

Habitats Regulations Assessment of the  
Richmondshire District Council Core  
Strategy (Preferred Options)

**Task 1: Screening**

for  
Richmondshire District Council



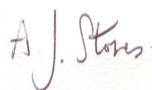

January 2008

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**RICHMONDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL****HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT OF THE DRAFT RICHMONDSHIRE  
CORE STRATEGY (PREFERRED OPTIONS)****HABITATS REGULATIONS REPORT****JANUARY 2008****CONTENTS**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This report has been prepared to provide information to Richmondshire District Council on the implications of the Richmondshire Core Strategy on North Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) /Special Protection Area (SPA), North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC, Ox Close SAC and to a lesser extent, due to the relative distance between the sites and any proposed development, on Craven Limestone Complex SAC, Ingleborough Complex SAC, Asby Complex SAC and the River Eden SAC. It has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 48 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994, as the potential for a significant impact on European sites has been identified.

### 1.1 Richmondshire District Council Core Strategy

#### Purpose

The purpose of the Richmondshire Core Strategy is to set out the development framework for the Richmondshire District, supported by a range of other more detailed documents such as Area Action Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents.

#### 1.1.2 Description

The following text is taken from the introduction to the Richmondshire Core Strategy:

*"In 2004, the Government introduced a new system for preparing development plans under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Act requires all local planning authorities to replace their existing development plans (commonly known as local plans) with a new form of development plan called a Local Development Framework (LDF). This is a statutory requirement, so in our case we must replace the Richmondshire Local Plan 1999 – 2006). The Richmondshire LDF will determine the future of that part of the District that lies outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park (the National Park Authority will prepare its own Local Development Framework).*

*The 2004 Act requires the Council to produce a new development plan – the LDF - so we have no choice. However, the content and programme for producing LDFs will vary from authority to authority.*

*This process began with the submission to the Secretary of State (via the Government Office) of a timetable or project plan (known as the Local Development Scheme) in March 2005, setting out the timetable for preparing the documents that go to make up the LDF.*

*The Core Strategy sets the scene for the whole LDF. It establishes an overall vision for the area and considers how, through a series of over-arching objectives and policies, the planning system can contribute to delivering that vision. The focus of the Core Strategy is therefore on strategic direction rather than detail, involving a process known as spatial planning.*

*In its most simplistic form, the Core Strategy will seek to guide **what** development is needed to meet our vision and objectives, **where** it should be directed and **how much** development we should provide for."*

### 1.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment Process

#### 1.2.1 Requirement for Habitats Regulations Assessment

EU Directive 92/43/EC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora, known more commonly as the Habitats Directive, provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU wide network of sites known as Natura 2000. Natura 2000 sites include SACs, designated under the Habitats Directive, and SPAs, designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC).

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive establish a requirement for competent authorities to undertake Appropriate Assessment of any plan or project likely to have a significant effect upon Natura 2000 sites. The assessment is termed 'Appropriate Assessment' because the assessment should be appropriate to its purpose under the Habitats Directive prescribed in Articles 6(3) and (4); to assess the implications of the plan in respect of the site's 'conservation objectives'.

In the light of the conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment the competent authority shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and where the plan cannot pass further stringent tests described in Article 6(4).

The Habitats Directive is implemented in the UK via the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994. Amendments to the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 came into force in August 2007. These include a requirement for Appropriate Assessments to be undertaken for land use plans when such plans are likely to have a significant effect on a European site and are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site in accordance with its conservation objectives.

### 1.2.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment at the Plan Level

Habitats Regulations Assessment is an assessment of the potential effects of a proposed plan on one or more Natura 2000 sites. The process of investigating the potential effects of a plan or project on European Sites is known as Habitats Regulations Assessment, to distinguish it from the term Appropriate Assessment as referred to in the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, which actually means a statement from the competent authority (in this case the relevant local authority) which identifies whether the plan does or does not affect the integrity of Natura 2000 site(s).

The purpose of Habitats Regulations Assessment of plans is to ensure that the protection of European sites is part of the planning process at both a regional and local level.

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. Firstly the plan should aim to *avoid* any negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites by identifying possible impacts early in the plan-making process and writing the plan in order to avoid such impacts. Secondly *mitigation measures* should be applied during the process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain.

If the plan is still likely to result in adverse effects and no further practicable mitigation is possible then it should not be taken forward. Under such a scenario the plan may have to undergo an assessment of alternative solutions. Then *compensatory measures* are required for any remaining adverse effects but they are permitted only if (a) there are no alternative solutions and (b) the plan is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

### 1.2.3 Habitats Regulations Assessment Guidance

The Habitats Regulations Assessment process undertaken by White Young Green Environmental (WYGE) has been developed in accordance with the following guidance:

- The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, as amended.
- EU Directive 92/43/EC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora.
- DCLG (2006) Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment (Consultation Document).
- EC (2001) Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.
- Scott Wilson, Levett-Therivel Sustainability Consultants, Treweek Environmental Consultants and Land Use Consultants (2006) Appropriate Assessment of Plans.

#### 1.2.4 Habitats Regulations Assessment Stages

The Habitats Regulations Assessment process involves the following tasks split according to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (2006) guidance stages. Tasks 2 and 3 are not always required, as they are dependent on the outcome of Task 1.

**Table 1 – Habitat Regulations Assessment stages**

<b>Task 1</b>	<b>Likely significant effects (Screening)</b>
	Collect information on Natura 2000 sites Consult with Natural England Determine whether the plan has potential to have a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites Identify plans and projects likely to have in-combination effects
<b>Task 2</b>	<b>Appropriate Assessment and ascertaining the effect on site integrity</b>
	Determine whether, in view of the sites' nature conservation objectives, the plan would have an adverse effect on the integrity of the sites Take account of the plan's effects "in combination" with other plans and projects
<b>Task 3</b>	<b>Mitigation measures and alternative solutions</b>
	Identify mitigation measures and/or alternatives to ensure that there are no adverse effects on the integrity of the sites

#### 1.3 Relationship with Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Spatial Strategy

The Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) is the umbrella document covering regional policies and issues for Yorkshire and the Humber. The Richmondshire Core Strategy is effectively a subsidiary document of the Yorkshire and Humber RSS and draws directly on it to provide guidance as to how the regional policies are to be implemented in Richmondshire, in the same way that the Richmondshire Core Strategy provides district-wide guidance which is then implemented in more detailed sub-documents for specific issues.

Habitats Regulations Assessments of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the review of the Yorkshire and the Humber RSS have recently been prepared by Land Use Consultants (Appropriate Assessment of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan, by Land Use Consultants, September, 2007).

Owing to the relationship between the Yorkshire and the Humber RSS and the Richmondshire Core Strategy, the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Richmondshire Core Strategy can be considered subsidiary to the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Yorkshire and the Humber RSS, and the findings of the Land Use Consultants report will be taken into account in this study.

#### 1.4 Information Used in the Assessment

The following sources of information have been consulted in preparation of this report.

- [www.natureonthemap.org.uk](http://www.natureonthemap.org.uk)
- [www.jncc.org.uk](http://www.jncc.org.uk)
- [www.apis.ac.uk/index.html](http://www.apis.ac.uk/index.html)
- Telephone conversation with Colin Newlands of Natural England on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2007.
- A list of conservation objectives and favourable condition status of all SACs and SPAs within a 20km radius of Richmondshire District.

## 1.5 **Professional Judgement**

Professional judgment has been used throughout this study. This is particularly relevant to decisions made in relation to potential impacts, since the amount of detail available on the construction and operation of the developments proposed in the plan is necessarily limited. Therefore, the approach has been to identify risks as far as practicable.

The reliability of professional judgment can be quantified to some extent by reference to the experience of the professional concerned. This report was co-authored by Ross Phillips and Gail Quartly-Bishop with technical direction and review from Tony Stones.

*Ross Phillips*  
*Assistant Ecologist*

Ross became a professional ecologist in 2007. Since then he has gained experience on a number of projects and provided assessments for a variety of species and habitats. During this time he has developed a good knowledge of the planning and legislative framework applicable to Habitats Regulations Assessment.

*Gail Quartly-Bishop MIEEM CEnv*  
*Senior Ecologist*

Gail has been a professional ecologist since 1998 and has a particular interest in Habitats Regulations Assessment including Appropriate Assessment. She has been involved in assessments of a number of projects and plans with complex technical and legal issues and as such has a good understanding of the legislative framework, prevailing guidance and process of Appropriate Assessment.

*Tony Stones MIEEM CEnv*  
*Principal Ecologist*

Tony has been a professional ecologist since 1990 and has been involved in the planning and legislative framework in relation to protected sites both through Non Government Organisations (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) and private sectors. He has experience on a wide range of projects and has been involved in assessments of a number of projects and plans with complex technical and legal issues.

## 1.6 **Purpose and Scope of this Report**

This report covers Task 1: Screening, as follows:

- Collect information on Natura 2000 sites.
- Consult with Natural England.
- Determine whether the plan has potential to have a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites.
- Identify plans and projects likely to have in-combination effects.

## 2 **NATURA 2000 SITES**

### 2.1 **Introduction**

The first task in the Habitats Regulations Assessment process involves *evidence gathering* to enable the potential for significant effects upon Natura 2000 sites to be determined.

### 2.2 **Natura 2000 Sites Considered in this Report**

There are three Natura 2000 sites within or partially within the Richmondshire District administrative area:

- North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA which comprises of five component Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) which are spread around the District – the SAC and its component SSSIs are designated for a number of habitat features but its priority features are blanket bogs and petrifying springs. The SPA is designated for the presence of breeding birds of European importance including hen harrier and golden plover.
- North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC comprises a series of component SSSIs spread across the District – designated for *Molinia* meadows (purple moor-grass and rush pasture) and mountain hay meadows.
- Ox Close SAC (SD 982908-SD 992899) – designated for its grassland and woodland habitats

Four other Natura 2000 sites were identified within approximately 20km of the boundaries of the Richmondshire District:

- Ingleborough Complex SAC (SD 760740) – designated for a range of habitats including the priority features blanket bog, limestone pavements, ravine woodland and petrifying springs.
- Craven Limestone Complex SAC – designated for a range of habitats and species including raised bog, ravine woodland, petrifying springs, limestone pavements and the presence of white-clawed crayfish and lady's-slipper orchid.
- Asby Complex SAC – designated for a range of features including calcareous fens, petrifying springs and limestone pavements.
- River Eden SAC – designated for a series of habitats and species such as alluvial forest, Atlantic salmon and white-clawed crayfish.

### 2.3 **Evidence Gathering**

In order to determine the likely effects of the Richmondshire Core Strategy, information has been collected to determine:

- The characteristics of the Natura 2000 sites;
- The reasons why the sites have been designated (the qualifying interest features);
- The environmental factors required to sustain the qualifying interest features and site integrity; and
- The nature conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites.

The following data and information has been collected:

- Latest Natural England condition surveys of the sites;
- Recent surveys of the sites undertaken by or on behalf of the local authorities or other relevant bodies.
- Species and habitat data for the sites; and
- Other relevant data held by Natural England including conservation objectives.

Not all of the above data are available for all sites.

The information compiled for each site is presented in Appendix D. Natural England have advised that the conservation objectives for the majority of these sites are currently in draft form

and are therefore not suitable for publication. As a result of this Appendix D of this report is considered confidential. Appendix D is therefore a separate document.

### **3 SCREENING METHODOLOGY FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

Stage 1 of the Appropriate Assessment process (covered by this report) identifies whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site.

#### **3.2 Review of the Habitats Regulations Assessments of the Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Spatial Strategy**

The reports of the above assessments were reviewed to determine whether any potential impacts on European sites relevant to this assessment had been screened out at regional level.

#### **3.3 Detailed Screening Methodology**

The Richmondshire Core Strategy has been screened in detail to determine the potential impact of the Core Strategy on North Pennines Moors SAC / SPA, North Pennines Dales Meadows SAC and Ox Close SAC, since these sites are within the administrative boundary.

For each option it has been determined whether the option could have a positive, neutral (no effect) or adverse effect upon the SAC. This is illustrated through the use of symbols in the tables in Appendix A. Commentary has been provided in each table to explain the likely effects that have been identified.

The assessment considers the following impacts:

*Direct impacts* – represent a straight route between an action or event and a resultant effect on the ecological interest feature. For example, development that removes habitat for which the SAC was designated.

*Indirect impacts* – do not arise directly from the plan but instead occur away from the original effect or as a result of a complex pathway. For example, development which alters the hydrology of a catchment area, which in turn affects the movement of groundwater to a site and the qualifying features which rely on the maintenance of water levels.

*Induced impacts* – are secondary actions which may result from the actions set out in the plan, so those impacts arising from development which promotes further development or change which, in turn, affects the integrity of European sites. These are non-ecological impacts in the first instance but could result in ecological impacts later in the pathway of effects. For example, the building of a ring road around a town which may encourage infilling with new homes between the existing town and the road thus increasing the size of the town with consequent impacts on site integrity.

It should be noted that a precautionary attitude has been taken when assessing whether or not effects may be significant. In cases where information is not available or where there is doubt and further research is needed Stage 2 (Appropriate Assessment) should be undertaken.

The following factors were identified as having the potential to affect the European sites (see Appendix D for site specific factors – it should be noted that due to the inclusion of confidential information this Appendix is a separate document):

- Climate change;
- Air quality;
- Water quality – organics/silt from physical disturbance;
- Water quality – agricultural runoff;
- Drainage (new or inappropriate);
- Scrub/tree/bracken encroachment;
- Inappropriate moorland management e.g. burning;
- Physical disturbance to habitat e.g. trampling by stock, increase in recreational use of site;
- Development on or adjacent to site;

- Invasive/destructive plant and animal species;
- Development of wind farms on or near the site affecting flight patterns of migrating birds;
- Overgrazing;
- Undergrazing;
- Grazing/cutting at the wrong time of year;
- Inappropriate nutrient enrichment;
- Herbicide use; and
- Lack of general management.

## 4 **SCREENING RESULTS**

### 4.1 **Review of Habitats Regulations Assessments of the Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Spatial Strategy**

#### 4.1.1 **The Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Spatial Strategy**

The RSS includes policies promoting renewable energy. There is the potential for wind farms as a source of renewable energy to have adverse effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites, particularly those designated for bird populations; the main area of concern is the potential to affect the flight movements of birds associated with the sites, although other impacts such as changes in water quality could also generate significant effects.

In relation to renewable energy sources, Land Use Consultants recommended changes to the RSS stating that there should be:

*“ commitment to carry out additional research to provide more guidance on where off-site effects are most likely to be of concern, and using this information to review targets up to 2021.”*

In respect of North Pennine Moors SAC / SPA there is the potential that tourism and recreation based diversification may affect biodiversity.

In relation to tourism and recreation based diversification, Land Use Consultants recommended changes to the RSS, as summarised below:

*“Tourism and recreation based diversification can affect important biodiversity sites as a consequence of increased pressure, disturbance and erosion. LDFs and National Park Plans should consider which areas are able to accommodate increased recreation associated with agricultural diversification without affecting the diversification of the sites. This may require spatially specific policies on diversification complemented by measures to manage recreation activity. LDFs should consider recreation effects on Natura 2000 sites through Appropriate Assessment. National Park authorities are encouraged to subject Park Plans to Appropriate Assessment.”*

In terms of North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC it is considered that development in Richmond may have adverse effects on the component SSSIs that are close by. Land Use Consultants recommended that changes to the RSS should be:

*“Elaborated to describe how the development at Catterick will help reduce development pressures on Richmond (close to one of the designated North Pennine Meadows).”*

The Habitats Regulations Assessment did not identify any specific likely significant effects or in-combination effects on Ox Close SAC.

### 4.2 **Screening Outcome**

The tables in Appendix A show the results in full of the screening process for each policy contained within the Core Strategy. Tables 2-4 summarise these results.

There have been no major areas identified where there is the potential for factors to cause adverse effects on any of the European sites. It is felt that all issues can be dealt with by amending parts of the document to ensure that an appropriate level of emphasis on nature conservation protection is contained within each relevant policy area (see Section 4.3).

**Table 2 – Summary of Effects on North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA**

<b>Impact pathway</b>	<b>Potential effect of Core Strategy on North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA</b>	<b>Likely significant effect?</b>
Climate change	The Core Strategy includes a policy on Sustainability and Climate Change. The issue of climate change cannot be solely addressed at a District level. However the promotion of renewable energy and the use of sustainable materials in development that helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will help to reduce the contributing factors to climate change.	No
Grazing	The Core Strategy includes no policies regarding this issue that may affect the SAC.	No
Water quality – organics/silt from physical disturbance	There is a slight possibility that development such as the construction of wind farms may cause physical disturbance and affect water quality. However at present there are no proposals to suggest that this would happen and is therefore unlikely that there would be any adverse affects on the SAC.	No
Drainage (new or inappropriate)	No specific policies in the Core Strategy cover this issue although changes to current drainage systems are likely to be brought about through development of land for transport networks, housing and economic purposes. Most development of this type is not anticipated to be adjacent to the SAC so it is considered unlikely that there will be any effects.	No
Scrub/tree/bracken encroachment	The Core Strategy includes no policies regarding this issue that may affect the SAC.	No
Inappropriate moorland management e.g. burning	The Core Strategy includes no policies regarding this issue that may affect the SAC.	No
Stock feeding	The Core Strategy includes no policies regarding this issue that may affect the SAC.	No
Physical disturbance to habitat e.g. trampling by stock	The Core Strategy includes no policies regarding this issue that may affect the SAC. However development in the housing, economic and transport sectors may result in an increase in tourism and recreational activities in the area. If this was to happen then it is likely that there will be an increase in physical disturbance and there would be adverse effects on the SAC.	No
Water quality – agricultural run-off	The Core Strategy promotes the selection of urban and/or Brownfield sites for development over those in the Green Belt which are most likely to be agricultural. As the SAC is in the green belt, is it unlikely that the Core Strategy would have any effect on agricultural run-off in the local area.	No
Invasive/destructive plant and animal species	It is considered unlikely that proposed developments and/or activities promoted by the Core Strategy would have any effect on the presence or otherwise of invasive animal species in the SAC.	No
Habitat loss as a result of development	Increases in the number of households in the area may generate increased traffic flows. The A6108 Richmond to Leyburn road lies within 1km of the SPA/SAC. If accidents increase as a result of increased traffic, it is possible that improvement of the road could be required. However, it is considered extremely unlikely that any proposed route option potentially directly affecting the SAC would be implemented, as there are clearly several possible alternative routes.	No

Impact pathway	Potential effect of Core Strategy on North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA	Likely significant effect?
Adverse changes in air quality as a result of development	In connection with the above comments, if road improvement brought traffic in closer proximity to the SAC, there could be potential for adverse impacts on habitats. However, this is considered both unlikely to occur and unlikely to be significant.	No

**In relation to the current draft of the Core Strategy Preferred Options paper, it is reasonable to state that the Core Strategy will not result in significant impacts on North Pennine Moors SAC / SPA.**

**Table 3 – Summary of Effects on North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC**

Impact pathway	Potential effect of Core Strategy on North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC	Likely significant effect?
Climate change	The Core Strategy includes a policy on Sustainability and Climate Change. The issue of climate change cannot be solely addressed at a District level. However the promotion of renewable energy and the use of sustainable materials in development that helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will help to reduce the contributing factors to climate change.	No
Overgrazing	The Core Strategy includes no policies regarding this issue that may affect the SAC.	No
Undergrazing	The Core Strategy includes no policies regarding this issue that may affect the SAC.	No
Grazing/cutting at wrong time of year	The Core Strategy includes no policies regarding this issue that may affect the SAC.	No
Inappropriate nutrient enrichment	There is a slight possibility that development adjacent to or on the site could result in inappropriate nutrient enrichment. However there are currently no proposals that would suggest this could happen so it is considered unlikely that there will be any adverse effects on the SAC.	No
Scrub/tree/bracken encroachment	The Core Strategy includes no policies regarding this issue that may affect the SAC.	No
Lack of/or inappropriate management e.g. burning	The Core Strategy includes no policies regarding this issue that may affect the SAC.	No
Herbicide use	The Core Strategy includes no policies regarding this issue that may affect the SAC.	No
Development on or adjacent to site	Two of the component SSSIs that comprise part of the SAC are on the boundaries of Richmond (Gingerfields SSSI & Richmond Meadows SSSI). Developments in these areas have the potential to have adverse effects on the SAC through primarily through disturbance of adjacent land, and any potential development in these areas may require substantial mitigation measures to avoid potential impacts affecting the sites. However there is no land allocated for housing development in the immediate area so the potential for housing development is considered unlikely.	No

Impact pathway	Potential effect of Core Strategy on North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC	Likely significant effect?
Air quality	There are a number of factors that may affect air quality. Any major changes to the transport networks may cause pollution that will reduce the quality of the air. However there are no specific proposals so it cannot be determined to what extent air quality may be affected and whether or not this may cause adverse affects for the SAC.	No

**In relation to the current draft of the Core Strategy Preferred Options paper, it is reasonable to state that the Core Strategy will not result in significant impacts on North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC.**

**Table 4 – Summary of Effects on Ox Close SAC**

Impact pathway	Potential effect of Core Strategy on Ox Close SAC	Likely significant effect?
Air quality	There are a number of factors that may affect air quality. Any major changes to the transport networks and certain types of economic development may potentially cause pollution that will reduce the quality of the air. However there are no specific proposals for changes to the transport networks so it cannot be determined to what extent air quality may be affected and whether or not this may cause adverse effects for the SAC.	No
Grazing	The Core Strategy includes no policies regarding this issue that may affect the SAC.	No
Drainage (new or inappropriate)	No specific policies in the Core Strategy relate this issue although changes to current drainage systems are likely to be brought about through development of land for transport networks, housing and economic purposes.	No
Scrub/tree/bracken encroachment	The Core Strategy includes no policies regarding this issue that may affect the SAC.	No
Inappropriate habitat management e.g. burning	The Core Strategy includes no policies regarding this issue that may affect the SAC.	No
Physical disturbance to habitat e.g. trampling by stock	The Core Strategy includes no policies regarding this issue that may affect the SAC. However development in the housing, economic and transport sectors may result in an increase in tourism and recreational activities in the area. If this was to happen then it is likely that there will be an increase in physical disturbance and there would be adverse affects on the SAC.	No
Invasive/destructive plant and animal species	It is considered unlikely that proposed developments and/or activities promoted by the Core Strategy would have any effect on the presence or otherwise of invasive animal species in the SAC.	No

**In relation to the current draft of the Core Strategy Preferred Options paper, it is reasonable to state that the Core Strategy will not result in significant impacts on Ox Close SAC.**

There are four other SACs that are not in Richmondshire District which lie within 20km of the area covered by the Core Strategies. These SACs are Craven Limestone Complex, Ingleborough Complex, Asby Complex and River Eden. The study identified no likely significant effects that may be caused as a result of the plans incorporated in the Core Strategy.

### 4.3 **Next Steps and Mitigation**

#### 4.3.1 Approach

The Core Strategy sets out principles for development control decisions. It does not set out individual proposals, so there is insufficient detail to decide on a site by site basis whether there may be an impact on North Pennine Moors SAC / SPA, North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC or Ox Close SAC. Subsidiary documents based on the principles in the Core Strategy will provide this level of detail during the course of preparation, for example site allocations, and may require Habitats Regulations Assessment in their own right.

Examining the prevailing guidance, it is not considered appropriate to set buffer zones around the SAC within which development would be restricted, as there is no basis for demonstrating that this would be effective in preventing, for example, indirect and induced impacts. A blanket buffer zone strategy imposed at this stage could also result in the widespread sterilisation of land in terms of its development potential, which is not acceptable. An alternative approach is therefore required.

The relationship of the Core Strategy to subsidiary documents such as the site allocations paper is important in demonstrating how the Core Strategy will comply with the Habitats Regulations. Current guidance on Habitats Regulations Assessment of plans indicates that all plans are to be considered independently; that is, it is not acceptable for the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Core Strategy to refer the issue downwards by stating, for instance, that the assessment would be dealt with at site allocations stage. A clear statement of effects on Natura 2000 sites, if any, must be produced for each plan assessed.

Since all of the subsidiary documents in the LDF need to be produced in accordance with the Core Strategy, the key issue in terms of compliance with the Regulations is to ensure that the principles set out in the Core Strategy, particularly those relating to nature conservation and site selection criteria, are worded such that it is not possible for subsidiary documents complying with these principles to result in significant adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites.

This is likely to result in a degree of overlap between the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies document in the area of protection of Natura 2000 sites. However, because they are treated independently in terms of Habitats Regulations Assessment, a clear statement of how protection of Natura 2000 sites will be achieved is required in both documents.

The sections below provide suggestions for amendments to the Core Strategy which could potentially avoid some of the adverse effects identified in the current Issues and Options paper. These are intended as a starting point for discussion and agreement between Richmondshire District Council and Natural England.

#### 4.3.2 Challenging the Potential Effects of Development in Richmond on North Pennine Dales Meadows Special Area of Conservation

Two component SSSIs (Richmond Meadows and Gingerfields) are in the immediate vicinity of the town of Richmond and as a result any development adjacent to these areas would have the potential to result in adverse impacts on the sites, although in theory it could be possible to develop such areas without affecting the designated features of the SAC provided that adequate mitigation was implemented.

Both component SSSIs lie outside the development boundary of the town of Richmond, as outlined in the current Local Plan Proposals Map. As such, provided that this development boundary or a similar one is carried forward to the LDF, the potential for impacts on these sites as a result of developments in Richmond is considered likely to be low.

Part of the SAC is located off Rimington Avenue to the south of the town centre. The current Proposals Map indicates a housing allocation on the opposite side of Rimington Avenue to the SAC, adjacent to the River Swale. This is a Brownfield site located on the site of a depot and it is understood that the land has been sold for development purposes, although no planning applications have yet been received for the site. Development on this former depot site may

have the potential for impacts on the SAC if appropriate mitigation measures are not implemented. For example, the former use of the site suggests that there could be areas of contamination onsite which may require remediation to prevent future environmental risks. There are no other allocations in this area and it is noted that the majority of the land to the north-east of the site is in the floodplain and designated as a site of local nature conservation value, making future developments here unlikely.

The following options have been identified as potential amendments to the Core Strategy:

- The focus on development at Catterick as a means of reducing the developmental pressures on Richmond. This would not eliminate the potential for sites adjacent to the designated areas to be developed, but would reduce the probability of this occurring.
- A map of the development boundary of the town of Richmond showing the elements of the SAC which are both inside and outside of the town. If this is not considered possible, a statement regarding the process of defining the town boundary in relation to environmental and other constraints including the SAC is recommended.
- It is recommended that the Core Strategy includes a statement that any future land allocations adjacent to SACs (e.g. in the Richmond and Catterick Area Action Plan (AAP)) will include specific mention of the Council's expectations regarding suitable mitigation measures for agreement in advance of planning permission, particularly in relation to standards of environmental protection during any site remediation. This will ensure that appropriate measures are implemented to protect the SAC and other nearby features of environmental importance.
- In addition to this it may be useful to provide detail regarding the criteria used for site selection for land identified for development.

In addition to the potential amendments suggested above it is also recommended that the Core Strategy includes:

- A list of all the Natura 2000 sites within the District with a statement on how the Council intends to ensure that these internationally important sites are protected.
- A map to illustrate the locations Natura 2000 sites, in particular SSSIs that are within close proximity to any potential development.

#### 4.3.3 Tackling the Potential Effects of Changes to the Transport Network

As a result of development within the District over the next twenty years it is anticipated that there will be a population rise and possibly increases in the level of tourism in the area. The RSS predicts a 19.9% increase in the number of households in the district between 2004 and 2021. This will require the improvement and possible expansion of the road and rail networks in the area which could potentially have adverse effects on the SACs that are in the vicinity.

For example, North Pennine Moors SPA / SAC lies within 1km of the main road between Richmond and Leyburn (A6108), which would be expected to experience an increase in traffic as a result of the anticipated increase in the number of households in the area. This may prompt improvement/upgrading of the A6108, particularly as other sections of this route, notably the stretch of road between Leyburn to Middleham, are considered to have a poor accident record. Such a route upgrade is not included in any current plan for the area. However it may potentially be possible to implement road improvements, through careful design and mitigation, it is considered unlikely that there would be a likely significant effect from any potential impacts arising during construction, as there appears to be several possible acceptable routes.

At present, North Pennine Moors SPA / SAC lies outside the 200m radius within which air quality impacts can be directly attributable to road traffic (IAN 61/05). In the event that any road improvements carry traffic within this 200m of the SPA/SAC boundary, there is the potential for any air quality changes during operation of the road to affect the site via changes in, for example, nitrogen deposition. The current background levels of nitrogen deposition in the area discussed above already exceed the critical load for this habitat and further changes to the transport networks could potentially cause further adverse effects on this site. It is not possible to determine whether adverse effects would occur without detailed project-level studies. However, similar recent work undertaken during environmental assessment of the proposed

A57/A628 bypass on the western edge of the Peak District suggested that improvements in vehicle emissions standards would be expected to keep pace with the increase in traffic, resulting in no overall significant change in the nitrogen deposition in the area adjacent to the road. As this particular scheme generated a large increase in traffic, it is likely that a hypothetical improvement of the A6108 or other similar scheme would not result in a likely significant effect on this SAC.

Part of North Pennines Dales Meadows SAC lies close to the A6108 as it enters Richmond from the south. There is limited scope for major road improvements in this area due to existing and proposed residential development. However the current background levels of nitrogen deposition are currently at the critical load threshold for this habitat ([www.apis.ac.uk](http://www.apis.ac.uk)) and further changes to the transport network could potentially cause this threshold to be breached and cause adverse effects on this site. Nonetheless it is not possible to determine whether adverse effects will occur until further project-level studies are undertaken.

The development, promotion, planning consent, implementation and monitoring of highways improvement schemes is outside the control of Richmondshire District Council under the current arrangements for highways schemes. As such, there is limited scope for amendments to the Core Strategy to have a major impact on this issue.

The following options have been identified as potential amendments that can be made to the Core Strategy:

- Additional text suggesting how the expansion and improvement of current public transport could potentially relieve pressure on the current transport network.

#### 4.3.4 Development of Sustainability and the Potential Impacts on Special Areas of Conservation / Special Protection Areas

The issues of sustainability within the Core Strategy also seek to increase the use of renewable energy. This covers a variety of renewable energy technologies including small-scale renewables schemes constructed as part of, for example, housing developments, as well as larger-scale projects such as wind farms. It is considered unlikely that small-scale schemes would have a significant impact on any of the Natura 2000 sites. The current Local Plan Proposals Map shows an area of search for wind farm development in the north-east of the District. This area of search is unlikely to alter significantly during the LDF process as it is based on a regional analysis of renewables potential. Whilst the current area of search is approximately 5km north-east of North Pennine Moors SPA / SAC, and thus not likely to have any direct effects on the site, it is not known to what extent birds designated as SPA qualifying features overfly or use the area of search, if at all. It is therefore important for the Core Strategy to include suitable wording on this subject.

The following options have been identified as potential amendments to the Core Strategy:

- A statement should be included regarding the potential wind farm area of search and the Council's expectations regarding appropriate levels of ecological (particularly ornithological) survey which should be undertaken to support any future planning applications. This will ensure that any bird issues likely to affect the SAC / SPA will be identified at an early stage, enabling an appropriate planning decision to be made, and reducing the risk of likely significant effect on the SAC / SPA by ensuring that potentially inappropriate development is refused.

#### 4.3.5 Dealing with the Potential Increase in Tourism

With the proposed development in the district over the next twenty years increasing the number of houses there will be an overall increase in the population and potentially the number of people using the rural environment for a range of activities. This gradual increase is not expected to create any likely significant effects on the SACs / SPAs.

However as Richmondshire is a predominantly rural district the future development in the economic sector is to some extent likely to rely on promoting tourism. Certain aspects of tourism may have the potential to cause adverse effects on SACs / SPAs, for example through facilitating development such as extra car parks which could then potentially result in impacts such as physical disturbance to habitats, dependent upon the location of such areas in relation to the SACs / SPAs. It is important that this is fully considered at Core Strategy level.

The following options have been identified as potential amendments to the Core Strategy:

- A statement could be included regarding the council's expectations on changing levels of tourism which may result from development within the district.
- A section regarding how the council intends to manage tourism within the district to ensure the pressures of increased traffic levels or numbers of people have no likely significant effects on SACs.

#### 4.3.6 Effect of the Amendments

The effect of the amendments suggested above would be to prevent potential adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from the application of the principles in the Core Strategy to other land use plans and development control decisions.

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## **5 POTENTIAL IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS WITH OTHER PLANS OR PROJECTS**

### **5.1 Identifying Other Plans and Projects With Potential In-combination Effects**

Other plans for areas within 15km of the North Pennine Moors SAC / SPA, North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC and Ox Close SAC have been considered. This is in line with the current consensus on approach set out in Scott Wilson *et al* (2006), which involves considering plans and their potential effects at a similar level to the one being assessed. In this case, this is district and county level plans.

Typically, only those plans which have not yet been implemented but for which full details are available can be considered. Therefore, plans for which the preferred options report, submitted draft or adopted plan is available at the time of writing can be considered. Plans at the issues and options stage are not sufficiently complete to allow consideration, although if more detailed information becomes available prior to adoption of the Richmondshire Core Strategy, these should be revisited.







The second criterion for selecting plans for consideration is whether or not they are likely to have ecological effects. Plans dealing with, for example, design quality of buildings, or business opening hours, are clearly unlikely to have significant ecological impacts and can be removed from the study. Similarly, plans which have already been assessed as having no potential impact on European sites can be removed from consideration, although plans assessed as having less than significant adverse impacts need to be included.

Finally, plans which do not have clear spatial expression cannot reasonably be assessed for their in-combination effects.





The table in Appendix B summarises the process of identifying plans for consideration.

As no likely significant effects on European sites have been identified from the Core Strategy none of the plans initially selected will now be taken forward for further consideration.

**APPENDIX A**  
**SCREENING TABLE**

Key	
	Option is considered to have a likely significant adverse effect (no mitigation possible)
	Option is considered to have a likely significant adverse effect (mitigation possible)
	Option is considered to have a minor adverse effect (mitigation possible)
	Neutral: Option is considered to have no effect
	Option is considered likely to have a minor beneficial effect
	Option is considered likely to have a major beneficial effect

**Table 1 – Core Strategy Options**

Core Strategy Objective	Potential Effect on Natura 2000 sites	Next Steps / Mitigation
Transport: Provide safe, convenient and sustainable transport network	 Although general improvement and development of major roads is under the jurisdiction of North Yorkshire County Local Transport Plan both residential and economic development in the major areas of growth are likely to give rise to an increase in traffic levels on roads within the District, potentially prompting a need for improvements on safety or other grounds. For certain roads within close proximity to North Pennine Moor SAC such as the A6108 between Leyburn and Richmond this may have a direct impact on the site through destruction/disturbance and indirect impacts through the degradation of air quality. The SSSI Lovely Seat-Stainton moor is the closest component SSSI to this road and the nitrogen deposition for the habitat present is currently in excess of its critical load range (information on air quality available from Air Pollution Information Systems APIS website - <a href="http://www.apis.ac.uk">www.apis.ac.uk</a> ).	The Core Strategy could strengthen this by amending the transport policy and adding text on the expectations of traffic level increase resulting from development in major areas of growth. Further investigation to provide models for increases in traffic levels before development would be advantageous and assist in determining the optimum sites for development. Further details relating to how the expansion and improvement of public transport could potentially help to reduce the pressure on transport networks would also be useful.
Housing: Increase number and quality of housing through providing new housing on suitable, accessible areas; maximize the use of existing housing; providing sites for the use of travellers and gypsies.	 Two component SSSIs (Richmond Meadows and Gingerfields) of North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC are in the immediate vicinity of Richmond and there is therefore the potential for development on any adjacent land having adverse affects on this SAC; there is a possibility of both direct and indirect impacts.	The core strategy could strengthen this by adding text regarding any development particularly in Richmond and the areas that are within 2km of the SAC/component SSSIs. Further detail regarding the criteria used for site selection would also be beneficial. The possibility of developing land that would not impact upon SACs should be explored. Failing this mitigation to avoid impacts on SACs should be addressed.
Sustainability and climate change: Ensure that future development protects the districts environmental and heritage assets; ensure that new development incorporates the use of renewable energy; expect that new development should adhere to the code for sustainable homes, code level anticipated to reach 'level 6' or meet the Breeam 'excellent' rating by 2016	 Policies are very general at this stage and it is difficult to predict identifiable impacts on Natura 2000 sites. However if the expected targets for sustainable homes and the use of renewable energy is met by the end of the period then there is potential to benefit SACs through a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.	The Core Strategy could be improved by providing information on how development will be assessed in terms of whether expected targets have been met. Information could also be provided on the mitigation measures that should be employed should targets fall short of those expected.
Economy: Focus the major economic growth in the main growth areas of Richmond and Catterick Garrison; provide a range of sites for a range of development and investment opportunities; support sustainability of local/rural communities.	 As with housing; economic development in Richmond may affect SSSIs close to Richmond. There is also the likelihood that economic development in rural areas may cause direct impacts on SACs and/or cause significant increases in traffic levels.	See comments under housing.

**Table 2 – Important Issues for Richmondshire District**

Core Strategy Issue	Potential Effect on Natura 2000 sites	Next Steps / Mitigation
<b>Spatial Strategy Options</b>		
<p>Spatial Strategy Option A: The preferred option is to: promote the joint roles of Richmond and Catterick Garrison as the District's Principal Town; safeguard the role of Leyburn as a Local Service Centre; focus growth on Catterick Garrison and the A1 corridor; limit development to a scale of that required to meet local needs in settlements outside the main growth area; support the MoD's modernization and growth of Catterick Garrison, including the provision of housing for military personnel; safeguard and enhance the quality and character of the built and natural environment of Richmondshire</p>	<p>x Development in Richmond has the potential to cause adverse affects on component SSSIs in the vicinity. However the main focus of growth is around Catterick Garrison and the A1 corridor and of sufficient distance that it is unlikely to have any adverse affects on SACs .</p>	<p>See comments on housing (Table 1).</p>
<p>Spatial Strategy Option B: This option is similar to option A but it based on the assumption that whilst modernisation at Catterick Garrison would continue the level of potential growth that is outlined by the MoD in the Catterick Garrison Long Term Development Plan would not materialize or would be delayed beyond the Plan period</p>	<p>x The main focus on growth around Catterick Garrison and the A1 corridor is unlikely to have any adverse affects on SACs . Development in Richmond has the potential to cause adverse affects on component SSSIs in the vicinity.</p>	<p>See comments on housing (Table 1).</p>
<b>Sustainability and Climate Change</b>		
<p>Protect and enhance the district's environmental and heritage assets and ensure that new development responds positively to any features of natural, historic, biodiversity or local interest.</p>	<p>~ Although there is the potential for this to provide benefits for SACs this issue is fairly general at the moment and so at present no impacts can be identified.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy could strengthen this by providing expectations regarding how new development will be designed to respond positively to features of natural, historic, biodiversity or local interest.</p>
<p>Ensure new development is directed towards the most sustainable locations and makes the best use of existing infrastructure and transport networks.</p>	<p>xx Although there is no detail regarding potential new development areas, it is considered that development in the area of Richmond may have the potential to cause adverse effects on the component SSSIs of the North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC in this area.</p>	<p>See comments on Sustainability and Climate Change (Table 1)</p>
<p>Seek to ensure new development makes a positive contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions: through use of energy efficient designs and materials; incorporating waste minimization and recycling measures; maximizing solar gain through siting and orientation. New development should aim to meet Code Level 3 (Code for Sustainable Homes) by 2010 and Code Level 5 by 2015 with the aspiration that by 2016 houses under construction will be built to Code Level 6 or meet Breem 'excellent' rating.</p>	<p>✓ This issue has the potential to provide indirect benefits to SACs. If renewable materials are used there will be a reduction in the requirement of quarried materials, and thus a reduction in the effects on the any SACs that may be nearby. An improvement in the sustainability of homes and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions will also have positive results for the environment as a whole.</p>	
<p>Support proposals that contribute towards meeting the grid-connected renewable energy indicative targets of 18MW by 2010 and 39MW by 2021 (as set in the Regional Spatial Strategy Policy ENV5).</p>	<p>~ This issue has the potential to cause impacts on SACs depending on the renewable energy sources that are used. Documents produced for the Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber have details of planning for renewable energy targets. It states that much of the District has high/very high sensitivity to wind farms but a small area of the District to the north-east has medium to low sensitivity thus meaning that it has some potential for the construction of wind farms. The utilisation of wind farms could provide both negative impacts (water pollution; effects on migrating birds) and positive impacts (reduction of greenhouse gas emissions). Until clearer definition on the way renewable energy will be utilised by the District is available it is difficult to determine any potential effects on SACs/SPAs.</p>	

Core Strategy Issue	Potential Effect on Natura 2000 sites	Next Steps / Mitigation
<p>Require new development to incorporate on site renewable energy generation. This should seek to deliver as a minimum; in the period to 2010, 10% of the predicted energy requirement; from 2011 to 2015, 15% of the predicted energy requirement; from 2016 to 2020, 20% of the predicted energy requirement; from 2021 to 2025, 25% of the predicted energy requirement.</p> <p>These requirements should be met except where such works or installations would adversely affect the character, appearance or setting of Listed Buildings and conservation areas and alternative options are not feasible. In such cases development proposals will still be expected to incorporate energy efficiency measures.</p>	<p>✘ ✘</p> <p>Discussion of this issue is fairly general at this stage of the Core Strategy and so at present no impacts can be identified. However the Local Plan Proposal Map indicates that an area in the north east of the district has a potential wind farm development. Given the potential for wind farms in the district there and the presence of internationally important bird assemblages associated with the North Pennine Moor SAC/SPA there is the potential for adverse effects on the SACs/SPAs.</p>	<p>See comments on Sustainability and Climate Change. The Core Strategy could be improved by detailing the expected form that renewable energy will take. Depending on the type of renewable energy available there may be the potential for both positive and negative effects on SACs. Since there are a condition protecting listed buildings and conservation areas, it would be a wise precaution to include a similar condition focusing on protecting birds.</p>
<b>Housing</b>		
<p>Distribution and Phasing of Housing: Manage the release of land of new housing to deliver an average rate of 200 per year; 70% of housing to be located within the main growth area; focus any housing outside main growth area on local needs; use the LDF monitoring process to determine the need for any change in requirement for site release.</p>	<p>✘ ✘</p> <p>The release of previously undeveloped land for housing would reduce the existing greenspace and in particular reference to Richmond town could have the potential to generate impacts for SACs that are in close proximity.</p>	<p>See comments on housing. The LDF monitoring process should be expected to aim to release sites that are not adjacent to any SACs. Failing this mitigation measures need to be addressed prior to construction on sites within proximity to SACs/SPAs.</p>
<p>Housing Mix: Maximise the use of the existing housing stock by reducing vacancy levels and encouraging improvement; utilise strategic Housing Market Assessments to identify gaps in provision and create a choice of decent homes;</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>There is the potential to generate benefit to the SACs/SPAs through the process of fully exploiting the current housing stock and rebuilding houses on sites where unsuitable houses have been demolished. This would reduce the need to develop on existing greenspace thus reducing the likelihood on adverse affects on SAC/SPAs in the vicinity.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy could be strengthened by providing text detailing how they intend to utilize current or previously developed sites for new development.</p>
<p>Affordable Housing: In urban areas 50% of housing will be sought on developments proposals of 10 or more dwellings or 0.33 hectares; in rural areas affordable housing will be sought on development proposals of 4 or more dwellings or 0.15 hectares.</p>	<p>~</p> <p>Discussion of this issue is fairly general at this stage of the Core Strategy and so at present no impacts can be identified.</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>Provision for Gypsies and Travelers: Where a proven need exists provide additional pitches for either permanent or transitory sites; ensure that sites form extension to existing facilities or is located close to an existing settlement; sites are accessible to local amenities; developments are sensitive to adjacent residents; sites have suitable highway access.</p>	<p>~</p> <p>Discussion of this issue is fairly general at this stage of the Core Strategy and so at present no impacts can be identified.</p>	<p>n/a</p>

Core Strategy Issue	Potential Effect on Natura 2000 sites	Next Steps / Mitigation
<b>Economy</b>		
<p>In terms of employment land: Provide a balanced portfolio of sites that will provide a range of development and investment opportunities; focus major growth area centered upon Richmond and Catterick Garrison as the District's Principal Town; consolidate the position of Leyburn as a Local Service Centre; support small scale development elsewhere to match local needs; support rural diversification.</p>	<p>✘ The majority of development that is based in major areas of growth is unlikely to have any potential to cause impacts on SACs . However as with housing there is the potential for development in certain areas of Richmond which could potentially impact upon the SACs. Depending on the locations future development in rural areas may also have the potential to impact upon SACs.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy could be strengthened by identifying possible areas for development (i.e. particular villages etc.). This is especially important in rural locations as it would then be easier to assess the potential to cause adverse affects on SACs.</p>
<p>In terms of town centres: Support the developing of Catterick Garrison town centre whilst safeguarding the role of Richmond; safeguard the role of Leyburn as a Local Service Centre.</p>	<p>~ Discussion of this issue is fairly general at this stage of the Core Strategy and so at present no impacts can be identified. However it is likely that development focused in Catterick has the potential to be of benefit to SACs as it would reduce the pressure to develop other areas of the District that are more likely to affect SACs.</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>In terms of smaller settlements and the rural economy, subject to environmental and amenity constraints, support the sustainability of local communities by: Seeking to safeguard local services and employment; supporting small scale development opportunities, including the conversion and reuse of existing buildings; supporting rural diversification; encouraging proposals that diversify the local economy without causing harm to the local environment, landscape or built heritage; encouraging sustainable tourism.</p>	<p>✓ Small scale development and the utilization and conversion of existing facilities has the potential to provide benefits to the SACs as it will boost the local economy and reduce the need to develop on existing greenbelt land.</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<b>Transport</b>		
<p>Supporting the upgrade of trunk roads; minimizing travel and reducing car dependency by locating major growth in accessible and sustainable communities; supporting in principle measures to improve road safety, assist regeneration, secure environmental improvement and better utilize existing road capacity.</p>	<p>✘ The expectation of the Core Strategy is a 20% growth in households by 2021. This will mean a significant increase in the population and if current transport preferences continue an increase in the number of cars on the roads . The general development and improvement of the highway network in the district is not under the jurisdiction of Richmondshire DC. However the improvement and expansion of the public transport network is under Richmondshire DC jurisdiction; this expected rise will mean that significant improvements will need to be made to current public transport in order to reduce the pressures on the on the existing transport networks. If the necessary development to public transport is not achieved then there will be additional pressures to provide more extensive road networks which may result in a series of adverse affects on SACs.</p>	<p>See comments on transport (Table 1).</p>
<p>Consider requirements for traffic management and improvement to the road network through the Richmond and Catterick Garrison Area Action Plan; focus growth in those locations best served by public transport; encourage the development of foot and cycle networks; support improvements through Local Transport Plan (North Yorkshire County Council)</p>	<p>✓ See above</p>	<p>See comments on transport (Table 1).</p>

**APPENDIX B**

**SCREENING OF PLANS FOR POTENTIAL IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS**

Plan name	Location	Stage	SA, SEA or HRA completed?	Likely effects on SAC sites?	Clear spatial expression	Comments	Take forward for consideration?
<b>County level plans (North Yorkshire, Cumbria etc)</b>							
North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework	Covers areas of North Yorkshire that are within 15km of North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA and North Pennine Dale Meadows SAC	Preferred options stage.	Yes – see main text	Yes – Further development of the plans will confirm exact locations for future proposals.	No.	See main text	Yes
North Yorkshire Waste Local Plan	Covers areas of North Yorkshire that are within 15km of North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA and North Pennine Dale Meadows SAC	Adopted 1997	None found	No proposals in area near SACs.	Yes.	Will be superseded by North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework	No
North Yorkshire Minerals Local Plan	Covers areas of North Yorkshire that are within 15km of North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA and North Pennine Dale Meadows SAC	Adopted 1997	None found.	No proposals in area near SACs.	Yes	Will be superseded by North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework	No
North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan	Covers areas of North Yorkshire that are within 15km of North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA and North Pennine Dale Meadows SAC	Initially adopted 2001. Revised plans adopted in 2006.	None found.	Future development or adaption of the current transport network may have potential to cause adverse affects for the SACs.	Yes	Generally relies on improving current transport networks instead on adding new roads/railways etc.	Yes
Lancashire Minerals and Waste Development Framework	Parts of the county are within 15km of Craven Limestone Complex and Ingleborough Complex SACs	Preferred options stage.	Sustainability appraisal report completed.	There are no proposals near the SACs.	No.	The majority of the proposals for the county are concentrated in the central and southern districts.	No
Lancashire Waste Local Plan	Parts of the county are within 15km of Craven Limestone Complex and Ingleborough Complex SACs	Adopted 2001	None found.	No proposal near the SACs.	No	Will be superseded by the Lancashire Minerals and Waste Development Framework	No
Lancashire Minerals Local Plan	Parts of the county are within 15km of Craven Limestone Complex and Ingleborough Complex SACs	Adopted 2001	None found	No proposals near the SACs	No	Will be superseded by the Lancashire Minerals and Waste Development Framework	No
Lancashire Transport Local Plans	Parts of the county are within 15km of Craven Limestone Complex and Ingleborough Complex SACs	Initially adopted 2001/2002. Revised plans adopted 2006/2007.	None found.	Possible development of rail networks running from east to west may have potential affects on local SACs	Yes for some elements	Need further details on the development of east – west network expansions	No
Cumbria Minerals and Waste Development Framework	Parts of the county are within 15km of the North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA and Dale Meadows SAC	Preferred Options stage.	Sustainability appraisal report completed.	None identified in the SA	Yes for some elements	Proposals do not feature within 15-20km of European sites	No
Cumbria Waste Local Plan	Parts of the county are within 15km of the North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA and Dale Meadows SAC	Adopted 2000	None found.	Possible development of landfill site at Kendal Fell Quarry may fall within 15km of SACs. If so there may be adverse affects on local SACs.	Yes	Will be superseded by the Cumbria Minerals and Development Framework	Yes
Cumbria Mineral Local Plan	Parts of the county are within 15km of the North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA and Dale Meadows SAC	Adopted 2000	None found	No proposals near the SACs	Yes	Will be superseded by the Cumbria Minerals and Development Framework	No.

Plan name	Location	Stage	SA, SEA or HRA completed?	Likely effects on SAC sites?	Clear spatial expression	Comments	Take forward for consideration?
Cumbria Transport Local Plan	Parts of the county are within 15km of the North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA and Dale Meadows SAC	Initially adopted 2001/2002. Revised plans adopted 2006/2007.	None found	No proposals near the SACs	Yes	Further details on development of road and rail networks to clarify possible effects on SACs	No
Durham Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks	Parts of the county are within 15km of the North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA and Dale Meadows SAC	Preferred options stage	Sustainability appraisal complete	No proposals near the SACs	Yes	All decisions on proposals are made based upon their potential effects on designated sites.	No
Durham Waste Local Plan	Parts of the county are within 15km of the North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA and Dale Meadows SAC	Adopted 1984	Sustainability appraisal complete	None identified in the Sustainability Appraisal	Yes	Will be superseded by the Durham Minerals and Waste Development Framework	No
Durham Minerals Local Plan	Parts of the county are within 15km of the North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA and Dale Meadows SAC	Adopted 2000	Sustainability appraisal complete	No proposals near the SACs	Yes	Will be superseded by the Durham Minerals and Waste Development Framework	No
Durham Transport Local Plan	Parts of the county are within 15km of the North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA and Dale Meadows SAC	Adopted 1999	None found	No proposals near to the SACs	Yes	Further details on development of road and rail networks to clarify possible affects on SACs	No
<b>Borough Level Plans (Hambleton, Craven etc)</b>							
Hambleton Local Development Framework	Parts of the district are within 15km of SACs	Adopted April 2007	Sustainability appraisal complete	No obvious proposals near to the SACs	Yes (site allocations)		No
Harrogate Local Development Framework	Parts of the district are within 15km of SACs	Preferred options stage. Proposed adoption October 2008.	Sustainability appraisal complete	The majority of development is proposed in the south of the district near to the major conurbations, although some development in the north west may impact upon North Pennine Moors SACs	Yes (site allocations)	Some development in the north west of the district in the form of new housing, but this development is minimal and as such should have no effects on the SACs	Yes
Harrogate Local Plan	Parts of the district are within 15km of SACs	Adopted in 2001, revised in 2004.	None found	Some of the smaller proposals are within close proximity to North Pennine Moors	Yes (site allocations)	Will superseded by Harrogate Local development Framework	Yes
Craven Local Development Framework	Parts of the district are within 15km of SACs	Preferred options stage	Sustainability appraisal, draft form.	The LDF proposes changes to the housing, employment and transport sectors. Future development may have effects on Craven Limestone Complex SAC	No	Further details of plans would help to clarify the extent of development. Then effects on SACs can be determined	Yes
Craven Local Plan	Parts of the district are within 15km of SACs	Adopted 1999.	None found	Plans are focused to avoid conflict with the interests of conservation area (SSSIs) etc. Although development is within close proximity to Craven Limestone Complex SAC	Yes for some elements	Will be superseded by the Craven Local Development Framework	Yes
Ribble Valley Local Development Framework	Parts of district are within 15km of Craven Limestone Complex SAC	Preferred options stage	Sustainability appraisal complete	Seems that most development work will take place in and around the main towns of the district which are to the south west. Little or no development near to the SACs	No		No

Plan name	Location	Stage	SA, SEA or HRA completed?	Likely effects on SAC sites?	Clear spatial expression	Comments	Take forward for consideration?
Ribble Valley Local Plan	Parts of district are within 15km of Craven Limestone complex SAC	Adopted June 1998	None found	No proposals near to the SACs	Yes	Will be superseded by the Ribble Valley Local Development Framework	No
Lancaster Local Development Plan	Parts of district are within 15km of Craven Limestone Complex and Ingleborough Complex SAC	Preferred options stage	Sustainability appraisal complete	Although the priority areas for regeneration are on the far side of the district from the SACs there is some plans transport plans that may be close enough to affect SACs	Yes	Possible development of highway network to the east of the district. More detail needed	Yes
Lancaster Local Plan	Parts of district are within 15km of Craven Limestone Complex and Ingleborough Complex SAC	Adopted 2004	None found	No obvious proposals near to the SACs	Yes for some elements	Will be superseded by the Lancaster Local Development Framework	No
Eden Local Development Framework	Parts of the district are within 15km of North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA and North Pennine Dales SAC	Preferred options stage	Sustainability appraisal complete	Some major development and road improvements around Kirkby Stephen area may have some effects on North Pennine Moor and River Eden SACs.	Yes for some elements	Extent of development close to SAC boundaries needs to be determined.	Yes
Eden Local Plan	Parts of the district are within 15km of North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA and North Pennine Dales SAC	Adopted December 1996	None found	As above some development to the south of the district around Kirkby Stephen may have potential to affect North Pennine Moors and River Eden SACs	Yes	Will be superseded by the Eden Local Development Framework	Yes
South Lakeland Local Development Plan	Parts of the district are within 15km of North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA and North Pennine Dales SAC	Preferred options stage	Sustainability appraisal complete	Little development in the south/east of the district except in Kendal which is approx. 20km away so no real threat to SACs	Yes for some elements		No
South Lakeland Local Plan	Parts of the district are within 15km of North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA and North Pennine Dales SAC	Adopted in 1997	None found	Little development in the south/east of the district except in Kendal which is approx. 20km away so no real threat to SACs	Yes for some elements	Will be superseded by the south Lakeland Local Development Framework	No
Teesdale Local Development Framework	Parts of the district are within 15km of North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA and North Pennine Dales SAC	Core strategy issues and options – other parts in preparation	None found (probably ongoing)	Possible development in the south-west of the district could have possible effects on North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA and North Pennine Meadows SAC.	Yes, in due course	Extent of development close to the SAC/SPA boundaries needs to be determined	Yes
Teesdale Local Plan	Parts of the district are within 15km of North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA and North Pennine Dales SAC	Adopted 2002	None found	No obvious proposals near to the SACs.	Yes	Will be superseded by the Teesdale Local Development Framework	No

**APPENDIX C**  
**REPORT CONDITIONS**

# WHITE YOUNG GREEN ENVIRONMENTAL

## REPORT CONDITIONS

### HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT OF THE RICHMONDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL CORE STRATEGY PREFERRED OPTIONS

*This report is produced solely for the benefit of the Richmondshire District Council and no liability is accepted for any reliance placed on it by any other party unless specifically agreed in writing otherwise.*

*This report is prepared for the proposed uses stated in the report and should not be used in a different context without reference to WYGE. In time improved practices, fresh information or amended legislation may necessitate a re-assessment. Opinions and information provided in this report are on the basis of WYGE using due skill and care in the preparation of the report.*

*This report refers, within the limitations stated, to the environment of the site in the context of the surrounding area at the time of the inspections. Environmental conditions can vary and no warranty is given as to the possibility of changes in the environment of the site and surrounding area at differing times.*

*This report is limited to those aspects reported on, within the scope and limits agreed with the client under our appointment. It is necessarily restricted and no liability is accepted for any other aspect. It is based on the information sources indicated in the report. Some of the opinions are based on unconfirmed data and information and are presented as the best obtained within the scope for this report.*

*Reliance has been placed on the documents and information supplied to WYGE by others but no independent verification of these has been made and no warranty is given on them. No liability is accepted or warranty given in relation to the performance, reliability, standing etc of any products, services, organisations or companies referred to in this report.*

*Whilst skill and care have been used, no investigative method can eliminate the possibility of obtaining partially imprecise, incomplete or not fully representative information. Any monitoring or survey work undertaken as part of the commission will have been subject to limitations, including for example timescale, seasonal and weather related conditions.*

*Although care is taken to select monitoring and survey periods that are typical of the environmental conditions being measured, within the overall reporting programme constraints, measured conditions may not be fully representative of the actual conditions. Any predictive or modelling work, undertaken as part of the commission will be subject to limitations including the representativeness of data used by the model and the assumptions inherent within the approach used. Actual environmental conditions are typically more complex and variable than the investigative, predictive and modelling approaches indicate in practice, and the output of such approaches cannot be relied upon as a comprehensive or accurate indicator of future conditions.*

*The potential influence of our assessment and report on other aspects of any development or future planning requires evaluation by other involved parties.*

*The performance of environmental protection measures and of buildings and other structures in relation to acoustics, vibration, noise mitigation and other environmental issues is influenced to a large extent by the degree to which the relevant environmental considerations are incorporated into the final design and specifications and the quality of workmanship and compliance with the specifications on site during construction. WYGE accept no liability for issues with performance arising from such factors*

February 2006