfred's Close</p>	<p><b>10.5km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation lies beyond the distance for which the</p>

	<p>Total Site Area: 0.67 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development.</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 20 dwellings</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on the site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide vehicular access through Peregrine Square to the west of the site or through BRAY-X and Mill Lane to the south of the site.</li> <li>3. Provide a walking and cycling access to St Wilfrid's Close on the northern boundary of the site.</li> <li>4. Provide a landscaped screening to the western boundary of the site.</li> </ol>	<p><b>8.1km to the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>14.3km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>8.3km to the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>impact pathways recreational pressure and the loss of functionally linked habitat are considered.</p> <p>The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p> <p>Overall, there are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>
<p><b>Allocation Camblesforth: CAMB-C</b></p>	<p>Location: Land north of Beech Grove, Camblesforth</p> <p>Total Site Area: 4.73 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 121 dwellings</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide vehicle access to the site from the A1041.</li> <li>3. Protect or enhance those features which contribute to the special architectural or historic interest of the Grade I listed Camblesforth Hall and Grade II listed Dovecote to the Hall which are located immediately east of the site.</li> </ol>	<p><b>8km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>10.2km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>8.6km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>3.9km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation lies beyond the distance for which recreational pressure effects are considered.</p> <p>However, the site lies within the potential foraging ranges of birds from both the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar. The site comprises suitable foraging habitat (grassland and agricultural land) and is large enough to potentially support 1% of the SPA /</p>

	<p>4. Establish permanent landscaped boundaries to the western and northern boundaries of the site.</p> <p>5. Retain mature trees and hedgerows present on site.</p> <p>6. Not impact on any protected species or their habitats and be supported by an Ecological Assessment.</p> <p>7. Be supported by an Heritage Impact Assessment.</p>		<p>Ramsar population (&gt;2ha).</p> <p>The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p>
<p><b>Allocation</b>      <b>Carlton:</b> <b>CARL-G</b></p>	<p>Location: Land north of Mill Lane, Carlton</p> <p>Total Site Area: 5.12 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development.</p> <p>Indicative Dwelling Capacity: up to 123 dwellings</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide vehicular and pedestrian access off Mill Lane to the south including the provision of a new footpath along Mill Lane fronting the site.</li> <li>3. Provide vehicular and pedestrian access into Broadacres.</li> <li>4. Retain the existing Public Right of Way which traverses the south-eastern part of the site, and link into the Public Right of Way that is to the north and east.</li> <li>5. Provide a footpath link to the school to the north-east of the site</li> <li>6. Not extend into the HSE Consultation Zone around the pipeline which is located in the north east of the site</li> <li>7. Provide permanent landscaped screening to the north and east of the site</li> </ol>	<p><b>9km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>12km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>8.2km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>4.8km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation lies beyond the distance for which recreational pressure effects are considered.</p> <p>However, the site lies within the potential foraging ranges of birds from both the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar. The site comprises suitable foraging habitat (arable land) and is large enough to potentially support 1% of the SPA / Ramsar population (&gt;2ha).</p> <p>The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic</p>

	<p>8. Be supported by a Heritage Impact Assessment.</p>		<p>impacts from water surface run-off.</p>
<p><b>Allocation Cliffe: CLIF-B</b></p>	<p>Location: Bon Accord Farm, Main Street, Cliffe</p> <p>Total Site Area: 0.64 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 19 dwellings</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Retain, where possible, existing tree planting on the eastern boundary adjacent to the A63 in the interests of amenity.</li> <li>3. Remediate any potential contamination from the existing agricultural use.</li> <li>4. Provide a single access onto the site from Main Street.</li> </ol>	<p><b>3.7km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>4.8km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>8.9km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>3.4km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>While the allocation lies close to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC and the Skipwith Common SAC, recreational pressure effects 'alone' are screened out due to the low visitor levels in the SAC.</p> <p>Furthermore, while the site lies within the potential foraging ranges of birds from both the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar, the site is too small to provide functionally linked habitat.</p> <p>The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p> <p>Overall, there are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>

<p><b>Allocation Cliffe: CLIF-O</b></p>	<p>Location: Land north of Cliffe Primary School, Main Street, Cliffe</p> <p>Total Site Area: 3.03 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 77 dwellings</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Where possible, retain existing trees on the site's eastern boundary.</li> <li>3. Ensure appropriate landscape screening is provided to the south of the site.</li> </ol>	<p><b>3.8km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>4.6km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>9km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>3.5km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>While the allocation lies close to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC and the Skipwith Common SAC, recreational pressure effects 'alone' are screened out due to the low visitor levels in the SAC.</p> <p>The site lies within the potential foraging ranges of birds from both the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar. Furthermore, the site comprises suitable foraging habitat (arable land) and is sufficiently large to be classified as functionally linked habitat.</p> <p>The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p>
<p><b>Allocation Eggborough &amp; Whitley: EGGB-Y</b></p>	<p>Location: Land west of Kellington Lane, Eggborough</p> <p>Total Site Area: 70.82 hectares</p>	<p><b>16.6km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>15.8km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation lies beyond the distance for which the impact pathways recreational pressure and the loss of functionally</p>

	<p>This site is a preferred allocation for mixed use development comprising residential, open space and education.</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 1350 dwellings</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Follow a comprehensive, phased approach to development in accordance with a masterplan which covers the entire site.</li> <li>2. Each residential phase of development will be expected to contribute towards affordable housing provision, the precise type and tenure of each phase to be determined at the application stage for each phase.</li> <li>3. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>4. Provide vehicular access to the site from Weeland Road and Kellington Lane</li> <li>5. Provide an interlinked system of amenity space, footpaths and cycle paths, maximising links to Whitley Bridge Railway Station and existing bus stops on Kellington Lane.</li> <li>6. Provide land for the provision of new single form primary school on the site.</li> <li>7. Provide land for the provision of appropriate community and local shopping facilities on the site, in accordance with policy EM7.</li> <li>8. Retain, where possible, existing established hedgerows and provide green buffers to the site's northern, western and southern boundaries.</li> <li>9. Ensure the high-voltage power lines that traverse the site's north western corner are subject to suitable landscape buffering.</li> <li>10. Provide a new station gateway, accessible by car, foot and cycle, in the south east corner of the site adjacent to Whitley Bridge Railway Station.</li> </ol>	<p><b>17.7km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>13km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>linked habitat are considered.</p> <p>The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p> <p>Overall, there are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>
<p><b>Allocation Hambleton: HAMB-N</b></p>	<p>Location: Land east of Gateforth Lane, Hambleton</p>	<p><b>14.4km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation lies beyond the distance for which the</p>

	<p>Total Site Area: 1.71 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 44 dwellings</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide improved vehicle access to the site from Gateforth Lane and consider the need for traffic calming measures on Gateforth Lane.</li> <li>3. Ensure that the proposal preserves and enhances the character of Hambleton Hough and Brayton Barff.</li> <li>4. Establish permanent landscaped boundaries on the northern, eastern, and southern edges of the site.</li> <li>5. Not impact on any protected species or their habitats.</li> <li>6. Retain mature hedgerows present on site.</li> </ol>	<p><b>10.8km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>18.1km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>12.2km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>impact pathways recreational pressure and the loss of functionally linked habitat are considered.</p> <p>The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p> <p>Overall, there are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>
<p><b>Allocation Hemingbrough: HEMB-I</b></p>	<p>Location: Land South of Orchard End, Hemingbrough</p> <p>Total Site Area: 0.86 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 26 dwellings.</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide vehicular and pedestrian access off Mill Lane / Barmby Ferry road, including the provision of a new footpath along Mill Lane / Barmby Ferry Road.</li> </ol>	<p><b>3.3km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>6.6km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>6.8km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>1.3km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation lies close to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC, however recreational pressure effects 'alone' are screened out due to the low visitor levels in the SAC.</p> <p>The site lies within the potential foraging ranges of birds from both the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar. While the site comprises</p>

	<p>3. Retain and improve the hedge and tree boundary to the south of the site and provide a new hedge / permanent landscaping boundary treatment to form the western boundary of the site.</p>		<p>suitable foraging habitat (arable land), it is not sufficiently large to realistically support 1% of the SPA / Ramsar populations.</p> <p>Due to the proximity of the site to the River Derwent SAC, there is a risk overflowing sewerage systems / septic tanks to result in water quality impacts in the River Derwent SAC.</p>
<p><b>Allocation Hemingbrough: HEMB-J</b></p>	<p>Location: Land East of Mill Lane, Hemingbrough</p> <p>Total Site Area: 1.59 hectares</p> <p>The site is s preferred allocation for residential development</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 41 dwellings.</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide vehicular and pedestrian access off Mill Lane / Barmby Ferry road, including the provision of a new footpath along Mill Lane / Barmby Ferry Road.</li> <li>3. Protect the mature hedges and trees on the western edge of the site.</li> <li>4. Provide a landscaping boundary to the southern and eastern edges of the site.</li> </ol>	<p><b>3.1km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>6.6km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>6.7km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>1.2km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation lies close to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC, however recreational pressure effects 'alone' are screened out due to the low visitor levels in the SAC.</p> <p>The site lies within the potential foraging ranges of birds from both the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar. While the site comprises suitable foraging habitat (arable land), it is not sufficiently large to realistically support 1% of</p>



			<p>the SPA / Ramsar populations.</p> <p>Due to the proximity of the site to the River Derwent SAC, there is a risk overflowing sewerage systems / septic tanks to result in water quality impacts in the River Derwent SAC.</p>
<p><b>Allocation Hemingbrough: HEMB-K</b></p>	<p>Location: Land South of School Road, Hemingbrough</p> <p>Total Site Area: 0.21 hectares</p> <p>The site is a preferred allocation for residential development</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 8 dwellings.</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide vehicular and pedestrian access from School Road to the north.</li> <li>3. The development should consist only of frontage plots onto School Road.</li> <li>4. Respect and retain the character of properties in the area by setting development back a short distance from the frontage of the site.</li> <li>5. Retain the mature tree at the front of the site adjacent School Road.</li> </ol>	<p><b>2.6km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>6.4km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>6.6km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>1.5km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation lies close to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC, however recreational pressure effects 'alone' are screened out due to the low visitor levels in the SAC.</p> <p>The site lies within the potential foraging ranges of birds from both the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar and the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar. While the site comprises suitable foraging habitat (arable land), it is not sufficiently large to realistically support 1% of the SPA / Ramsar populations.</p>

			Due to the proximity of the site to the River Derwent SAC, there is a risk overflowing sewerage systems / septic tanks to result in water quality impacts in the River Derwent SAC.
<b>Allocation HENS-A</b>	<b>Hensall:</b>	<p>Location: Land north of Weeland Road, Hensall</p> <p>Total Site Area: 0.97 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 24 dwellings.</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide vehicle access from Weeland Road.</li> <li>3. Retain mature trees and hedgerows on the edges of the site wherever possible.</li> <li>4. Be supported by a Heritage Impact Assessment.</li> </ol>	<p><b>15km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>15.3km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>15.3km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>11.2km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p> <p>The allocation lies beyond the distance for which the impact pathways recreational pressure and the loss of functionally linked habitat are considered.</p> <p>The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p> <p>Overall, there are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>
<b>Allocation HENS-L</b>	<b>Hensall:</b>	<p>Location: Land north of Weeland Road, Hensall</p> <p>Total Site Area: 2.22 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 57 dwellings</p>	<p><b>14km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>14.2km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p>The allocation lies beyond the distance for which the impact pathways recreational pressure and the loss of functionally linked habitat are considered.</p>

	<p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide vehicular access from Wand Lane.</li> <li>3. Address any contamination issues before development commences.</li> <li>4. Add a landscaped screening to the eastern and northern boundaries of the site.</li> </ol>	<p><b>14.6km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>10.2km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p> <p>Overall, there are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>
<p><b>Allocation Kellington: KELL-B</b></p>	<p>Location: Land south of Lunn Lane, Kellington</p> <p>Total Site Area: 2.84 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 72 dwellings.</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide vehicular access from Lunn Lane.</li> <li>3. Retain the existing Public Right of Way which traverses the site from the north east corner.</li> <li>4. Be supported by a Heritage Impact Assessment which demonstrates that the proposal preserves or enhances the character and setting of the nearby Grade I Listed Church.</li> <li>5. Establish a permanent landscaped buffer on the southern and western boundaries of the site.</li> <li>6. Preserve the public right of way across the site.</li> </ol>	<p><b>16.7km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>15.3km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>18.3km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>13.3km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation lies beyond the distance for which the impact pathways recreational pressure and the loss of functionally linked habitat are considered.</p> <p>The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p> <p>Overall, there are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>

<p><b>Allocation Kellington: KELL-G</b></p>	<p>Location: Land east of Manor Garth, Kellington</p> <p>Total Site Area: 0.91 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 27 dwellings.</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide vehicular access from Manor Garth</li> <li>3. Retain the existing public right of way which runs across the southern boundary of the site.</li> <li>4. Provide landscaping buffers to the northern and eastern boundaries, retaining existing hedgerows where possible.</li> </ol>	<p><b>16.3km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>15.1km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>18km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>13km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation lies beyond the distance for which the impact pathways recreational pressure and the loss of functionally linked habitat are considered.</p> <p>The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p> <p>Overall, there are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>
<p><b>Allocation Monk Fryston &amp; Hillam: HILL-A</b></p>	<p>Location: Land West of Main Street, Hillam</p> <p>Total Site Area: 2.34 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 33 dwellings</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide vehicular access via Lumby Hill via the demolition of the property at 86 Lumby Hill.</li> <li>3. Retain the existing Public Right of Way on the site.</li> <li>4. Protect and enhance the character of the Hillam Conservation Area.</li> </ol>	<p><b>19.5km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>15.8km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>22.7km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>17km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation lies beyond the distance for which the impact pathways recreational pressure and the loss of functionally linked habitat are considered.</p> <p>The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p>

	<p>5. Protect and enhance the Site of Importance for Nature Conservation located to the west of the site.</p> <p>6. Retain the mature trees on the western and southern boundaries of the site.</p>		<p>Overall, there are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>
<p><b>Allocation Newthorpe: NTHP-A</b></p>	<p>Location: Land at Hillcrest, Old Great North Road, Newthorpe</p> <p>Total Site Area: 0.45 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for a maximum of 12 Gypsy and Traveller pitches.</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Green Belt boundary has been amended specifically to accommodate a site for Gypsy and Traveller provision and development of the site should not extend further than the allocated boundary;</li> <li>2. Accommodate no more than 2 caravans per pitch, of which only 1 should be a static caravan;</li> <li>3. Provide satisfactory on-site utility buildings to support the site's occupants;</li> <li>4. Retain existing hedgerows on the site's boundaries; and</li> <li>5. Provide a satisfactory landscape scheme.</li> </ol>	<p><b>24km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>19.4km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>28km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>22.2km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation lies beyond the distance for which the impact pathways recreational pressure and the loss of functionally linked habitat are considered.</p> <p>The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p> <p>Overall, there are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>
<p><b>Allocation North Duffield: NDUF-D</b></p>	<p>Location: Land North of A163, North Duffield</p> <p>Total Site Area: 1.76 hectares</p> <p>The site is a preferred allocation for residential development</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 45 dwellings.</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p>	<p><b>328.1m from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>1.9km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>11.4km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>841.1m from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation is also within easy walking distance of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC and therefore could lead to an increase in regular recreational footfall in the site.</p> <p>The site lies within the potential foraging ranges</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide a vehicular access from the A163 to the south of the site</li> <li>3. Retain and improve the hedge and tree boundaries as permanent boundaries to the east and north of the site.</li> </ol>		<p>of birds from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar. Furthermore, the site comprises suitable foraging habitat (arable land) and is relatively large (1.76ha).</p> <p>Due to the proximity of the site to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC and the River Derwent SAC, there is a risk overflowing sewerage systems / septic tanks to result in water quality impacts in the River Derwent SAC.</p>
<p><b>Allocation North Duffield: NDUF-L</b></p>	<p>Location: Land at Gothic Farm, Back Lane, North Duffield</p> <p>Total Site Area: 0.33 hectares</p> <p>The site is a preferred allocation for residential development</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 10 dwellings.</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide vehicle access to the site from Back Lane.</li> <li>3. Establish permanent landscaped boundaries to the eastern and northern edges of the site.</li> <li>4. Retain mature trees and hedgerows present on site.</li> </ol>	<p><b>481m from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>1.7km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>11.8km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>1.2km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation is also within easy walking distance of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC and therefore could lead to an increase in regular recreational footfall in the site.</p> <p>The site lies within the potential foraging ranges of birds from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar. Furthermore, the site comprises suitable foraging habitat (arable land) and is large enough</p>

			<p>(1.76ha) to realistically support 1% of the SPA / Ramsar bird populations.</p> <p>Due to the proximity of the site to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC and the River Derwent SAC, there is a risk overflowing sewerage systems / septic tanks to result in water quality impacts in the River Derwent SAC.</p>
<p><b>Allocation</b> <b>RICC-J</b></p>	<p><b>Riccall:</b></p> <p>Location: Land at Landing Lane Riccall</p> <p>Total Site Area: 7.5 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 180 dwellings</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide vehicular access from Landing Lane in the northwest corner of the site.</li> <li>3. Provide a walking and cycling link to Main Street in the northeast corner of the site.</li> <li>4. Protect or enhance those features which contribute to the special architectural or historic interest of the grade 2 listed Tower House building to the west of the site.</li> </ol>	<p><b>16.3km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>1.8km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>15.5km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>7.1km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>However, the allocation lies within 1.8km of the Skipwith Common SAC and therefore may result in recreational pressure effects alone.</p> <p>The allocation lies beyond the distance for which the impact pathway loss of functionally linked habitat is considered.</p> <p>The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p>

	<p>5. Provide landscaped screenings on the western, southern and eastern edges of the site. 6. Retain the mature trees to the south of Garden House.</p>		
<p><b>Allocation SELB-BZ</b></p>	<p><b>Selby:</b> Location: Cross Hills Lane, Selby Total Site Area: 80:38 hectares  This site is a preferred allocation for mixed use development, comprising: residential, open space, leisure and education.  Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 1270 dwellings  In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Follow a comprehensive, phased approach to development in accordance with a masterplan which covers the entire site.</li> <li>2. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>3. Provide a new distributor road connecting the A63 Leeds Road, to Cross Hills Lane and Flaxley Road.</li> <li>4. Upgrade Cross Hills Lane and improve the junction between Cross Hills Lane and Flaxley Road.</li> <li>5. Provide an interlinked system of amenity space, cyclepaths and footpaths, providing access to adjoining residential areas and Selby town centre.</li> <li>6. Enhance the Selby Dam, which should be landscaped and incorporate features to improve or create wildlife habitats in that area as a major area of new public open space.</li> <li>7. Provide land for the provision of a new two form entry school primary school (2.4ha) on the site and other appropriate community and local shopping facilities.</li> <li>8. Establish permanent landscaped boundaries on the western, northern and southern edges of the site to safeguard the amenities of the existing and future residents.</li> </ol>	<p><b>9.1km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b>  <b>5.8km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b>  <b>13.8km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b>  <b>7.7km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation lies beyond the distance for which the impact pathways recreational pressure and the loss of functionally linked habitat are considered.  The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.  Overall, there are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>



	<p>9. Use a sequential approach to residual flood risk when locating the various uses on the site, in accordance with the requirements set out in the Council's level 2 SFRA. Site specific flood risk assessments will be required to address relative vulnerabilities across the site.</p> <p>10. Provide opportunities for local employment and training schemes during the construction process.</p>		
<p><b>Allocation SELB-AG</b></p> <p><b>Selby:</b></p>	<p>Location: Land on the former Rigid Paper site, Denison Road, Selby</p> <p>Total Site Area: 7.53 hectares.</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for a mixed use development comprising of residential and retail use.</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 330 dwellings at 50 dph.</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide site specific flood risk assessments, in accordance with the requirements set out in the Council's level 2 SFRA, to address relative vulnerabilities across the site.</li> <li>2. Make improvements to the canal area, including new moorings and provide an attractive waterside development.</li> <li>3. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>4. Consideration should be given to a pedestrian bridge over the Selby Canal.</li> <li>5. Incorporate the pond on the eastern edge of the site as a landscape feature.</li> <li>6. Retain and enhance/Provide a walking and cycling path along the south bank of the river Ouse.</li> <li>7. Provide a greater density of development of up to 50dph. A development of up to three or four storeys in height may be acceptable subject to design quality.</li> <li>8. Provide vehicle access to the site from Denison Road.</li> <li>9. Address any contamination before development commences.</li> </ol>	<p><b>7.5km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>5.1km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>12.3km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>6.3km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>While the allocation is approx. 5km from the Skipwith Common SAC, recreational pressure effects of the site 'alone' are screened out.</p> <p>However, the site lies within the potential foraging ranges of birds from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar. Furthermore, the site comprises suitable foraging habitat (wet grassland) and is large, therefore realistically being able to support 1% of the SPA / Ramsar bird populations.</p> <p>The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p>

<p><b>Allocation SELB-B</b></p> <p><b>Selby:</b></p>	<p>Location: Industrial Chemicals Ltd, Canal View, Selby</p> <p>Total Site Area: 15.02 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: 450 at 50 dwellings per hectare</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide site specific flood risk assessments, in accordance with the requirements set out in the Council's level 2 SFRA, to address relative vulnerabilities across the site.</li> <li>3. Provide improvements to vehicular access from Canal View onto Bawtry Road.</li> <li>4. Relocate the existing chemical works locally.</li> <li>5. Remediate any contaminated land that is present on the site.</li> <li>6. Maintain the public right of way on the eastern boundary of the site.</li> <li>7. Retain the mature trees on the western boundary of the site.</li> </ol>	<p><b>8.1km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>5.8km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>12.6km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>6.6km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation lies beyond the distance for which the impact pathway recreational pressure is considered.</p> <p>The site lies within the potential foraging ranges of birds from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar. However, while large enough and comprising some suitable foraging habitat (what appear to be hay meadows), the allocation sits in a highly urbanised setting and is unlikely to be used by SPA / Ramsar birds.</p> <p>The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p> <p>Overall, there are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>
<p><b>Allocation SELB-D</b></p> <p><b>Selby:</b></p>	<p>Location: Land west of Bondgate, Selby.</p> <p>Total Site Area: 0.27 hectares</p>	<p><b>9km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p>	<p>While the allocation is approx. 5km from the Skipwith Common SAC, recreational pressure</p>

	<p>The site is a preferred allocation for residential development.</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: 9 at 35 dwellings per hectare.</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide road access between 55 and 57 Bondgate.</li> <li>2. Retain mature trees present on the site.</li> <li>3. Provide landscape features on the western boundary of the site.</li> <li>4. Provide frontage development onto Bondgate.</li> </ol>	<p><b>5km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>14.1km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>8.2km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>effects of the site 'alone' are screened out.</p> <p>The site lies within the potential foraging ranges of birds from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar. The allocation is large enough and comprises suitable foraging habitat (semi-improved grassland). Therefore, it has the potential to be functionally linked habitat used by SPA / Ramsar birds.</p> <p>The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p>
<p><b>Allocation Selby: SELB-CA (Employment Site)</b></p>	<p>Location: Olympia Park, Barlby Road, Barlby</p> <p>Total Site Area: 33.6 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for employment (B1, B2, B8) uses.</p> <p>The site will provide 14 hectares of employment development.</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide the main vehicular access from the existing roundabout on the A63 bypass, from this access point a main distributor road will be</li> </ol>	<p><b>6.4km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>4.1km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>11.2km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>5.3km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>While the allocation lies relatively close to the Skipwith Common SAC, recreational pressure effects of the site 'alone' are screened out due to the low level of recreational pressure in the SAC.</p> <p>The site lies within the potential foraging ranges</p>

	<p>provided into the centre of the site. The access point and the distributor road must be constructed in advance of development.</p> <p>2. The opportunities created through the development of this area should be maximised to enhance the riverside/Transpennine trail and general environment including the retention, enhancement and creation of green infrastructure and wildlife habitats.</p> <p>3. Provision of new landscaping, including structural landscaping, will be required.</p> <p>4. Address any decontamination on the site before development commences in those areas.</p> <p>5. Provide opportunities for local employment and training schemes during the construction process.</p> <p>6. Ensure safe, attractive and convenient pedestrian and cycle routes between the development and neighbouring areas.</p> <p>7. New development should protect and enhance the character and setting of Selby Town Centre Conservation Area, including maximising views to the Abbey Church and ensuring Selby's skyline is not detrimentally impacted.</p>		<p>of birds from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar. The allocation is large and comprises suitable foraging habitat (arable land) on its eastern side. This has the potential to be functionally linked to the SPA / Ramsar.</p> <p>The distances to European sites relying on good water quality are too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p>
<p><b>Allocation Sherburn in Elmet: SHER-H</b></p>	<p>Location: Land adjacent to Prospect Farm, Low Street, Sherburn in Elmet</p> <p>Total Site Area: 17.39 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for mixed use development comprising residential and community facilities.</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 300 dwellings</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide an affordable dwelling provision which will be set in line with conclusions determined from ongoing evidence based work.</li> <li>2. Provide vehicular access from Low Street.</li> <li>3. Provide an interlinked system of amenity space, footpaths and cycle paths, maximising links to Low Street and the residential development located directly north of the site.</li> </ol>	<p><b>19.3km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>14.7km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>24km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>18km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation lies beyond the distance for which the impact pathways recreational pressure and the loss of functionally linked habitat are considered.</p> <p>It also lies beyond the distance at which water quality impacts due to surface run-off require consideration.</p> <p>There are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>

	<p>4. Provide land for appropriate community facilities. 5. Retain key trees along the site's western boundary. 6. Provide green buffers to the site's southern and western boundaries. 7. Address any contamination before development commences. 8. Provide opportunities for local employment and training schemes during the construction period.</p>		
<p><b>Allocation Sherburn in Elmet: SHER-AA (Employment Site)</b></p>	<p>Location: Land adjacent to Prospect Farm, Low Street, Sherburn in Elmet</p> <p>Total Site Area: 57.35 hectares</p> <p>This site is allocated for employment use (B2, B8 uses)</p> <p>Indicative capacity: 57.35 hectares</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Propose a re-use which utilises the existing rail infrastructure which exists at the site;</li> <li>2. Address any on-site contamination on the site before development commences;</li> <li>3. Utilise the existing vehicular access from New Lennerton Lane;</li> <li>4. Retain existing landscaped bunds on the southern and western boundaries of the site;</li> <li>5. Provide new landscaping, including structural landscaping;</li> <li>6. Ensure safe, attractive and convenient pedestrian and cycle routes are provided within the site;</li> <li>7. Where possible enhance accessibility between the site, Sherburn Town Centre and the train stations at Sherburn in Elmet and South Milford;</li> <li>8. Ensure that air safety and aviation impacts are satisfactorily considered; and</li> <li>9. Provide opportunities for local employment and training schemes during the construction period.</li> </ol>	<p><b>16.9km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>12.6km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>20.9km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>17.5km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation lies beyond the distance for which the impact pathway loss of functionally linked habitat is considered.</p> <p>It also lies beyond the distance at which water quality impacts due to surface run-off require consideration.</p> <p>There are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>

<p><b>Allocation</b> <b>TADC-H</b></p> <p><b>Tadcaster:</b></p>	<p>Location: Chapel Street/Central Area Car Park.</p> <p>Total Site Area: 0.66 hectares.</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development.</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity 43 dwellings.</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide and bring into use, prior to the housing development commencing; sufficient and suitable, replacement public parking on sites set out in Policy TP-1 and as shown on the Policies Map or appropriate alternatives as agreed with the Planning Authority.</li> <li>3. Provide and bring into use, under appropriate management arrangements, safely accessed and suitably designed residents' parking on land at Robin Hood Yard, as shown on the Policies Map, prior to the first dwelling being occupied.</li> <li>4. Provide sufficient on-site disabled and parent/carer/child parking spaces and suitable dedicated residents' car parking.</li> <li>5. Provide safe vehicle access to Chapel Street and within the site layout for emergency and service vehicles including refuse and recycling vehicles and delivery vehicles.</li> <li>6. Retain and enhance the historic pedestrian 'ginnels' to High Street and Kirkgate.</li> <li>7. Secure a high quality design and layout to protect residential amenity of future residents and surrounding occupiers, in particular to prevent over-looking and to provide suitable, usable outdoor space for the health and well-being of residents.</li> <li>8. Ensure that those elements which contribute to the significance of the designated historic assets are not harmed; and preserve or enhance the Conservation Area.</li> </ol>	<p><b>20.5km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>16.5km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>30km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>20.7km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>Due to the long distances to all relevant European sites, this allocation is screened out in relation to all impact pathways involved.</p> <p>There are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>
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	<p>9. Provide access for rear servicing of adjacent properties on High Street and Kirkgate reflecting what currently exists. 10. Provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the risks to groundwater in this SPZ2 location can be managed. 11. Address potential contamination.</p>		
<p><b>Allocation Tadcaster: TADC-I</b></p>	<p>Location: Land at Mill Lane. Total Site Area: 3.03 hectares. This site is a preferred allocation for residential development, open space and public car parking. Indicative dwelling capacity: 248 dwellings. In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to: 1. Provide safe vehicle access to Mill Lane. 2. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4. 3. Ensure safe, attractive and convenient pedestrian and cycle routes between the development and neighbouring areas and across the river to the town centre, including linking to the existing Public Rights of Way to the north, across the viaduct and along the river. 4. Ensure the overall layout, design, massing and density reflect the historic mill buildings and the character of the town. 5. Provide recreation open space along the southern edge of the site, to the south of Mill Lane along the river frontage to protect the important riverine landscape and historic setting of the town and provide public access to the river for health and well-being. 6. Provide an element of public car parking to meet the needs of the town in the south-eastern portion of the site in association with the adjoining allocation at (TADC-V). 7. Ensure that those elements which contribute to the significance of the designated historic assets are not harmed and in particular</p>	<p><b>20.3km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b> <b>16.5km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b> <b>30km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b> <b>20.5km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>Due to the long distances to all relevant European sites, this allocation is screened out in relation to all impact pathways involved. There are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>

		<p>preserve and enhance the character and setting of the Conservation Area.</p> <p>8. Provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the risks to groundwater in this SPZ1 location can be managed.</p>		
<b>Allocation TADC-AD</b>	<b>Tadcaster:</b>	<p>Location: 'Fircroft' and Former Barnardo's Home, Wighill Lane.</p> <p>Total Site Area: 1.19 hectares.</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development.</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: 5 dwellings</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide 5 dwellings through the bringing back into use of the main building and the conversion of other existing buildings within the site.</li> <li>2. Ensure those elements which contribute to the significance of the designated historic assets are not harmed.</li> <li>3. Retain the tree screen along the western boundary and protect the trees within the site which are covered by a Tree Preservation Order, and take account of the character of the extensive formal landscaped garden setting associated with Fircroft.</li> <li>4. Utilise the existing access onto Wighill Lane.</li> </ol>	<p><b>20.4km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>16.8km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>30.3km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>20.6km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>Due to the long distances to all relevant European sites, this allocation is screened out in relation to all impact pathways involved.</p> <p>There are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>
<b>Allocation TADC-L</b>	<b>Tadcaster:</b>	<p>Location: Land to rear of 46 Wighill Lane and Former Coal Yard.</p> <p>Total Site Area: 0.24 hectares.</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development.</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: 17 dwellings</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p>	<p><b>20.1km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>16.4km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>30km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>20.3km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>Due to the long distances to all relevant European sites, this allocation is screened out in relation to all impact pathways involved.</p> <p>There are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide safe vehicle access from Wighill Lane and/or Prospect Drive.</li> <li>3. Take account of the Public Right of Way crossing the site.</li> <li>4. Protect residential amenity of existing and proposed dwellings, in particular to protect against noise and light disturbance from the adjacent public house and beer garden.</li> <li>5. Provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the risks to groundwater in this SPZ1 and SPZ2 location can be managed.</li> </ol>		
<b>Allocation Tadcaster:</b> <b>TADC-AE</b>	<p>Location: Land off Hill Crest Court</p> <p>Total Site Area: 0.95 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development.</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: 30 dwellings</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Ensure that dwellings do not exceed two storeys in height.</li> <li>3. Provide a safe vehicle access to Hill Crest Court.</li> <li>4. Ensure safe, attractive and convenient pedestrian and cycle routes between the development and neighbouring areas.</li> <li>5. Protect residential amenity of existing and proposed dwellings.</li> </ol>	<p><b>21.3km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>17.1km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>30.3km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>21.5km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>Due to the long distances to all relevant European sites, this allocation is screened out in relation to all impact pathways involved.</p> <p>There are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>
<b>Allocation Tadcaster:</b> <b>TADC-J</b>	<p>Location: Land at Station Road</p> <p>Total Site Area: 3.46 hectares.</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development.</p>	<p><b>21.3km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>17.2km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p>	<p>Due to the long distances to all relevant European sites, this allocation is screened out in relation to all impact pathways involved.</p>

	<p>Indicative dwelling capacity: 104 dwellings.</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide safe vehicle access access from Station Road.</li> <li>3. Ensure safe, attractive and convenient pedestrian and cycle routes between the development and neighbouring areas.</li> <li>4. The retention and enhancement of the existing tree belt at the northern and western boundaries.</li> <li>5. Provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the risks to groundwater in this SPZ1 location can be managed.</li> </ol>	<p><b>30.5km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>21.4km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>There are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>
<p><b>Allocation Tadcaster: TADC-M</b></p>	<p>Location: Land at London Road</p> <p>Total Site Area: 12.57 hectares.</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for a new Tadcaster Sports Park and Community Hub in association with the existing Queen's Gardens site of the Tadcaster Community Sports Trust complex to the north, which was formerly known as the Tadcaster Magnets Sports and Social Club.</p> <p>The new gateway proposal for the town will broadly comprise sports pitches, car and coach parking, changing facilities, ancillary buildings, running/cycle/trim trail track and open space/play/nature and ecology areas.</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Follow a comprehensive, phased approach to development in accordance with a master plan to be approved by SDC.</li> </ol>	<p><b>20.7km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>16.5km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>29.7km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>20.9km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>Due to the long distances to all relevant European sites, this allocation is screened out in relation to all impact pathways involved.</p> <p>There are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Provide a new primary access onto A162 London Road to the east with current access from Queen's Gardens to the north for secondary / emergency access only.</li> <li>3. Maximise public access and promote dual use for community and social gatherings as well as sports use.</li> <li>4. Provide sufficient car parking and cycle parking for all users (including Electric Vehicle Charging points) and on-site circulation for servicing with pedestrian priority over vehicle movements.</li> <li>5. Provide safe cycle and pedestrian routes linking to the surrounding residential areas and the town centre.</li> <li>6. Ensure the design and layout is informed by the rural landscape character.</li> <li>7. Protect residential amenity and avoid light pollution from flood lights and to orientate buildings to minimise noise disturbance.</li> <li>8. Protect the trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order and retain and enhance and provide the strong landscape buffers along the site boundaries.</li> <li>9. Address potential contamination associated with the former railway land to the west of the site.</li> <li>10. Ensure design and layout allows for land required for future A162/A64 junction improvements.</li> </ol>		
<p><b>Allocation Thorpe Willoughby: THRP-I (has been granted planning permission)</b></p>	<p>Location: Land north of Field Lane, Thorpe Willoughby</p> <p>Total Site Area: 2.5 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development (the site has since been granted planning permission for housing after the base date of this plan)</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 70 dwellings</p> <p>This site has been granted planning permission for housing (2018/0134/REMM), if this permission were to lapse then, in addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p>	<p><b>12.8km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>9.6km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>16.6km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>10.6km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation lies beyond the distance for which the impact pathways recreational pressure and the loss of functionally linked habitat are considered.</p> <p>Furthermore, the distances to European sites relying on good water quality is too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p>

	<p>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</p> <p>2. Take access from Field Lane to the South.</p> <p>3. Demolish the existing pig farm buildings.</p> <p>4. Retain the mature trees and hedgerows present on all four edges of the site and add to these to make a landscaped screening;</p>		<p>There are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>
<p><b>Allocation Thorpe Willoughby: THRP-K</b></p>	<p>Location: Land South of Leeds Road, Thorpe Willoughby</p> <p>Total Site Area: 4.99 hectares</p> <p>This is a preferred allocation for residential development</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 127 dwellings</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <p>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</p> <p>2. Provide vehicle access to the site from Leeds Road, whilst also implementing traffic calming measures on Leeds Road to allow safe access into the development;</p> <p>3. Cycle paths and footpaths should connect to the adjoining development via Pond Lane and increase sustainable walking patterns towards Thorpe Willoughby by enhancing the footpath along the northern boundary of the site along Leeds Road;</p> <p>4. Retain the mature trees and hedgerows present on the southern and western edges of the site and add to these to make a landscaped screening;</p>	<p><b>12.8km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>9.4km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>16.7km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>10.7km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation lies beyond the distance for which the impact pathways recreational pressure and the loss of functionally linked habitat are considered.</p> <p>Furthermore, the distances to European sites relying on good water quality is too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p> <p>There are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>
<p><b>Allocation Thorpe Willoughby: THRP-V</b></p>	<p>Location: Land at Swallowvale Leeds Road, Thorpe Willoughby</p> <p>Total Site Area: 0.43 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development</p>	<p><b>13km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>9.6km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p>	<p>The allocation lies beyond the distance for which the impact pathways recreational pressure and the loss of functionally</p>

	<p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 13 dwellings</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on this site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Enhance the footpath along the northern boundary of the site along Leeds Road to encourage sustainable walking patterns into Thorpe Willoughby;</li> <li>3. Provide improved vehicle access to the site from Leeds Road, whilst also implementing traffic calming measures on Leeds Road to allow safe access into the development.</li> <li>4. Retain the mature trees and hedgerows present on the southern and western edges of the site and add to these to make a landscaped screening;</li> </ol>	<p><b>16.9km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>11km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>linked habitat are considered.</p> <p>Furthermore, the distances to European sites relying on good water quality is too far for there to be realistic impacts from water surface run-off.</p> <p>There are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>
<p><b>Allocation</b>    <b>Ulleskelf:</b> <b>ULLE-K</b></p>	<p>Location: Land South of Barley Horn Road</p> <p>Total Site Area: 1.37 hectares</p> <p>This site is a preferred allocation for residential development</p> <p>Indicative dwelling capacity: up to 35 dwellings.</p> <p>In addition to satisfying the requirements of relevant planning policies, development proposals on the site will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide affordable dwellings on site, the percentage of which is to be determined by a viability study, in accordance with the criteria set out in policy HG4.</li> <li>2. Provide vehicular access from Bell Lane to the west of the site;</li> <li>3. Enhance and compliment existing tree coverage to the east of the site and provide a tree and hedgerow screening to the south of the site.</li> </ol>	<p><b>16.8km from the Lower Derwent Valley SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>12.1km from the Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>25km from the Humber Estuary SPA / Ramsar / SAC</b></p> <p><b>16.9km from the River Derwent SAC</b></p>	<p>Due to the long distances to all relevant European sites, this allocation is screened out in relation to all impact pathways involved.</p> <p>There are no HRA implications of this allocation alone.</p>

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