

**Richmondshire District Council
Local Plan Core Strategy**

**Habitats (Regulations) Assessment (HRA)
Screening Assessment**

June 2012

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1.0 Introduction and background

- 1.1 Richmondshire District Council is currently developing its Core Strategy, the central Development Plan Document (DPD) in the suite of documents that comprise the Local Plan (LP) for the plan area. The Core Strategy has been produced and this Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening assessment should be read in conjunction with this document. Please note that the Richmondshire plan area is classified as the parts of the District located outside of the Yorkshire Dales National Park (including Tan Hill).
- 1.2 Richmondshire District Council is undertaking a HRA in line with the requirements set by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. This HRA screening assessment report addresses the effects on designated 'Natura 2000' (or European sites¹) of the policies and spatial principles as outlined in the Core Strategy. This screening assessment forms part of the evidence base for the Core Strategy and determines whether an Appropriate Assessment (AA) may be required.
- 1.3 The European Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (i.e. the Habitats Directive) protects habitats and species of European nature conservation importance. The 'Habitats Directive' establishes a network of internationally important sites across Europe designated for their ecological status. Article 2 of this directive requires the restoration and maintenance of habitats and species to a favorable conservation status and subsequent articles set up the means to designate protection areas. These are referred to as Natura 2000 sites and comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). SPAs are classified under the European Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds, i.e. the 'Birds Directive'.
- 1.4 Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive require an Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken on proposed plans or projects which are not necessary to the management of the site but which are likely to have a 'significant effect' on one or more European sites either individually, or *in combination* with other plans and projects. Determining whether an effect is 'significant' is undertaken in relation to the designated interest features and conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites. If an impact on any conservation objective is assessed as being adverse then it should be treated as significant. Where information is limited, the precautionary principle applies and significant effects should be assumed until evidence exists to the contrary.
- 1.5 On 30 October 1994 this requirement was transposed into UK law by the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994. Since that time there have been several amendments which have subsequently been consolidated in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. These regulations require the application of a HRA to all land use plans and for local planning authorities to assess the potential effects of plans on European sites.

¹ In addition to SACs and SPAs, European sites include Candidate SACs and SCIs (Sites of Community Importance), however as the Richmondshire Plan Area and surrounding 20km buffer contains no Candidate SACs or SCIs, the terms 'European site' and 'Natura 2000 site' are used interchangeably within this document

2.0 Screening

2.1 A search of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and Natural England websites was undertaken to establish the location and nature of statutorily designated 'European sites' both within the study area and within a 20 km buffer zone. The following European sites were identified and are shown on Map 1:

Within the Richmondshire Plan Area

2.2 There are two Natura 2000 designation sites within, or partially within the boundaries of the Richmondshire plan area:

1. North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA
2. North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC

2.3 The North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA make up the vast majority of the land designated as European sites within the Richmondshire plan area, most notably across Redmire and Stainton Moor (located to the north-west of Leyburn) and an area on Witton Moor (to the north of Colsterdale and Agra Moors) located to the far south of the Plan Area. The Redmire / Stainton Moor element of the North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) known as 'Lovely Seat-Stainton Moor' whilst the Witton Moor element of the North Pennine Moors SAC / SPA is also designated as a SSSI (known as 'East Nidderdale Moors'). Tan Hill is also designated as part of the North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA whilst it is also within the Bowes Moor SSSI.

2.4 In comparison with the area of land designated within the Richmondshire plan area as North Pennine Moors SAC / SPA, the area of land designated as North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC is much smaller and limited to several relatively small sites in and around the settlement of Richmond, namely two small sites immediately to the north of the Richmond Racecourse Conservation Area (also classified as Gingerfields SSSI) and another relatively small site to the south of Mercury Bridge (also classified as Richmond Meadows SSSI) (see Map 1 Richmond Inset).

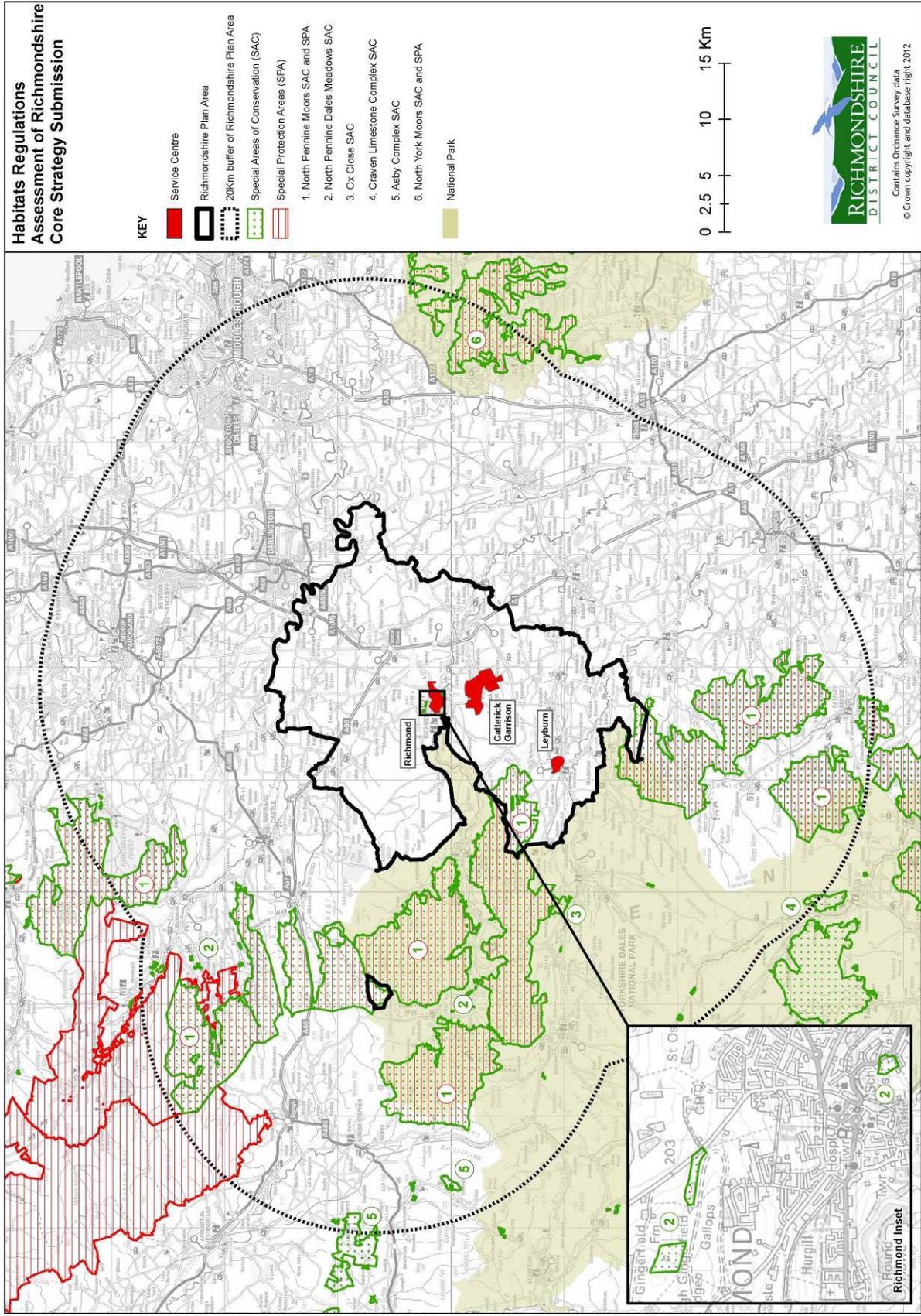
Within the 20 km 'Buffer Zone' around the Richmondshire Plan Area

1. North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA
2. North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC
3. Ox Close SAC
4. Craven Limestone Complex SAC
5. Asby Complex SAC
6. North York Moors SAC and SPA

2.6 The areas designated as North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA within the Richmondshire plan area are essentially small, outer sections of much larger designated areas which stretch westwards from the plan area into the Yorkshire Dales National Park and southwards into Harrogate. In fact, over 50 per cent of the northern section of the Richmondshire District located within the Yorkshire Dales National Park is designated as North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA. It is also designated as a SSSI.

2.7 As well as being located within the Richmondshire plan area, small pockets of North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC exist within the Yorkshire Dales National Park, particularly to the west of the Richmondshire plan area.

Map 1 - European designated Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas



- 2.8 The Ox Close SAC is located within the boundaries of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, adjacent to Eller Beck and south of Carperby (this site is also classified as a SSSI). The site is approximately 5 km to the west of the western boundary of the Richmondshire plan area.
- 2.9 The Craven Limestone Complex SAC is located within the district of Craven, but within the boundaries of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. This SAC is approximately 20 km to the south-west of the southern boundary of the Richmondshire plan area. The site is also a SSSI.
- 2.10 The Asby Complex SAC is located approximately 19 km to the west of Tan Hill within the District of Eden. The site is also a classified SSSI.
- 2.11 The North York Moors SAC / SPA is located approximately 15 km to the east of the eastern boundary of the Richmondshire plan area. The elements of the SAC/SPA within 20 km of the plan area boundary are within the North York Moors National Park within the district of Hambleton.
- 2.12 No Ramsar sites, wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention, were identified within the Richmondshire plan area or within the 20 km Buffer Zone.
- 2.13 The features and characteristics of the relevant European sites are detailed in Appendix A.

3.0 Methodology

- 3.1 The Habitats Regulations requires that *'Where a land use plan [...] is likely to have a significant effect on a European site [...] the plan-making authority [...] must, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives'*.
- 3.2 The Richmondshire Core Strategy is a spatial document made up of Spatial Principles, Sub Area Strategies and Core Policies which will help shape the places and areas within the plan area up to 2028. These policies and principles could have a direct or indirect impact on designated European sites both within and outside of the plan area, therefore a HRA is necessary.
- 3.3 A 20 km buffer area beyond the boundaries of the plan area has been adopted to identify the relevant European sites. The relevant designated sites and accompanying site information have been considered in this screening assessment. Following the designated site identification, each Spatial Principle, Sub Area Strategy and Core Policy has been assessed in isolation for potential effects. These potential effects have been categorised in line with Natural England guidance. This has been set out in the form of a Policy Matrix in the following section.
- 3.4 The second part of the screening assessment involves looking at the Core Strategy principles and policies *in combination* with other elements of plans and programmes for likely significant effects. If policies or principles of the Core Strategy are considered to have likely significant effects (either on their own or 'in combination' with other plans or strategies), then the policies/principles will be amended where appropriate.
- 3.5 If the screening assessment results in likely significant effects on designated sites then an Appropriate Assessment of the Core Strategy will be required.
- 3.6 This screening assessment involves a professional judgment to determine whether the effects would have likely or unlikely significant effects on European sites.
- 3.7 Core policies have been assessed against the table of criteria, developed below by Tyldesley and Associates (2007) in association with Natural England². Table 1 identifies 13 criteria, against which parts or policies of a DPD can be assessed to establish whether they have the potential to significantly adversely affect European sites within and outside the plan area. The criteria have been specifically established to assess plans at a regional level, but can equally apply to District level policies and plans. All Core policies were screened according to the approach set out in the guidance.
- 3.8 Whether or not there is a likely significant effect on one or more European sites depends on the designated interest features of a site, their current status or condition and their likely sensitivity to policies or activities promoted by the Core Strategy either in isolation or in combination with the policies of other relevant plans and strategies. Indirect as well as direct impacts should be considered.

² *Assessment of Regional Spatial Strategies and Sub-Regional Strategies Under the Provisions of the Habitats Regulations: Draft guidance (issue 2)* David Tyldesley and Associates for English Nature, March 2007.

Table 1: Criteria to assess the Impact of DPD Policies on *Natura 2000* Sites (Tyldesley and Associates 2007)

Elements of the DPD that will have no effect on a European site	
1.	The policy or proposal will not itself lead to development (e.g. it relates to design or other qualitative criteria for development, or it is not a land use planning policy).
2.	The policy or proposal is intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity.
3.	The policy or proposal is intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, and enhancement measures will not be likely to have any effect on a European site.
4.	The policy or proposal positively steers development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas, e.g. not developing in areas of flood risk or areas otherwise likely to be affected by climate change; or concentration of development in urban areas will not affect European site and will help to steer development and land use change away from European site and associated sensitive areas.
Elements of the DPD that will be subject to HR or project assessment 'down the line' to protect European sites	
5.	No development could occur through this policy or proposal alone, because it is implemented through sub-ordinate policies which are more detailed and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on European sites and associated sensitive areas.
6.	The policy or proposal makes provision for a quantum / type of development (and may or may not indicate one or more broad locations) but the location of the development is to be selected following consideration of options of subsequent documents (e.g. site allocations DPD).
Elements of the DPD that could or would have a potential effect on European sites	
7.	The policy or proposal steers a quantum or type of development towards, or encourages development in, an area that includes a European site or an area where development may indirectly affect a European site.
8.	The policy or proposal makes provision for a quantum, or kind of development that in the location(s) proposed could have a likely significant effect on a European site.
9.	The policy or proposal could result in cumulative effects on European sites (especially indirect effects), which alone would not be significant but in combination are likely to be.
10.	Programmes or sequences of development delivered via a series of projects, over a period, where the implementation of the early stages would not have a significant effect on European sites, but which effectively dictate the shape, scale, duration, location, and timing of the whole project, which could have an adverse effect on such sites.
11.	Developments that could close off options or alternatives in the future, that may lead to adverse effects on European sites.
12.	Proposals that have a high risk of failing the tests of the Habitats Regulations at project assessment stage.
13.	Policies or proposals for a quantum of development that, no matter where it was located, it would have a likely significant effect on a European site.

4.0 Analysis and Appropriate Assessment

- 4.1 This section attempts to investigate in detail the likely significant effects (if any) of the Spatial Principles, Sub Area Strategies and Core Policies on the integrity of the designated European sites, both inside and outside the plan area. Both direct and indirect impacts will be considered as well as the possible effects of the Core Strategy in combination with other relevant plans and strategies. For convenience the analysis and Appropriate Assessment stages have been combined.
- 4.2 This section has been split into 3 parts: Part 1 will discuss possible areas of concern based on the location, characteristics, vulnerabilities and conservation objectives of the relevant European sites inside and outside the plan area. The intention of this part is to provide a better understanding of potential issues which might affect the integrity of the European sites. Part 2 is a Policy Matrix which will specifically assess the impact of the Spatial Principles, Sub Area Strategies and Core Policies of the Core Strategy on the relevant European sites, taking into consideration the characteristics, features and conservation objectives of each European site. The Policy Matrix will use the criteria in Table 1 to help assess the impact on each site. Finally, Part 3 will provide a detailed site-by-site summary of the likely significant effects of the Spatial Principles, Sub Area Strategies and Core Policies of the Core Strategy in relation to the relevant European sites.

Part 1: Potential areas of concern

- 4.3 Below is a list of possible and potential threats to the integrity of the relevant European sites that could be created or intensified by the policies and principles or the Core Strategy. These potential threats reflect the characteristics, features, vulnerabilities and conservation objectives of the European sites in question, although the subsequent Policy Matrix may show that the principles and policies of the Core Strategy do not lead to the creation or exacerbation of such threats within these designated sites. Other potential threats have been excluded which are not considered to have any particular relevance to the policies and principles of the Core Strategy, for example scrub / tree / bracken encroachment and invasive / destructive flora and fauna species; inappropriate burning and site management, overgrazing or under-grazing.

Physical loss of habitat through additional land take and 'habitat nibbling'

- 4.4 Although the policies and spatial principles of the Core Strategy (whether in isolation or in combination with other plans or strategies) is unlikely to result in direct land take within European sites as a result of their strict protection under national legislation and EU Directives, the integrity of sites and their important features may be affected by land use changes outside of the boundaries within European sites, particularly on their peripheries. However, qualifying interest features within sites and the integrity of sites may be affected by land use changes outside the boundaries of European sites such as foraging sites for some bird and bat species. For instance, the breeding success of the Golden Plover is affected by the availability of short wet sward with suitable invertebrate food, and lack of disturbance.

Impact of tourist-related pressure and disturbance

- 4.5 The importance and popularity of tourism in and around Richmondshire (particularly the Yorkshire Dales National Park, Lower Wensleydale and

Richmond Town) continues to place pressure on European sites. For instance, casual disturbance from walkers has been shown to affect breeding upland birds such as Golden Plover. Whilst the impact of tourism and visitors can be to some extent mitigated by the provision of well-maintained, conveniently-located and well sign-posted tracks and routes, the impact of policies that encourage tourism need to be carefully considered in terms of any likely significant effects on European sites and their qualifying features.

Urban-related disturbance and impacts

- 4.6 Disturbance within and adjacent to European sites as a result of recreational and urban-related pressures primarily in respect of additional housing, economic development and infrastructure provision in and around the European sites needs to be considered, particularly in relation to areas of potential growth (e.g. Richmond Meadows and Gingerfields SSSIs, both of which are designated as 'North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC sites). Such urban-related disturbance can be the result of a wide-variety of sources such as recreational users and pets, arson, litter and increased motorcycle use. Noise disturbance from traffic has also been shown to reduce breeding bird densities and success in songbirds. Light pollution can be a problem in or adjacent to urban areas and may adversely affect the more 'urban' SAC sites adjacent to the settlement of Richmond. Light pollution / disturbance can affect nocturnal animals, bats in particular, as well as migrating birds.

Water abstraction and contamination resulting in decrease in water quality

- 4.7 Potential water abstraction to supply increases in population, with resultant decreases in river or ground water levels. This could potentially affect a range of Natura 2000 sites, including rivers and wetlands, or terrestrial sites where water levels are already at critical levels.
- 4.8 Potential contamination effects, for example due to increased pressure on sewage treatment facilities, accidental one-off pollution incidents associated with water/sewage treatment facilities or industrial discharges, could have likely significant effect on the integrity of European sites.

Air pollution and decrease in air quality

- 4.9 Airborne pollutants can have a direct impact on habitats and species. The main pollutants are sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), ammonia (NH₃), ozone (O₃), acid deposition and nitrogen deposition. Halogens, Heavy Metals, Volatile organic compounds (VOCs), Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and Dusts are also all responsible for adverse effects upon ecological processes. More detailed descriptions of these processes and their potential impact on fauna and flora is available in Appendix B.

Bird strike and impact on bird flight paths and migration routes

- 4.10 Although existing research suggests that bird strike from wind turbines (either as a result of the blades or the striking of the mast) is less frequent than commonly believed, certain species of bird seem to have higher collision mortality rates than others. Given the sensitive and rare nature of some bird species within Natura 2000 sites, any individual or cumulative impact on resident bird populations of European sites (including flight paths and migration routes) needs to be carefully considered and assessed in relation to the location of individual turbines and wind farms.

Part 2: The policy matrix

- 4.11 Tables 2 and 3 form the policy matrix to assess the likely significant effects of the Spatial Principles, Sub Area Strategies and Core Policies of the Core Strategy on Natura 2000 sites within and up to 20 km outside the Richmondshire plan area. A traffic light system (Table 3), in combination with the 13 Criteria outlined in Table 1, has been used to assess the possible and potential effects on the integrity of the European sites.

Table 2: Assessing significant effects

'Traffic Light' Colour Key	
Green	No likely significant effects on the <i>Natura 2000</i> Site(s)
Orange	Potential for significant effects on the <i>Natura 2000</i> Site(s)
Red	Likely significant effects on the <i>Natura 2000</i> Site(s)
European sites (SAC and SPA)	
<i>Within the Plan Area</i>	
North Pennine Moors SAC	
North Pennine Moors SPA	
North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC	
<i>Outside the Plan Area (within 20 kms)</i>	
North Pennine Moors SAC	
North Pennine Moors SPA	
North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC	
Ox Close SAC	
Craven Limestone Complex SAC	
Asby Complex SAC	
North York Moors SAC	
North York Moors SPA	

Table 3: Assessment of Spatial Principles, Sub Area Strategies and Core Policies

Spatial Principles, Sub Area Strategies and Core Policies	Summary	Criteria Number (Refer to Table 1)	Natura 2000 Sites Not Considered Likely to be Significantly Affected by the Spatial Principle/Policy/Sub Area Strategy and Why?	Natura 2000 Sites Likely and Potentially Significantly Affected by the Spatial Principle/Policy/Sub Area Strategy and Why?
<p>Spatial Principle SP1: Sub Areas</p>	<p>A different strategic approach will be taken for each of the three sub areas within the plan area:</p> <p>Central: Area of greatest expansion. The area where most housing and employment-related development will take place.</p> <p><u>Lower Wensleydale:</u> Area of modest growth.</p> <p><u>North Richmondshire:</u> An area more modest growth.</p>	<p>7</p>	<p><u>Ox Close SAC</u> The substantial distance of the site from the larger settlements and sub-areas within the plan area which will experience the most development growth will mean that the site is unlikely to be directly or indirectly affected by the spatial implications of SP1.</p> <p><u>Craven Limestone Complex SAC</u> The substantial distance of the site from the larger settlements and sub-areas within the plan area which will experience the most development growth will mean that the site is unlikely to be directly or indirectly affected by the spatial implications of SP1.</p> <p><u>Asby Complex SAC</u> The substantial distance of the site from the larger settlements and sub-areas within the plan area which will experience the most development growth will mean that the site is unlikely to be directly or indirectly affected by the spatial implications of SP1.</p> <p><u>North York Moors SAC and SPA</u> The substantial distance of the site from the larger settlements and sub-areas within the plan area which will experience the most development growth will mean that the sites are unlikely to be directly or indirectly affected by the spatial implications of SP1.</p> <p><u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Outside Plan Area)</u> The substantial distance of the site from the larger settlements and sub-areas within the plan area which will experience the most development growth will mean that the sites are unlikely to be directly or indirectly affected by the spatial implications of SP1.</p>	<p><u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Inside Plan Area)</u> SP1 highlights the Central sub-area (which includes Richmond) as the sub-area where the most housing and employment-related development will occur. Whilst a substantial amount of the new development will take place in the Colburn / Scotton / Hipswell area, the close proximity of the Gingerfields and Richmond Meadows SSSI / NPDM SAC sites to Richmond town could adversely affect the sites as a result of loss of habitat through development pressures and noise, airborne and light pollution from development and/or the local road network. Additional pressures could also result from disturbance from increases in urban recreational activities and vandalism/arson as a result of new housing development in Richmond town.</p> <p><u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Inside Plan Area)</u> SP1 expects most of the housing and economic-related development to be located in the Central Area, whilst Lower Wensleydale is seen as an area of modest growth. Most of the growth in the Central sub-area will take place in the Principal Towns of Richmond and Colburn / Scotton / Hipswell, a sufficient distance away from the NPM SPA / SAC to the west of the Plan Area. Additional economic-related and housing development in the Central Area and Leyburn could raise pollution disturbance issues relating to additional traffic on the local road network in and around the NPM SAC / SPAs within the Plan Areas as well as any likely significant effects associated from additional recreational pressures in association with new housing development in Leyburn in particular.</p> <p><u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Outside Plan Area)</u> Although the NPM SAC / SPA sites outside of</p>

Spatial Principles, Sub Area Strategies and Core Policies	Summary	Criteria Number (Refer to Table 1)	Natura 2000 Sites Not Considered Likely to be Significantly Affected by the Spatial Principle/Policy/Sub Area Strategy and Why?	Natura 2000 Sites Likely and Potentially Significantly Affected by the Spatial Principle/Policy/Sub Area Strategy and Why?
<p>Spatial Principle SP2: Settlement Hierarchy</p>	<p>Proposes a Sustainable Settlement Hierarchy (SSH) for development and service provision within the plan area.</p> <p>The main focus of development and service provision will be in the Principal Towns (Catterick Garrison and Richmond). The Local Service Centre (Leyburn) will serve the needs of the town and the surrounding area with an appropriate level of development.</p> <p>Primary Service Villages (PSV) (7 in total) will supplement development and services of the upper tiers of the hierarchy and help meet the needs of the dispersed rural communities.</p> <p>Secondary Service Villages (SSV) (6 in total including 3 clusters) to accommodate limited small scale development where it supports the needs and sustainability of the local community.</p>	<p>7</p>	<p><u>Ox Close SAC</u> The SAC site is approximately 5 km west of the boundary between the plan area and the YDNP and approximately 12 kilometres to the west of Leyburn. It is unlikely to be indirectly or directly affected as a result of the general scale and distribution of development embodied within the SSH.</p> <p><u>Craven Limestone Complex SAC</u> This SAC is located approximately 20 kilometres to the south-west of the southern boundary of the Richmondshire plan area. Taking into account this distance and the fact that no SSH settlements are located in close proximity to the southern boundary of the Plan Area, there is unlikely to be any impact on the SAC as a result of this Spatial Principle.</p> <p><u>Asby Complex SAC</u> The SAC is located approximately 19 kilometres to the west of Tan Hill within the District of Eden. Taking into account this distance and the fact that no SSH settlements are located in the Tan Hill area, there is unlikely to be any impact on the SAC as a result of this Spatial Principle.</p>	<p>the Plan Area are further away from the higher order settlements (such as Richmond, Colburn / Scotton / Hipswell) than those SAC / SPA sites within the Plan Area, issues relating to additional disturbance from additional recreational uses associated with the new housing and economic development in Lower Wensleydale and Leyburn in particular, as well as additional disturbance and airborne pollution from increased traffic using the local road network, particularly the A6108 which links Leyburn to Richmond and the Grinton-Redmire and Stainton Moor unclassified roads which traverse the Redmire and Stainton Moors, could similarly adversely affect the areas of the North Pennine Moors SAC / SPA outside but immediately to the west the site as much as the parts of the SPA / SAC inside the Plan Area.</p> <p><u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (inside Plan Area)</u> The Gingerfields and Richmond Meadows SSSI sites (also designated as NPDM SAC sites) could face the potential loss of habitat through development land pressure as the Gingerfields sites are located to the north of the settlement of Richmond whilst the Richmond Meadows site is located within the centre of the town, surrounded in part by development and adjacent to the public highway of Station Road. The 'Richmond Racecourse' Conservation Area provides an effective buffer between the northern limits of the town and the Gingerfields sites which would effectively negate any adverse impact from additional development on the northern Development Limits of the town as the character of the racecourse is very much open with only the derelict grandstand towards the centre of the site providing the only remaining structure in the Conservation Area.</p> <p>The Richmond Meadows site is close to the Development Limits of the town and therefore has the greatest potential of all the European sites identified as being adversely affected by the proportion and distribution of development as outlined in SP4 (Richmond is identified as a</p>

Spatial Principles, Sub Area Strategies and Core Policies	Summary	Criteria Number (Refer to Table 1)	Natura 2000 Sites Not Considered Likely to be Significantly Affected by the Spatial Principle/Policy/Sub Area Strategy and Why?	Natura 2000 Sites Likely and Potentially Significantly Affected by the Spatial Principle/Policy/Sub Area Strategy and Why?
			<p><u>North York Moors SAC and SPA</u> The North York Moors SAC / SPA is located approximately 20 kilometres to the east of the eastern boundary of the Richmondshire plan area. Taking into account this distance and that the only SSH settlement close to the eastern boundary is the Secondary Service Village of North Cowton, there is unlikely to be any impact on the SAC as a result of this Spatial Principle.</p> <p><u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Outside Plan Area)</u> The substantial distances of the North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC sites outside of the plan area from any SSH settlements within the plan area would mean that any impact of SP2 on these sites is considered unlikely.</p>	<p><u>Principle Town in SP2)</u> Although the site is outside of existing Development Limits and is highly constrained physically by the River Swale to the north and west and the highway to the west, its location close to existing development within the town of Richmond raises concerns that development pressures associated with Richmond's status as a Principal Town and the lack of available developable land due to the strong environmental constraints associated with the town could result in development in close proximity to the SAC site. Natural England has identified development on or adjacent to North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC sites as a factor potentially affecting their maintenance in a favourable condition, although this is considered a 'less important' factor by NE).</p> <p>The close proximity of the Gingerfields and Richmond Meadows SAC sites to Richmond town could adversely affect the sites as a result of loss of habitat through development pressures and noise, airborne and light pollution from development and/or the local road network. Additional pressures could also result from disturbance from increases in urban recreational activities and vandalism/arson as a result of new housing development in Richmond town.</p> <p><u>North Pennine Moors SPA and SPA (Inside Plan Area)</u> Although the villages of Redmire, Preston-under-Scar, Bellerby and Stainton are located within 1.5 kilometres of the boundaries of the North Pennine Moors SAC / SPA which covers parts of Redmire and Stainton Moors in the west of the plan area, none of these villages are included within the Sustainable Settlement Hierarchy and therefore are unlikely to experience any quantum of housing or economic development which would directly or indirectly affect the integrity or qualifying features of the adjacent SAC and SPA sites.</p> <p>The northern settlement outskirts of Leyburn are approximately 2 km from the nearest section of</p>

Spatial Principles, Sub Area Strategies and Core Policies	Summary	Criteria Number (Refer to Table 1)	Natura 2000 Sites Not Considered Likely to be Significantly Affected by the Spatial Principle/Policy/Sub Area Strategy and Why?	Natura 2000 Sites Likely and Potentially Significantly Affected by the Spatial Principle/Policy/Sub Area Strategy and Why?
				<p>the SAC / SPA. This distance is unlikely to lead to direct land grabbing, contamination or light pollution impacts as a result of the proposed scale and distribution of housing and economic development in Leyburn, although increased levels of traffic as a result of this development could create additional disturbance and airborne pollution on the local road network, particularly the A6108 which links Leyburn to Richmond and the Grinton-Redmire and Stainton Moor unclassified roads which traverse the Redmire and Stainton Moors respectively. Although any upgrade or extension of these roads would be unlikely given the current strategies of the Highway Authority (see NYCC Local Transport Plan 3) and economic constraints, increased traffic on these routes could create pollution and disturbance to the adjacent SAC and SPA sites.</p> <p>Recreational disturbance pressures on the SAC and SPA sites could be increased on the sites as a result of the additional levels of housing and economic development in Leyburn to the detriment of flora and fauna within the sites.</p> <p>The remote Tan Hill which is also designated as North Pennine Moors SAC / SPA sites (and Bowes Moor SSSI) is unlikely to experience any development pressures as a result of this policy due to its remote rural location some way away from any of the settlements within the SSH.</p> <p><u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Outside Plan Area)</u> Although the SAC/SPA sites outside of the Plan Area are further away from SSH settlements than those SAC/SPA sites within the Plan Area, issues relating to additional disturbance from additional recreational uses associated with the new housing and economic development in Leyburn in particular, as well as additional disturbance and airborne pollution from increased traffic using the local road network, particularly the A6108 which links Leyburn to Richmond and the Grinton-Redmire and Stainton Moor unclassified roads which traverse</p>

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Spatial Principle SP3: Rural Sustainability	Rural sustainability by protecting and enhancing its environmental assets and character, and sustaining the social and economic fabric of its communities. This will be achieved by promoting: a sustainable rural economy, social and economic regeneration, conservation or improvement of the rural environment, appropriate rural housing schemes to achieve sustainable communities, the appropriate reuse of redundant buildings and renewable energy generation.	3	<p><u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Inside Plan Area); North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Inside Plan Area); Ox Close SAC; Craven Limestone Complex SAC; Asby Complex SAC; North York Moors SAC and SPA; North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Outside Plan Area); North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Outside Plan Area)</u></p> <p>Whilst SP3 would allow rural housing schemes and the reuse of redundant buildings in the countryside, these developments will be small in scale and sustainable and unlikely to have a likely significant effect on any European sites either within or outside of the plan area. SP3 also supports rural sustainability through the protection and enhancement of environmental assets and the conservation and improvement of the rural environment as well as supporting the use of renewable energy. This could have positive benefits for the protection of the European sites in and outside the plan area.</p>	None.
Spatial Principle SP4: Scale and Distribution of Housing Development	<p>The completion of net additional dwellings as follows:</p> <p>180 homes pa for general housing needs.</p> <p>1,440 homes for the specific needs of the military development (to 2028)</p> <p>Below is the % of the housing development to be accommodated and total numbers to 2028:</p> <p>Central Richmondshire: 79% Lower Wensleydale: 12% North Richmondshire: 9%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hipswell / Scotton / Colburn (62% / 1900) 	7	<p><u>Ox Close SAC; Craven Limestone Complex SAC; Asby Complex SAC; North York Moors SAC; North York Moors SPA; North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Outside Plan Area)</u></p>	<p>See Details of SP1 and SP2 Above.</p> <p><u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Inside Plan Area); North Pennine Moors SAC (Inside Plan Area)</u> <u>and North Pennine Moors SPA (Inside Plan Area); North Pennine Moors SAC (Outside Plan Area)</u></p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richmond Town (8% / 250) Leyburn (7% / 215) PSV (13% / 390) SSV (5% / 155) Elsewhere (5% / 150) 			
Spatial Principle SP5: Scale and Distribution of Economic Development	<p>12 hectares of employment land to be brought forward by 2028.</p> <p>Priority to supporting the rural economy (especially agriculture and tourism). Support will also be given to the establishment and development of higher skilled and better paid jobs, and improved accommodation, including the establishment of digital and creative industries.</p> <p>Most employment will be within the Principal Towns and Local Service Centre and promoted in the following key employment locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walkerville, Colburn, Gallowfields Estate, Brompton on Swale Military-related development at CG Main Site and Marne Barracks; Harmby Road, Leyburn; Stables at Middleham Small scale development to meet local needs elsewhere. 	7	<p><u>Ox Close SAC</u>; <u>Craven Limestone Complex SAC</u>; <u>Asby Complex SAC</u>; <u>North York Moors SAC</u> and <u>SPA</u></p> <p>The distance of these sites from the town centres of Richmond, Leyburn and Colburn / Hipswell / Scotton and existing industrial / economic sites within the plan area - would mean that there would be no adverse direct or indirect impact on the integrity of the sites as a result of SP5.</p>	<p><u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC</u> (inside Plan Area) (outside Plan Area)</p> <p>SP5 states that most employment development will be encouraged to locate within development limits of Richmond, Colburn / Hipswell / Scotton and Leyburn, whilst specifically mentioning key employment locations including the Gallowfields Estate. SP5 only envisages the expansion of the Estate to the north-east (an area approx. 1.9ha in size) and seeks a 'rationalisation'; of the Estate to encourage reduced heavy goods vehicle movements. Although uses on the Estate are not specifically restricted by SP5, it does state that an appropriate range of complementary uses should be promoted. Given the Estate's relatively close proximity to the Gingerfields SSSI / NIPDM SAC sites in Richmond (the northern element of the Estate is separated from the Gingerfields sites by the Richmond Racecourse Conservation Area) there is a potential for light, noise and airborne pollution – as a result of increased industrial activity and associated traffic movements - from any change in the size and character of the Estate.</p> <p>In consideration of the restricted expansion and 'rationalisation' of the Estate – as well as the promotion of appropriate uses on the Estate, there is unlikely to be any significant impact on the integrity of the SAC sites as a result of additional noise and light disruption or airborne pollution as a result of the scale and nature of the industrial and economic activities likely to be undertaken on the Estate (including potential increases in traffic and HGV movements).</p> <p><u>North Pennine Moors SAC</u> and <u>SPA</u> (Inside Plan Area)</p> <p>SP5 seeks to encourage economic and light industrial development within the town centres</p>

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				<p>of Richmond, Colburn / Hipswell / Scotton and Leyburn. The location and nature of these activities are unlikely to have any significant direct or indirect effect on the NPM SAC / SPA sites within the plan area, although increased traffic movements to and from Leyburn on the local road network that traverses and is adjacent to the SAC / SPA sites could be affected by noise and light disturbance and from increases in air borne pollution caused by increased traffic movements.</p> <p>Although most economic development will be encouraged to take place within Development Limits of settlements (and therefore unlikely to have a material impact on the SPA / SAC sites in the south and west of the plan area as well as at Tan Hill), priority will nevertheless also be given to supporting the rural economy, especially developments associated with agriculture and tourism. However, due to their character and limited scale of operation, these developments should not harm environmental assets or the character of the area and are therefore unlikely to harm the integrity of European sites even where they occur in close proximity to them in rural areas.</p> <p><u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Outside Plan Area)</u></p> <p>Development is to be encouraged to locate in the town centres of Richmond, Leyburn, Colburn / Hipswell / Scotton and existing economic sites within Development Limits and as such the policy is unlikely to have any significant impact on <i>Natura 2000</i> sites outside the plan area generally due to the distances involved, although a potential increase in business-related traffic on the local road network around Leyburn as a result of this policy could have a likely significant effect - in terms of airborne pollution and disturbance - on elements of the NPM SAC and SPA sites outside of the plan area, particularly as parts of the local road network both traverse and border the European sites providing road links between Leyburn and</p>

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<p>Central Richmondshire Spatial Strategy (CRSS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support will be given to the complementary development of Richmond and Catterick Garrison Catterick Garrison Strategic growth Area; Proposed A1 re-alignment; Maintaining the vitality and viability of Richmond, allowing appropriately scaled town centre and business uses. Further housing development of a scale and location which reflects the limited opportunities and landscape constraints around Richmond. Opportunities for development in the three PSV within the sub area will be limited. Support for further tourism and recreational development at Catterick Racecourse and Support for consolidation and enhancement of the Gatherley Road Employment Area and the completion of the Gatherley Road residential development; Development opportunities may be supported which emerge through the proposed realignment of the A1 at Marne Barracks and integrate military and non-military related development; rural sustainable development supported; Maintain and enhance the separate identities of settlements; Support the vitality and viability of the Garrison town centre and Local Centre at Colburn/Walkerville. <p>Development will support the viability of the existing facilities and community cohesion, in opportunities for sustainable and low carbon building in</p>	<p align="center">7</p>	<p><u>North Pennine Moors SAC (Inside Plan Area) and North Pennine Moors SPA (Inside Plan Area):</u></p> <p>Although an element of the Lovely Seat-Stainton Moor SSSI (which is also designated as NPM SAC/SPA) is within the 'Central Sub-Area' as classified in the Core Strategy, there are no SSH settlements in or close to the boundaries of the SPA/SAC meaning that direct or indirect impacts on these sites – as a result of CASS – are considered unlikely.</p> <p><u>Ox Close SAC; Craven Limestone Complex SAC; Asby Complex SAC; North York Moors SAC and SPA; North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Outside Plan Area);</u></p> <p><u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Outside Plan Area)</u></p>	<p><u>Reefth.</u></p> <p><u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC</u></p> <p>The policy acknowledges the limitations of Richmond town for housing development as a result of its environmental constraints and states that housing development should be of a scale and location to reflect this. Key green corridors and wedges within the urban area of the town should be retained.</p> <p>Although the close proximity of the NPDM sites to the urban area of Richmond could possibly mean that any increase in housing and economic development within Richmond (particularly to the northern and southern outskirts) could have a detrimental impact on the NPDM SAC sites, although the limiting constraints on the scale and distribution of housing development in particular and the specific requirement of the policy to retain key green corridors and wedges within the town should negate the impact of additional development on these relevant European sites.</p> <p><u>Natural England have stated that:</u></p> <p><u>In Catterick Garrison there are no major environmental constraints, however it will be important to consider the in-combination effects with other strategic options.</u></p>

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<p>Lower Wensleydale Spatial Strategy (LWSS)</p>	<p>larger scale development; ensure that necessary infrastructure is provided to support development.</p> <p>In Leyburn, support will be given to its role as a gateway to the Yorkshire Dales and to maintaining the viability and vitality of the town centre through the encouragement of appropriate retail, business and tourism uses, environmental and infrastructure improvements and development associated with the expansion of the evening economy. Further housing development in accordance with SP4. Retention and enhancement of the auction mart. Support given to tourism and operational developments associated with the Wensleydale Railway. The encouragement of development of arts and workshop space for creative industries and the provision of cultural facilities.</p> <p>In Middleham, there is limited potential for additional development beyond existing Development Limits. Support will be given to development and infrastructure associated with tourism and the horse racing industry with priority towards the retention of existing facilities.</p> <p>In the three Secondary Service Villages, small scale and limited development may be acceptable where it supports the needs and sustainability of the local community.</p> <p>In rural parts, sustainable development in accordance with SP3 will be supported.</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>See SP1 and SP2 above regarding impact of Leyburn housing development on Natura 2000 sites and SP5 regarding economic-related uses in Leyburn town centre.</p> <p><u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC</u> (Inside Plan Area); <u>Ox Close SAC</u>; <u>Craven Limestone Complex SAC</u>; <u>Asby Complex SAC</u>; <u>North York Moors SAC and SPA</u>; <u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Outside Plan Area)</u>; <u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Outside Plan Area)</u></p> <p>The existing route of the Wensleydale Railway does not traverse any of the European sites within the plan area and the track is a sufficient distance away from the Lovely Seat – Stainton Moor SSSI element of the NPM SAC & SPA not to have a significant effect on the European sites through airborne pollution or disturbance.</p> <p>Proposals have been mooted in terms of extending the railway to link to Northallerton station (to the east) and potentially Askrigg and/or Garside Head to the west. Such an expansion to the west could result in a route through part of the North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA within the Yorkshire Dales National Park (outside of the plan area). The expansion to the railway or associated tourist facilities within the plan area is unlikely to affect any European sites inside or outside the plan area so the policy is considered unlikely to have any significant effect on Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>The distance between Middleham and the Writton / Colsterdale Moors elements of the NPM SAC / SPA – as well as the limited scale and character of the development proposed in this settlement is considered unlikely to raise any significant effect in relation to the European sites within and outside of the plan area.</p> <p>The limited nature of the development</p>	<p><u>North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA (inside Plan Area)</u> Natural England stated that: There are no nature conservation sites within the immediate vicinity of Leyburn. However, the North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA is located just over 2km to the north with a further component approximately 5km to the south. Recreational and visitor pressure may be an issue in this settlement, particularly given the close proximity to the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The capacity of the settlement to accommodate additional residents should be considered in relation to the potential impacts of increased visitors to and near the North Pennine Moors, for example it may be necessary to provide Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGs) to reduce visitor pressure on nearby designated sites.</p>

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North Richmondshire Spatial Strategy (NRSS)	<p>Limited growth or change and an approach of relative constraint.</p> <p>In the three PSVs, development will be small in scale and in support of the PSV roles of these villages. Support will be given to the consolidation or limited expansion of developments in the vicinity of the A1 Scotch corner junction. Support will be given to the approved Service Area proposals at the A1 Barton junction.</p> <p>In the SSVs, small scale and limited development may be acceptable where it supports the needs and sustainability of the local community.</p> <p>In rural parts, sustainable development in accordance with SP3 will be supported.</p>	4	<p>proposed in the Secondary Service Villages and other rural parts of the settlements is considered unlikely to have any significant effect on the <i>Natura 2000</i> sites.</p> <p><u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Inside Plan Area); North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Inside Plan Area); Ox Close SAC; Craven Limestone Complex SAC; Asby Complex SAC; North York Moors SAC and SPA; North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Outside Plan Area); North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Outside Plan Area)</u></p> <p>The limited and constrained nature of development in this sub-area and the distance of any SSH Sustainable Settlement Hierarchy settlements from any <i>Natura 2000</i> sites, means that this policy is considered unlikely to have any significant effect on any of the European sites inside or outside of the plan area.</p>	None.
Core Policy CP0: Planning Positively	Please see assessment under CP2 below as CP0 is an extract of CP2.			
Core Policy CP1: Responding to Climate Change	<p>Responding to climate change and reducing carbon emissions by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support renewable and low carbon Energy Generation provided they : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> respond positively to the 2012 Richmondshire Local Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Capacity Study and the study's identified energy opportunities; do not have significant adverse impacts and demonstrate benefits for communities. Ensure carbon savings by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> energy efficiency improvements to existing dwellings; 	2	<p><u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Inside Plan Area); North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Inside Plan Area); Ox Close SAC; Craven Limestone Complex SAC; Asby Complex SAC; North York Moors SAC and SPA; North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Outside Plan Area); North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Outside Plan Area)</u></p> <p>Policy CP1 would help to mitigate and adapt to the potential impacts of Climate Change, whilst also minimise the impact on natural resources, which is generally unlikely to have any negative impact on <i>Natura 2000</i> sites inside or outside the plan area and will help reduce the amount of carbon emissions in the atmosphere positively contributing to the health of sites.</p>	None.

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	<p>b) achieve sustainable construction standards for new development;</p> <p>c) provide district heating in the strategic growth areas where feasible and viable;</p> <p>d) take proportionate measures to mitigate the effects of climate change through design layout, green infrastructure minimising flood risk and using sustainable urban drainage.</p>		<p>Although the policy seeks to maximise the use of renewable sources - which would include wind turbines – there is no specific site allocations or numbers/scale of turbines to suggest that the policy could have a significant effect on bird populations via bird strike as a result of wind turbines close to <i>Natura 2000</i> sites or flight paths to and from these sites.</p> <p>Evidence of significant adverse impacts would result in a proposal being contrary to Policy CP1.</p>	
<p>Core Policy CP2: Achieving Sustainable Development (also applies to Core Policy CP0: Planning Positively)</p>	<p>Supports development which promotes sustainable development in a number of ways including the efficient use of land and infrastructure; the conservation and reuse of scarce resources; high quality and adaptability of development and the provision of essential services to the public.</p> <p>In sustainable locations, brownfield land should be utilised in preference to greenfield.</p> <p>Development that would significantly harm the natural and built environment, or that would generate a significant increase in traffic will not be permitted.</p> <p>Development and services should be located to minimise the need to travel.</p> <p>Convenient access to public and greener modes of transport should exist to improve accessibility of services.</p> <p>Achievement of a high quality of design of both buildings and landscaping.</p>	3	<p>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Inside Plan Area); North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Inside Plan Area); Ox Close SAC; Craven Limestone Complex SAC; Asby Complex SAC; North York Moors SAC and SPA; North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Outside Plan Area); North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Outside Plan Area)</p> <p>The policy will directly and indirectly help support and protect important landscapes and the wider countryside (including the integrity of <i>Natura 2000</i> sites both within and outside the plan area).</p>	None.
<p>Core Policy CP3: Supporting the Settlement Hierarchy</p>	<p>Development will be supported within or adjacent to each settlement's Development Limits.</p> <p>Preference for development within the settlement and on brownfield sites</p>	4	<p>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Inside Plan Area); North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Inside Plan Area); Ox Close SAC; Craven Limestone Complex SAC; Asby Complex SAC; North York Moors SAC and SPA; North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Outside Plan Area); North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA</p>	None.

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<p>Core Policy CP4: Supporting Sites for Development</p>	<p>Strategic areas for development identified in the Garrison area and Leyburn. Development will be of a scale and nature appropriate to each settlement and will accord with other Core Strategy policies and in particular should not lead to the loss of, or adverse impact on, important nature conservation, biodiversity or geodiversity sites.</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>(Outside Plan Area) None of the <i>Natura 2000</i> sites identified are within or adjacent to the existing Development Limits of settlements in the Sustainable Settlement Hierarchy, although the Gingerfields and Richmond Meadows North Pennine Dales and Richmond Meadows North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC sites are located relatively close to Richmond. Leyburn, is more distant being some 5-6km from the Lovely Seat SSSI (which also forms part of the NPM SAC / SPA) The 'scale and nature' of development in each SSH settlement is to be appropriate to secure sustainability and therefore this Policy does not pose any specific threat to <i>Natura 2000</i> sites both within and outside the plan area. The policy also has to be applied with other policies (e.g. CP12). <u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Inside Plan Area); North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Inside Plan Area); Ox Close SAC; Craven Limestone Complex SAC; Asby Complex SAC; North York Moors SAC and SPA; North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Outside Plan Area); North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Outside Plan Area).</u> None of the <i>Natura 2000</i> sites identified are within or adjacent to the existing Development Limits of SSH settlements and the policy cross refers to CP12 and protection of nature conservation sites. It is therefore considered unlikely to have any significant effect on any of the <i>Natura 2000</i> sites identified either within or outside of the plan area.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Core Policy CP5: Providing a Housing Mix</p>	<p>Housing proposals must take account of all local housing needs in terms of size, type and tenure, and also the accessibility and adaptability of dwellings.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p><u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Inside Plan Area); North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Inside Plan Area); Ox Close SAC; Craven Limestone Complex SAC; Asby Complex SAC; North York Moors SAC and SPA; North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Outside Plan Area); North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Outside Plan Area)</u> The policy will not itself lead to development (i.e. it relates to design and tenure of new housing development). It is therefore considered unlikely to have any significant</p>	<p>None.</p>

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<p>Core Policy CP6: Providing Affordable Housing</p>	<p>All housing developments must make provision for proportions of affordable housing, specific to each sub area:</p> <p>Exceptional small scale affordable housing developments allowed for outside village Development Limits.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>effect on any of the <i>Natura 2000</i> sites identified either within or outside of the plan area.</p> <p><u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Inside Plan Area)</u>; <u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Inside Plan Area)</u>; <u>Ox Close SAC</u>; <u>Craven Limestone Complex SAC</u>; <u>Asby Complex SAC</u>; <u>North York Moors SAC and SPA</u>; <u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Outside Plan Area)</u>; <u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Outside Plan Area)</u></p> <p>The policy will only lead to small scale new housing development outside villages. It is therefore considered unlikely to have any significant effect on any of the <i>Natura 2000</i> sites identified either within or outside of the plan area.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Core Policy CP7: Promoting a Sustainable Economy</p>	<p>Supports development of employment activities that diversify the current offer in Richmondshire; promotes the sustainable growth of the key economic sectors within the area; supports development of digital, creative and cultural enterprises; green, renewable and low carbon industries; sustaining small and medium sized enterprises, including the development of support services to encourage existing and new business to grow and the provision of education and training facilities to develop the District's skills base.</p> <p>CP7 also seeks to assist in strengthening and enhancing the role and performance of Richmond, Catterick Garrison and Leyburn town centres to ensure their continued vitality and viability; safeguarding the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services; small scale rural economic development to meet local needs; the provision of high quality sites and premises suitable for B1 uses in Richmond, Catterick Garrison and Leyburn; the development of mixed use sites, high quality layouts, landscaping and design; developing institutional and</p>	<p>7</p>	<p><u>Ox Close SAC</u>; <u>Craven Limestone Complex SAC</u>; <u>Asby Complex SAC</u>; <u>North York Moors SAC and SPA</u>; <u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Outside Plan Area)</u>.</p> <p>The policy supports the diversification of the existing employment offer within Richmondshire, allowing small businesses to grow and the provision of new premises.</p>	<p><u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Inside Plan Area)</u>; <u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Inside Plan Area)</u>; <u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Outside Plan Area)</u>.</p> <p>The policy supports the sustainable growth of specific economic sectors as well as supporting tourist developments, the diversification of the rural economy, the growth of existing and new businesses and the continued renaissance and vitality of town centres as well as the provision of quality B1 premises in these centres. Support will also be given to the provision of infrastructure and transport investment which supports economic development.</p> <p>Whilst the policy doesn't raise any specific threats to the integrity of <i>Natura 2000</i> sites within and adjacent to the plan area, changes and increases in the nature and intensity of economic related uses within existing economic sites and town centres (as discussed in relation other Core Strategy Policies) would pose a threat to <i>Natura 2000</i> sites within and immediately adjacent to the plan area, particularly as a result of the adverse pollution and disturbance caused by increased business and retail-related traffic and any new infrastructure needed to help support business. Likewise – depending on their scale, location and nature – rural diversification business</p>

Spatial Principles, Sub Area Strategies and Core Policies	Summary	Criteria Number (Refer to Table 1)	Natura 2000 Sites Not Considered Likely to be Significantly Affected by the Spatial Principle/Policy/Sub Area Strategy and Why?	Natura 2000 Sites Likely and Potentially Significantly Affected by the Spatial Principle/Policy/Sub Area Strategy and Why?
Core Policy CP8: Achieving Rural Sustainability	<p>commercial links with the Tees Valley and the North East and in providing infrastructure necessary to support economic development, including communications infrastructure, high speed broadband and transport investment.</p> <p>Support the social and economic needs of rural by encouraging:</p> <p>Small scale housing developments in or adjacent to smaller villages; expansion of rural businesses; re-use of rural buildings; diversification of the agricultural economy; tourism related initiatives; recreation uses appropriate to a rural location; small scale renewable energy projects; technological developments to facilitate employment development in rural areas and improvement of public transport.</p> <p>The policy requires no conflict with the nature conservation policies of this plan.</p>	7	<p><u>Ox Close SAC</u>; <u>Craven Limestone Complex SAC</u>; <u>Asby Complex SAC</u>; <u>North York Moors SAC and SPA</u>; <u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Outside Plan Area)</u>; <u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Outside Plan Area)</u></p> <p>The policy supports limited development in rural areas where appropriate and provided there is no conflict with nature conservation policies in the plan. The small scale, rural nature of such developments would not have any likely significant effect on any of the <i>Natura 2000</i> sites identified either within or outside of the plan area.</p>	<p>schemes and tourist related development – could pose a risk to <i>Natura 2000</i> both within and immediately adjacent to the plan area. Again, this threat is not specific to particular sites and the potential pollution and disturbance impacts of tourist related development is discussed in more detail in CP10.</p> <p><u>North Pennine Moors SAC (Inside Plan Area)</u> And <u>North Pennine Moors SPA (Inside Plan Area)</u>; <u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Inside Plan Area)</u></p> <p>The rural context of the policy means that it could have an impact on SAC / SPA sites both within and closely adjacent to the Plan Area which are located outside of development limits. However, the generally modest scale, dispersed distribution (over a large area) and low-key nature of rural development supported by this policy means that it is unlikely to have a significant effect on any of the identified <i>Natura 2000</i> sites inside or outside of the plan area. The policy also cross refers to nature conservation policies of the plan.</p>
Core Policy CP9: Supporting Town and Local Centres	<p>Maintaining and enhancing the vitality and viability of the town centres of Richmond, Catterick Garrison and Leyburn and proposals within these centres for retail and other town centre uses will be supported where development is of a scale appropriate to the role of these centres and for developments over 500m², if demonstrated that they will not adversely impact on the role, vitality and viability of the District's town centres or existing, committed and planned public and private investment in a centre or centres in the catchment area of the proposal.</p> <p>Support will be given for retail and town centre developments of more than 500m² outside of town centres where there are no suitable, viable and</p>	7	<p><u>Craven Limestone Complex SAC</u>; <u>Asby Complex SAC</u>; <u>North York Moors SAC and SPA</u>; <u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Outside Plan Area)</u></p> <p>The distance of these <i>Natura 2000</i> sites from the town centres of Leyburn, Catterick Garrison and Richmond mean that it is considered that CP9 would not have a likely significant effect on the integrity of these designated sites.</p> <p><u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Inside Plan Area)</u></p> <p>The distance between the proposed town centre of Catterick Garrison and the nearest respective <i>Natura 2000</i> site would mean that appropriate, respectful and complementary town centre-related development and activities within this centre is considered unlikely to have a significant effect on <i>Natura 2000</i> sites within or outside of the plan area.</p>	<p><u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Inside Plan Area)</u></p> <p>The Gingerfields SSSI / NPDM SAC sites are located between 1-2 kilometres to the north of the town centre of Richmond and the Richmond Meadows SAC is less than a 1 km to the east of the town centre. Whilst the policy to maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of Richmond town centre is not considered likely to have a significant effect on the SAC sites, particularly as new development associated with the vitality and viability of the centre would in reality be limited in nature and scale due to the environmental constraints and a general lack of additional developable land in and around the town centre, increased traffic to and from the town centre as a result of the enhancement of the vitality and viability of the town centre thus making it a more attractive and popular proposition for visitors, shoppers and retail/business related traffic. Such an increase</p>

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	<p>available sites firstly within, then on the edge of the existing town centre. Support will also be given where an impact assessment has demonstrated that proposals will not have an adverse impact on the vitality and viability of the District's town centres, or on existing, committed and planned public and private investment in a centre or centres in the catchment area of the proposal. Where development would be accessible by a range of transport modes, and the local transport system is capable of accommodating the potential traffic implications, support will also be given.</p> <p>Support will be given for proposals for small scale retail development outside town centres where these serve residential neighbourhoods and where development is below 500m² and is of a scale appropriate to the function of the settlement and where the development provides for the most sustainable option in villages or other locations that are remote from local services and would support the rural economy.</p>			<p>in traffic could have a significant effect on the SAC sites due to air borne pollution and disturbance from increased traffic movements. This could be a particular problem in relation to the Richmond Meadows SAC which is located immediately adjacent to Station Road which is the main highway route linking Richmond and the Garrison Area. The impact of potentially more town-centre related traffic movements on the Gingerfields SSSI / NPDM SAC sites is considered to be less significant as Washton Road (located immediately adjacent to one of the Gingerfields SSSI / NPDM SAC sites) is not such a popular route in and out of Richmond.</p> <p><u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Inside Plan Area)</u> As above – any enhancement of the vitality and viability of Leyburn town centre could lead to an increase in visitor, retail and business traffic movements (particularly as Leyburn town centre serves a relatively large hinterland including numerous smaller towns and villages in Lower Wensleydale and even as far as the upper dales). This increase in traffic on the local road network in and around Leyburn (some of which borders and even traverses elements of the NPM SPA / SAC) could lead to increased disturbance and air borne pollution which could adversely affect the flora and fauna within the SAC / SPA.</p> <p><u>Ox Close SAC</u> Any increase in traffic on the local road network around Leyburn as a result of this policy could have a significant effect - in terms of airborne pollution and disturbance - on the Ox Close SAC due to its close proximity to the north side of the A684 which provides an east-west route between Leyburn and Aysgarth, Bainbridge, Gayle and Hawes.</p> <p><u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Outside Plan Area)</u> Any increase in traffic on the local road network</p>

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<p>Core Policy CP10: Developing Tourism</p>	<p>Tourist-related activities will be encouraged where they make a sustainable contribution to the local economy and do not have a detrimental impact on (and possibly enhance) the local environment and landscape.</p> <p>Priority will be given to improvements in the range and quality of facilities and conversion rather than new build.</p> <p>Small-scale, low key and low impact tourist accommodation (i.e. caravans, chalets and camp sites) will only be supported in the countryside if they do not adversely affect the character and appearance of the area and where the local area can absorb the development.</p>	<p>7</p>	<p><u>Ox Close SAC</u>; <u>Craven Limestone Complex SAC</u>; <u>Asby Complex SAC</u>; <u>North York Moors SAC</u> and <u>SPA</u>; <u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Outside Plan Area)</u>.</p> <p>Due to their distance from the plan area, Policy CP10 is not considered likely to have a significant effect on these <i>Natura 2000</i> sites.</p> <p>Policy CP10 seeks to encourage tourism related activities to the area which creates increased activity and potential impact on the local landscape and environment through increased visitor numbers. However, it is unlikely to have any significant impacts on any SAC and SPA sites.</p>	<p>around Leyburn as a result of this policy could have a significant effect - in terms of airborne pollution and disturbance - on elements of the NPM SAC and SPA sites outside of the plan area, as similar to the NPM SAC / SPA within the plan area, parts of the local road network both traverse and border the European sites and provide road links between Leyburn and Reeth.</p> <p><u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Inside Plan Area)</u>; <u>North Pennine Moors SAC</u> and <u>SPA (Inside Plan Area)</u>.</p> <p>Although the policy specifically states that tourist-related activities will not be encouraged where they have a detrimental impact on the local environment and landscape (and that there should possibly be an enhancement), the generally rural nature and location of many tourist-related activities as well as the high quality of landscape and environment of the European sites which make them attractive to tourist and tourist-related businesses, means there could be pressure in and around the European sites related to tourist-related activities and development encouraged by this Core Policy. For instance, increased traffic movements on the Local Road Network, litter, vandalism, arson, general noise and disturbance as well as destruction of habitat could result from increased tourist footfall from development and activities either in or adjacent to the European sites that are encouraged and supported by this Policy.</p> <p><u>North Pennine Moors SAC</u> and <u>SPA (Outside Plan Area)</u>.</p> <p>Tourist-related activities and development – particularly in the west and south of the plan area, could have a significant impact on parts of the European sites outside of the plan area (i.e. Colsterdale and Masham Moors to the south and Melbecks Moor, Askrigg Common and East Bolton Moor to the west. Any tourist related development in Tan Hill could also have a significant effect on the elements of the NPM SAC / SPA in the surrounding area (for similar reasons as discussed above), particularly</p>

Spatial Principles, Sub Area Strategies and Core Policies	Summary	Criteria Number (Refer to Table 1)	Natura 2000 Sites Not Considered Likely to be Significantly Affected by the Spatial Principle/Policy/Sub Area Strategy and Why?	Natura 2000 Sites Likely and Potentially Significantly Affected by the Spatial Principle/Policy/Sub Area Strategy and Why?
<p>Core Policy CP11: Supporting Community & Recreation Assets</p>	<p>Supports proposals and activities that protect, retain or enhance existing community assets and recreational facilities or leads to the provision of additional assets.</p> <p>Proposals involving the loss of community assets or recreation facilities will be resisted.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p><u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Inside Plan Area); North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Inside Plan Area); Ox Close SAC; Craven Limestone Complex SAC; Asby Complex SAC; North York Moors SAC and SPA; North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Outside Plan Area); North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Outside Plan Area)</u></p> <p>The policy is intended to protect, enhance and retain existing community assets and recreation facilities and thereby reduce pressure to provide new facilities – measures which are unlikely to have a significant effect on <i>Natura 2000</i> sites both within and outside the plan area.</p>	<p>Arkengarth Moor, Rogan's Seat and Sleightholme Moor due to their relatively close proximity to Tan Hill.</p> <p>None.</p>
<p>Core Policy CP12: Conserving & Enhancing Environmental and Historic Assets</p>	<p>Supports development where it conserves and enhances natural and man-made assets. Supports initiatives to improve the natural environment where it is poor and lacking in diversity.</p> <p>Development will not be supported which has a detrimental impact upon the significance of a natural or man-made asset and is inconsistent with the principles of an asset's proper management.</p> <p>The qualities of the historic assets across the plan area will be sustained and, where appropriate, enhanced to maintain Richmondshire's distinctive local character and sense of place. Particular attention will be given to designated heritage assets and their settings as well as undesignated and locally designated heritage assets.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p><u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Inside Plan Area); North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Inside Plan Area); Ox Close SAC; Craven Limestone Complex SAC; Asby Complex SAC; North York Moors SAC and SPA; North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Outside Plan Area); North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Outside Plan Area)</u></p> <p>Policy CP12 would help preserve and enhance the natural environment including designated sites and sites of recognised biodiversity, therefore the policy is highly unlikely to have a significant effect on <i>Natura 2000</i> sites outside or inside the plan area.</p> <p>Reference is explicitly made to the protection of European sites within and outside the plan area.</p> <p>The supporting text of CP12 states that the integrity of <i>Natura 2000</i> sites shall be maintained and protected in accordance with its statutory protection under European and national legislation. Development or other initiatives that have the potential to adversely affect the integrity of these European sites, either in isolation or in combination with other</p>	<p>None.</p>

Spatial Principles, Sub Area Strategies and Core Policies	Summary	Criteria Number (Refer to Table 1)	Natura 2000 Sites Not Considered Likely to be Significantly Affected by the Spatial Principle/Policy/Sub Area Strategy and Why?	Natura 2000 Sites Likely and Potentially Significantly Affected by the Spatial Principle/Policy/Sub Area Strategy and Why?
<p>Core Policy CP13: Promoting High Quality Design</p>	<p>High quality design of both buildings and landscaping is a priority in all development proposals.</p> <p>Support will be given for proposals that provide an attractive, functional, accessible and low maintenance development; minimise the use of scarce resources; adopt sustainable construction principles and limit the impact of light pollution.</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>development, plans or strategies, will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that the legislative provisions to protect such sites can be fully met. This applies to proposed development and initiatives within and outside of the boundaries of the designated Natura 2000 sites. The impact of development and initiatives on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites outside of the plan area should be equally considered.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Core Policy CP14: Providing & Delivering Infrastructure</p>	<p>Any adverse impacts arising from new infrastructure should be minimised. Decisions on the provision of infrastructure should be taken on the basis of environmental sustainability as well as cost.</p> <p>Development should provide, or enable the provision of the infrastructure made necessary by that development. contributions will be required.</p>	<p>7</p>	<p><u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Inside Plan Area)</u>; <u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Inside Plan Area)</u>; <u>Ox Close SAC</u>; <u>Craven Limestone Complex SAC</u>; <u>Asby Complex SAC</u>; <u>North York Moors SAC and SPA</u>; <u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC (Outside Plan Area)</u>; <u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Outside Plan Area)</u></p> <p>The policy will not itself lead to development (i.e. it relates specifically to the design of development across the plan area). It is therefore considered unlikely to have any significant effect on any of the <i>Natura 2000</i> sites identified either within or outside of the plan area. However, criteria such as that for the minimisation of light pollution could be of benefit.</p>	<p><u>North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Inside Plan Area)</u>; <u>North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC</u></p> <p>The requirements for infrastructure provision, through the provision of services or improvements to roads could have an impact on SAC / SPA sites both within and closely adjacent to the plan area. However, Policy CP14 states that any adverse impacts arising from new infrastructure should be minimised. Decisions on the provision of infrastructure should be taken on the basis of environmental sustainability as well as cost. The provisions within this policy mean that it is unlikely to have a significant effect on any of the identified <i>Natura 2000</i> sites inside or outside of the plan area.</p>

Part 3: Other plans and projects – ‘in combination’ impacts

4.12 The term ‘in combination’ in this context is taken to refer to the cumulative effect of influences acting on sites from all plans and projects in the context of prevailing environmental conditions. This process therefore takes account of any reasonably foreseeable impacts arising from both plans and projects in combination with the policies and principles of the Richmondshire Core Strategy.

Origin	Location / Distance	Name of Plan / Strategy	Stage / Status of the Plan	Brief Description	Likely ‘in Combination’ Impact on the <i>Natura 2000</i> Sites
Hambleton District Council	Hambleton District is located immediately to the east of the plan area along almost all the eastern boundary of the plan area.	HDC Core Strategy DPD	Adopted - April 2007	<p>The DPD sets out the long-term spatial vision, objectives and strategic policies for Hambleton district located outside of the North York Moors National Park.</p> <p>The DPD states that the majority of housing and employment related development will be undertaken in the Thirsk and Northallerton areas and the eastern part of Bedale, whilst areas of restraint are identified as the Stokesley and Easingwold areas and the northern element of the Northallerton area. 290 additional dwellings are to be provided annually within the district, mostly within the Principal Service Centres (Thirsk and Northallerton) and the other Service Centres.</p> <p>The DPD is concerned with the allocation of specific areas of land within settlements to meet the development requirements of HDC within the plan period, as well as the definition of Development Limits around settlements. Phase 1 (2004-2006) would see the gross delivery of 3640 dwelling; Phase 2 (2016-2021) 1450 dwellings and Phase 3 (2021-2026) 1450 dwellings.</p>	The distance between the two plan areas as well as the scale and distribution of development in both plan areas should ensure that there would be no adverse ‘in combination’ effects on any <i>Natura 2000</i> sites as a result of the policies of the RDC Core Strategy and the policies of the HDC adopted Core Strategy.
		HDC Allocations DPD	Adopted – December 2010	<p>The DPD contains the detailed policies and details to assist the delivery of the LDF’s Core Strategy.</p> <p>The DPD contains Development Policies (DP) in relation to amenity, community facilities, utilities, infrastructure, phasing of housing, economy & employment, market town regeneration, town centre shopping and regeneration, sustainable energy, waste, conservation, recreation and the protection of the character and appearance of the countryside, amongst others.</p>	The distance between the two plan areas as well as the scale and distribution of development in both plan areas should ensure that there would be no adverse ‘in combination’ effects on any <i>Natura 2000</i> sites as a result of the policies of the RDC Core Strategy and the adopted HDC Allocations DPD.
		HDC Development Policies DPD	Adopted – February 2008	<p>The DPD contains the detailed policies and details to assist the delivery of the LDF’s Core Strategy.</p> <p>The DPD contains Development Policies (DP) in relation to amenity, community facilities, utilities, infrastructure, phasing of housing, economy & employment, market town regeneration, town centre shopping and regeneration, sustainable energy, waste, conservation, recreation and the protection of the character and appearance of the countryside, amongst others.</p>	The distance between the two plan areas as well as the scale and distribution of development in both plan areas should ensure that there would be no adverse ‘in combination’ effects on any <i>Natura 2000</i> sites as a result of the policies of the RDC Core Strategy and the HDC Development Policies DPD.
Harrogate Borough Council	Harrogate Borough Council is located immediately to the south of Richmondshire and adjoins the whole of the southern boundary of the	HBC Local Plan	Adopted 2001, although amended in 2004 and only ‘Saved Policies’	<p>Local Plan policies are in the process of being superseded by policies contained within the DPDs that make up the HBC LDF, although ‘Saved’ Local Plan policies are still relevant in relation to AONB, landscape character, special landscape area, green wedges, re-use of rural buildings, local</p>	<p>It is not considered that any of the Saved Local Plan policies would have a significant effect on the <i>Natura 2000</i> sites ‘in combination’ with the policies of the RDC Core Strategy, particularly as several ‘Saved Policies’ of the HDC Local Plan seek to protect the borough’s important</p>

Origin	Location / Distance	Name of Plan / Strategy	Stage / Status of the Plan	Brief Description	Likely 'In Combination' Impact on the Natura 2000 Sites
	plan area.	HBC Core Strategy DPD	<p>relevant after 2007.</p> <p>Adopted February, 2009</p>	<p>wildlife sites, semi-natural habitats, extent of the Green Belt, historical battlefields, World Heritage Site, historic parks and gardens, amenity open space, trees and woodlands, building protection in Harrogate, spa waters and recreation open space and facilities, amongst others.</p> <p>The Core Strategy sets out the vision of what Harrogate District should be like and the strategic policies for development and conservation up to 2021 and beyond.</p> <p>Housing distribution and growth will be for the provision of 390 new homes per annum (net annual average) in the District during the period 2004 to 2023. 70% of these new homes are in new buildings or conversions on previously developed land. 48% of the new housing will be in Harrogate.</p> <p>The Core Strategy also helps to maintain and enhance the economic role of the District and support innovation and enterprise with emphasis on enhancing the conference and business tourism sector, developing sustainable holiday tourism and supporting market town renaissance, the development of digital and food clusters and the rural and agricultural economy.</p> <p>The DPD will also reduce the need to travel and improve accessibility to jobs, shops, services and community facilities.</p> <p>The Core Strategy also states that the high quality natural and built environment will be given a level of protection appropriate to its international, national and local importance, including SAC sites.</p> <p>The DPD (once adopted) will contain development control policies, site allocations and development limits needed to deliver the Harrogate Core Strategy</p>	<p>wildlife habitats, areas of conservation and green spaces.</p> <p>The scale and distribution of development proposed in the HBC Core Strategy as well as the distance between the main areas of development growth in both plan areas (i.e. Richmond / Catterick Garrison and Harrogate) would help to ensure that there would be no 'in combination' adverse effects on the <i>Natura 2000</i> sites in conjunction with the policies of the RDC Core Strategy.</p> <p>Lack of detailed sites and allocations at this stage in the development of the DPD to be able to assess whether there is likely to be any adverse in combination impacts on any <i>Natura 2000</i> sites.</p>
		HBC Sites and Policies DPD	<p>Not yet adopted (consultation undertaken in October / November 2010 in rural areas and April / May 2011 in urban area).</p> <p>Scheduled for</p>		

Origin	Location / Distance	Name of Plan / Strategy	Stage / Status of the Plan	Brief Description	Likely 'In Combination' Impact on the Natura 2000 Sites
<p>Craven District Council (Outside YDNP)</p>	<p>Craven District is located to the south-west of the plan area (to the south of the area of Richmondshire within the Yorkshire Dales National Park) Like Richmondshire, a large proportion of the district is within the YDNP, including most of the east of the district. As such the Craven Limestone Complex SAC sites are actually within the boundaries of the YDNP, although the relatively close proximity of the Craven plan area to the SAC sites (e.g. the town of Settle is approximately 7 km to the west of the Limestone Complex SAC site) potentially means that there could be 'in combination' impacts – in conjunction with the policies of the Richmondshire Core Strategy - on Craven Limestone Complex SAC sites.</p>	<p>CDC Local Plan (Saved Policies)</p> <p>CDC – Local Development Plan</p>	<p>Adoption May 2013.</p> <p>Adopted 1999. 'Saved' Policies remain relevant after September 2007.</p> <p>Not yet adopted, still in initial stages – Scheduled for adoption November / December 2013. (Preferred Option Core Strategy which is likely to form basis of strategic policies went out for public consultation in October 2007).</p>	<p>Saved policies include those in relation to development in the open countryside, the protection of trees and woodland, new agricultural buildings / structures, green wedges, rural employment land supply and commitments, tourist-related policies, sequential approach to retail development and policies related to recreation / community facilities and traffic / car-parking.</p> <p>The Preferred Option Core Strategy (2007) states that a substantial proportion of development (of all kinds) will be within the Principle Service centre of Skipton, the Local Service Centres will also accommodate a high proportion of development. Small Local Service Centres will have a limited proportion of development.</p> <p>3300 additional dwellings will be created between 2006-2021. 35% in Skipton, 26% in Glusburn / Cross Hills / Sutton-in-Craven, 15% in village with facilities, 10% in Settle, 8% in Ingleton & Gargrave, 6% in High Bentham. (SHLAA update currently being completed).</p> <p>In the countryside (outside defined settlement boundaries) the conservation and enhancement of landscape character, natural processes, geological features. biodiversity <i>et al</i> will be given priority.</p> <p>Support will be given for the protection or enhancement of existing recreational land and open space facilities and for the creation of new facilities. The loss of such facilities will not be supported.</p> <p>Encourage the use of public transport and promote walking and cycling and greener modes of transport use.</p> <p>Large Renewable Energy developments (such as wind turbines) will only be acceptable where there is no significant impact on the landscape or environment.</p>	<p>The distance between the respective CDC and RDC plan areas would help ensure that there would be no adverse 'in combination' impact on any of the Natura 2000 sites both within each respective plan areas and outside.</p> <p>Although the CDC Core Strategy is only in the initial stages and not yet adopted, the distribution and modest scale of housing development proposed in the Preferred Options Core Strategy (likely to inform the strategic basis of the Plan) consulted on in 2007 in the Craven plan area is not considered to raise any 'in combination' significant effects on Natura 2000 sites in conjunction with the policies of the RDC Core Strategy.</p> <p>Also, development of this document is at an initial stage with a lack of detailed sites and allocations provided to be able to assess whether there is likely to be any adverse 'in combination' impacts on any Natura 2000 sites.</p>

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<p>Darlington Borough Council</p>	<p>Darlington Borough is located immediately to the north of the Richmondshire plan area, sharing a boundary with the North Richmondshire sub area.</p>	<p>DBC Local Plan (Saved Policies)</p>	<p>Adopted September 2001. 'Saved' Policies relevant after May 2011</p>	<p>The supply of 37.5 ha of employment land over 15 years (45% in Skipton, 30% in South Craven, 10% in Settle, 5% in High Bentham, 5% in Ingleton and 5% in villages with some facilities.</p> <p>Local Plan policies are in the process of being superseded by policies contained within the DPDs that make up the DBC LDF, although 'Saved' Local Plan policies are still relevant in relation to Development Limits, New Buildings in the Countryside, Protection of Parklands, Trees and Development, Sites of Nature Conservation Importance, Nature Reserves, Backland Development, HMOs and Employment Areas.</p>	<p>It is not considered that any of the Saved Local Plan policies would have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 sites 'in combination' with the policies of the RDC Core Strategy, particularly as several 'Saved Policies' of the RDC Local Plan seek to protect the borough's parklands, nature reserves and trees.</p>
		<p>DBC Core Strategy DPD</p>	<p>Adopted May 2011</p>	<p>The DBC Core Strategy sets out how the Borough will develop over the next fifteen years (2011-2026), providing the spatial planning framework for the many plans and strategies prepared by the Council and its partners. New development and regeneration activity in the Borough will be concentrated on sustainable locations within the main urban area, where there is actual or potential good accessibility for everybody.</p> <p>Priority will be given to delivery in strategic locations, including the town centre, Central Park, the town centre fringe and employment and airport-related uses in the Durham Tees Valley area. These areas will accommodate the majority of development, although development within the limits of the Borough's villages will be supported where the vitality and viability of the village, its services or the rural economy will be supported, particularly in the larger villages of Hurworth / Hurworth Place, Middleton St. George and Heighington.</p> <p>The loss of any part of the green infrastructure network will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>The development of renewable energy schemes, including microgeneration, together with any ancillary buildings and infrastructure, will be supported and considered in the context of sustainable development and climate change. Significant weight will be given to the wider</p>	<p>The RDC Core Strategy recognises the importance of Darlington in terms of its employment and retail 'pull' in relation to residents of Richmondshire, particularly those within the North Richmondshire sub-area. Whilst improving the vitality and retail/attraction/employment provision within Darlington Town Centre as well as increasing the number of dwellings within Richmondshire throughout the Plan Period could increase the number of traffic movements from Richmondshire settlements to Darlington (particularly from Richmond and North Richmondshire settlements), this is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites – through disturbance and air pollution – as Darlington Road (A6108) and other routes to and from Richmond and North Richmondshire settlements are not immediately adjacent to any of the SAC and SPA sites within or outside of the Richmondshire plan area.</p>

Origin	Location / Distance	Name of Plan / Strategy	Stage / Status of the Plan	Brief Description	Likely 'In Combination' Impact on the Natura 2000 Sites
				<p>environmental, economic and social benefits arising from renewable energy schemes whilst considering the anticipated effects, individually and cumulatively, upon the surrounding natural, built, historic and cultural landscape and townscape including buildings, features, habitats and species of national and local importance, amongst other issues. Appropriate mitigation and / or compensation measures and monitoring to address any effects identified and considered will be required prior to any development proceeding.</p> <p>A continuous and diverse supply of employment land to meet the needs of existing and future economic development will be provided in appropriate locations. Provision will be made for up to 235ha of additional land for general and mixed use employment across the Borough. The focus and priority of provision will be: First priority, 2011-2021</p> <p>a) Darlington town centre (office use) and Town Centre Fringe (mixed use) (about 17ha); b) Central Park (Mixed Use) (about 10ha);</p> <p>Second priority, throughout the plan period</p> <p>c) Faverdale (Business, Industrial and Logistics) (about 50ha);</p> <p>d) Lingfield Area (Mixed Use) (about 15ha);</p> <p>e) Morton Palms Business Park Area (Prestige Office Development) (about 11ha); and</p> <p>f) Durham Tees Valley Airport (airport related) (about 20ha) and general employment (about 5ha)</p> <p>The focus of other general and mixed use sites (up to 107ha) contributing to the employment land supply, throughout the plan period, will be on suitable previously developed sites in sustainable locations within the Rest of Urban Area.</p> <p>A sustainable, vibrant tourism and cultural sector will be promoted and enhanced for the benefit of the local economy, community and visitors including promoting appropriate nature and countryside-based tourism attractions which support visits to and enjoyment of the countryside and / or where they promote access to or use of heritage assets.</p> <p>The vitality and viability of Darlington town centre will be safeguarded and enhanced by protecting</p>	

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				<p>and promoting its role as the sub-regional centre for the western part of the Tees Valley City Region and neighbouring parts of North Yorkshire and south and west Durham, including its role as a market town.</p> <p>A total of 5813 net additional dwellings are to be provided from April 2011 to 2026. Provision will be made for average annual net additions to the dwelling stock. Land for new housing will be allocated in strategic locations comprising of: the rest of urban area, town centre fringe, north western urban fringe, eastern urban fringe.</p> <p>The protection, restoration, extension and management of the Borough's biodiversity and geological network will be delivered to help achieve the target level of priority habitats and species set out in the UK Durham Biodiversity Action Plan. Green infrastructure will be protected, and where appropriate, enhanced.</p>	
		<p>Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD</p>	<p>Issues and Options published November 2010. Consultations on content topics currently taking place. Preferred options document expected for consultation Autumn 2012. Adopted March 2007</p>	<p>The DPD once adopted will identify new sites for housing, employment, shops, open space, sports facilities and other infrastructure as well as identifying those unique parts of the Borough that will be protected from new development. Development limits for the urban area and all the villages will also be established. It will also set out detailed planning policies that will help assess planning applications.</p>	<p>Development of this document is at an early stage therefore it is not possible to assess whether there is likely to be any adverse 'in combination' impacts on any Natura 2000 sites.</p>
		<p>Open Spaces Strategy</p>	<p>Adopted March 2007</p>	<p>The strategy provides a strategy for open space within the borough.</p>	<p>There are no 'in combination' significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites as a result of this strategy and the policies of the RDC Core Strategy.</p>
		<p>Darlington Eastern Town Centre Fringe Area Action Plan</p>	<p>Scoping report published January 2011. Issues and Options expected to</p>	<p>This DPD (when adopted) will set out the precise land allocations for specific uses or sites subject to specific policies / proposals located in the Eastern Town Centre Fringe. It will elaborate on many of the policies of the Core Strategy.</p>	<p>Development of this document is at an early stage therefore it is not possible to assess whether there is likely to be any adverse 'in combination' impacts on any Natura 2000 sites.</p>

Origin	Location / Distance	Name of Plan / Strategy	Stage / Status of the Plan	Brief Description	Likely 'In Combination' Impact on the <i>Natura 2000</i> Sites
		Joint Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and Site Allocations DPDs for Tees Valley (including Darlington)	be published October / November 2012. Adopted 15 th September 2011.	The two DPDs outline the Tees Valley Authorities' spatial approach to minerals and waste and the identification of sites.	No 'in combination' likely significant effects on any <i>Natura 2000</i> sites as a result of this strategy and the policies of the RDC Core Strategy are considered likely.
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority		Yorkshire Dales Local Plan (Saved Policies)	Adopted in April, 2006 although policies 'saved' in March 2009	<p>Saved Policies cover:</p> <p>The conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park.</p> <p>Major development will not be permitted in the National Park save in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>Within the housing development boundaries of Hawes / Gayle, Reeth, Grassington and Sedbergh, as defined on the proposals map, new build housing will be permitted. Housing development will also be permitted. Within the boundaries of the service villages listed and in those parts of Settle, Giggleswick and Ingleton within the National Park. Outside settlements listed in policies H1 and H2 new build housing will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that it is essential to house a full-time worker in a rural-based enterprise</p> <p>Land is allocated for new employment uses within Hawes, Sedbergh, Reeth (B1 uses only), Threshfield Quarry, Horton in Ribblesdale and Askrigg. The development of land for new small-scale employment uses will be permitted if certain criteria are met.</p> <p>Small-scale renewable energy developments to meet local energy needs will be permitted if it does not adversely affect the character of the landscape, settlements or buildings either individually or as a consequence of a cumulative impact, or does not adversely affect the nature conservation value, the archaeological interest, residential or recreational amenity of the</p>	<p>In consideration of the modest size and location of development – as well as the policy protection of protected species and designated conservation sites – it is considered that there would not be any 'in combination' significant effects on any <i>Natura 2000</i> sites as a result of this strategy and the policies of the RDC Core Strategy.</p>

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		Yorkshire Dales Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Saved Policies)	Adopted October 1998, 'Saved Policies' September, 2007	<p>surrounding area.</p> <p>Development that is likely to adversely affect, directly or indirectly, the special nature conservation interest of designated or proposed sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) will not be permitted unless certain criteria are met. There are similar policies in relation to the protection of sites of nature conservation importance and internationally and nationally protected species.</p> <p>The creation of new habitats will be supported.</p> <p>Other than certificated sites, the establishment of new sites for touring caravans will not be permitted.</p> <p>New sites for static caravans, for multiple or single units, will not be permitted.</p> <p>New wooden chalets will only be permitted as replacements for existing established static caravan sites where they are satisfactorily screened in the landscape.</p> <p>Development will be assessed to ensure that the physical and environmental capacity of the roads that would serve them is adequate for the traffic likely to be generated.</p> <p>The Local Plan establishes a comprehensive set of land use policies to guide and control minerals and waste disposal development within the National Park and to provide a basis for determining planning applications. The Local Plan includes the following policies :</p> <p>Other than in exceptional circumstances, quarrying to produce crushed rock for aggregates from new sites will not be permitted.</p> <p>Extensions to existing quarries will only be permitted where they would result on overall benefits, e.g. to the environment or residential amenity.</p> <p>Proposals for the quarrying of building stone or roofing slates for use within the National park or adjacent areas will be supported where the scale</p>	<p>In consideration of the nature of development permitted by the Local Plan policies and the strong protection of the natural environment that the policies provide, no 'in combination' significant effects on any <i>Natura 2000</i> sites as a result of this strategy and the policies of the RDC Core Strategy are envisaged.</p>

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				<p>of quarrying is appropriate to service the local market and will not damage the environment and residential amenity.</p> <p>The reworking of mineral waste will not be permitted where the land has been satisfactorily restored or the deposit has become assimilated into or has become characteristic of the local landscape.</p> <p>The disposal of household and other non-inert wastes within the National Park will not be permitted.</p> <p>Proposals for the disposal of inert waste produced within the national park will be supported under certain criteria including that it needs to be small in scale and ensure that it would not detract significantly from the surrounding landscape, wildlife and geological interest.</p>	
		Housing Development Plan	Examination took place January 2012, awaiting Inspectors' report - June 2012.	<p>The specific purpose of the HDP is to increase the supply of locally affordable housing within the YDNP through the identification, release and development of land up to 2026. The HDP is to be developed before the Core Strategy as the provision of additional housing for local needs is considered a priority.</p> <p>Based on density assumptions, the consultation document states that around 230 additional dwellings would be created. Affordable housing coming forward from rural exceptions schemes, negotiated windfall sites or the re use of existing stock, would be additional to this figure.</p> <p>The majority of housing development would take place in designated Local Service Centres which are the larger towns within the YDNP and commonly provide key services and act as hubs for tourism, jobs and business activity, with good public transport links to towns adjacent, but outside of the National Park and would include of Hawes, Grassington, Ingleton, Reeth, Sedburgh and Settle.</p> <p>Outside of the Local Service Centres, designated Service Villages are expected to accommodate very limited (largely infill) development whilst the</p>	<p>In consideration of the location and scale of housing development proposed in the Housing Development Plan, no 'in combination' significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites as a result of this strategy and the policies of the RDC Core Strategy are envisaged.</p>

Origin	Location / Distance	Name of Plan / Strategy	Stage / Status of the Plan	Brief Description	Likely 'In Combination' Impact on the <i>Natura 2000</i> Sites
Durham County Council		County Durham Plan Core Strategy DPD	Six Consultation Papers Published. Consultation period closed July 2011. Preferred Options due to be published for consultation Autumn 2012.	Small Settlements are not expected to take any development. The area designated as West Durham in the emerging County Durham Plan, is the area, geographically speaking, most closely associated with the plan area. A total of 850 dwellings are proposed within the Plan Period within West Durham, 400 of which will be within the town of Barnard Castle. To reflect the availability of suitable land and to ensure that their need for housing is addressed the three secondary settlements, Middleton in Teesdale, Stanhope and Wolsingham have been allocated 90, 60 and 100 houses respectively. The remainder of West Durham has been given an allocation of 200 houses. Barnard Castle is identified as a local employment market. In order to accommodate future employment growth over the next 20 years, 23 hectares of land has been identified. This consists primarily of a new site at Shawbank, which includes expansion land for Glaxo Smithkline and existing vacant plots on the Harmire and Stainton Grove Industrial Estates. It is not intended to allocate any employment land in the secondary settlements and much of the remainder of West Durham, with the exception of 3 hectares in Evenwood. However, farm diversification and small scale employment developments will be encouraged in suitable locations. The emerging Infrastructure Delivery Plan identifies no significant deficiencies in infrastructure which would prohibit delivery of this scale of development. The DPD will expand on the policies within the Core Strategy and will include more detailed policies for the management of development. While the Core Strategy will set out our vision and aspirations in fairly broad terms, the Development Management DPD will be more specific. It might, for example, identify the type and size of retail units allowed outside town centres or the control of hot food takeaways. It will also carry forward, where appropriate, existing development management designations made in former district council local plans.	The scale and location of development within West Durham that is proposed in the Core Strategy should ensure that there are no 'in combination' significant effects on any <i>Natura 2000</i> sites as a result of this strategy and the policies of the RDC Core Strategy.
		Development Management DPD	In initial stages of development.		Work on this document is still in its initial stages, therefore it is not possible to assess whether there is likely to be any adverse 'in combination' significant effects on any <i>Natura 2000</i> sites.

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		Development Allocations DPD	In initial stages of development	The Development Allocations DPD will deal with new sites for development. It will identify appropriate sites for new development required by the Delivery Strategy for the county. It will explain the rationale for their selection, taking into account the county's requirements for housing and industry, the transport infrastructure which would be needed to allow new development, and the sensitivity of the surroundings. The Development Allocations DPD will also provide the detailed framework for the delivery of the South and East Durham Growth Point.	Work on this document is still in its initial stages, therefore it is not possible to assess whether there is likely to be any adverse 'in combination' significant effects on any <i>Natura 2000</i> sites.
		The Gypsy and Traveller DPD	In initial stages of development	The Gypsy and Traveller DPD will describe how the council will meet its obligations to provide accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers. The DPD will establish the number of equipped caravan pitches which need to be provided across the county, and identify appropriate sites for them.	Work on this document is still in its initial stages, therefore it is not possible to assess whether there is likely to be any adverse 'in combination' significant effects on any <i>Natura 2000</i> sites.
		Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations DPD	No specific work has begun on this documents but a Technical Consultation Report entitled "Towards a Waste Delivery Strategy for County Durham" was published in May 2011 on which comments were invited.	The Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations DPD will develop the strategic minerals and waste content of the Core Strategy DPD. Strategic components of the waste and minerals delivery strategy, including strategic sites will be in the Core Strategy. Where needed and justified, the Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations DPD will allocate non-strategic minerals and waste sites.	Work on this document is still in its initial stages, therefore it is not possible to assess whether there is likely to be any adverse 'in combination' significant effects on any <i>Natura 2000</i> sites.
		County Durham Waste Local Plan (Saved Policies)	Published April 2005 (Saved Policies from April, 2008)	Proposals for new waste development will be required to demonstrate that the natural and built environment and the living conditions of local communities will be protected and where possible enhanced. Proposals for new waste management facilities will be determined having regard to the following criteria: i) the environment and local amenity is adequately protected.	The scale, nature and location of development permitted within the Local Plan should ensure that there are no 'in combination' significant effects on any <i>Natura 2000</i> sites as a result of this strategy and the policies of the RDC Core Strategy.

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		Teesdale Local Plan (Saved Policies)	Adopted June 2002	<p>ii) the location minimises the environmental impacts of transporting waste;</p> <p>iii) opportunities to integrate waste management facilities with other facilities or developments which will benefit from the recovery of materials or energy have been identified and taken advantage of;</p> <p>iv) opportunities have been identified to extend or develop existing waste management facilities or develop new facilities alongside existing facilities where this would bring environmental benefits;</p> <p>v) opportunities have been identified to develop new facilities where they would bring environmental benefits such as on appropriately located previously used or derelict land or former mineral workings; and</p> <p>vi) the safe and free flow of traffic on the highway networks affected by the facility shall be safeguarded.</p> <p>Saved policies in local plans will continue to influence development decisions until the County Durham Plan replaces them. Saved policies include:</p> <p>Housing and Economic development will be concentrated in the larger towns (i.e. Barnard castle) and the larger villages of the district.</p> <p>Restriction of Development within or adjacent to the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Beauty.</p> <p>Areas of high landscape value will only be permitted where it does not detract from the area's special character.</p> <p>Proposals for development or land use which may affect a nature conservation site of international importance, will be subject to the most rigorous examination, and will not be permitted if they have significant effects on the site, unless there is no alternative or overriding public interest.</p> <p>Development which would significantly harm any animal species afforded special protection by law or its habitat will not be permitted unless mitigating action is achievable.</p>	<p>The scale and location of development permitted within the Local Plan should ensure that there are no likely 'in combination' significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites as a result of this strategy and the policies of the RDC Core Strategy.</p>

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Eden District Council		EDC Core Strategy DPD	Adopted March 2010	<p>The document sets out the key planning policies which will determine the future development of Eden over fifteen years. It includes the following policies:</p> <p>The Locational Strategy (CS2) identified:</p> <p>Key Service Centre – Penrith: sustained development appropriate to that of a large town.</p> <p>Key Service Centres – Alston, Appleby and Kirkby Stephen: moderate development appropriate to the scale of the town but including new housing, provision of employment, improvements to accessibility.</p> <p>Local Service Centres: small scale development to sustain local services, support rural businesses and meet local needs, including housing, provision of employment and improvements to accessibility.</p> <p>Smaller Villages, Hamlets and Open Countryside: development limited to meeting an identified need (see Policy CS3).</p> <p>In all cases the scale and nature of the development should take into account the capacity of essential infrastructure and should respect the character of the town or village concerned.</p>	<p>The location and proposed policy protection for biodiversity would help ensure that there would be no likely 'in combination' significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites as a result of this strategy and the policies of the RDC Core Strategy.</p>
		Eden District Local Plan (Saved Policies)	Adopted 1996, Saved Policies from September 2007	<p>Local Plan policies are in the process of being superseded by policies contained within the DPDs that make up the EDC LDF, although 'Saved' Local Plan policies are still relevant in relation to Housing Development, Development in Countryside, AONBs and Conservation Areas, Employment Land Allocations.</p> <p>The plan will provide detail and clarity to the overarching framework that is identified in the Core Strategy Preferred Options and will include a number of housing policies and also allocate sites for housing in the Eden area outside of the Lake District National Park. This will ensure that future housing development meets local need and takes place in a planned way.</p>	<p>The scale and location of development permitted within the Local Plan should ensure that there are no likely 'in combination' significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites as a result of this strategy and the policies of the RDC Core Strategy.</p>
		Housing Development and Housing Site Allocations DPD	Issues and options consultation completed 2007. Preferred Option Consultation		<p>The scale and location of development should ensure that there are no 'in combination' significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites as a result of this strategy and the policies of the RDC Core Strategy.</p>

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			<p>expected late 2012.</p>	<p>Policy CS2 of the Core Strategy Preferred Options paper identifies Penrith as being the main focus for development in the district with the other Key Service Centres of Alston, Appleby and Kirkby Stephen providing moderate development. Local Service Centres can provide small scale housing development that meets identified local housing need and other villages may provide affordable housing to meet identified local housing need. A number of sites have been identified in these locations from a variety of sources.</p>	
		<p>Joint Wind Energy SPD</p>	<p>Adopted in October 2007</p>	<p>The SPD provides planning guidance in relation to wind energy developments within the County. It recommends that for international sites, and features that they support, new schemes need to demonstrate that they will not adversely affect their conservation value.</p> <p>Schemes should not cause harm to habitats and species outside a designated site that may adversely affect the integrity of a site, or cause a significant decline in the size, distribution, structure or function of a population of a species for which a site was designated. In accordance with the Habitats Regulations an assessment needs to be carried out for each new development to determine if it would have a likely significant effect, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, on sites or features associated with an international designation. If likely significant effect is determined developers are expected to provide relevant information to the Local Planning Authority to enable it to carry out an Appropriate Assessment.</p> <p>This guidance does not seek to set buffer zones around international or national designations; however developments proposed close to the boundaries of these designations will need to assess their effects on them.</p> <p>Effects on biodiversity can take place during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases of a wind energy scheme. They can arise from any element of the development including the foundations, access roads, moving turbines and ancillary buildings. Cumulative effects may also impact on biodiversity across a wide area arising</p>	<p>The SPD recommends that Appropriate Assessments are made in relation to the individual and cumulative impacts of wind energy developments on European sites. Therefore there is unlikely to be any 'in combination' significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites as a result of the guidance contained within this SPD and the policies of the RDC Core Strategy.</p>

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				<p>from both wind energy and other development / activities; see more on this in section 3, Part 1. Such effects could cause negative impacts to habitats and species found within or outside a development site. Mitigation of such</p> <p>New wind energy schemes may also provide the opportunity to enhance existing habitats and create new ones to support a range of species. These opportunities should be pursued where possible and be guided by biodiversity targets in the NW Regional Spatial Strategy and Cumbria BAP.</p> <p>Developers should assess the effects of potential schemes, alone or cumulatively, on biodiversity sites, habitats and species and identify measures to avoid or mitigate harm to them and secure their conservation and enhancement. Where a scheme, alone and in combination with other plans and projects, could have an impact on an internationally designated site, developers must carry out an assessment of the likely significant effect of the scheme in accordance with the Habitats Regulations.</p>	
<p>North Yorkshire County Council</p>		<p>Minerals Core Strategy DPD</p>	<p>Minerals Core Strategy Options Launch Document Consulted on March / April 2012. Three further themed option papers will be released over time.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy is intended to deal with key questions about future development such as where should future minerals development be directed, when should future development take place, what sort of development should take place and how should it be implemented.</p>	<p>Lack of detailed policies at this stage in the development of the DPD to be able to assess whether there is likely to be any adverse 'in combination' impacts on any Natura 2000 sites.</p>
		<p>Waste Core Strategy DPD</p>	<p>Waste Core Strategy Draft Vision Consulted on March / April 2012. Issues Consultation expected late 2012</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Lack of detailed policies at this stage in the development of the DPD to be able to assess whether there is likely to be any adverse 'in combination' impacts on any Natura 2000 sites.</p>

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		<p>Minerals and Waste Site Allocations and Development Plan DPD</p> <p>Local Transport Plan 3 (2011-2016)</p>	<p>Not yet commenced on this DPD</p> <p>1st April 2011</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>The current Local Transport Plan sets out the aims and objectives for transport across North Yorkshire for the next 5 years. It aims to achieve its objectives by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting flourishing local economies by delivering reliable and efficient transport networks and services (local economies); • reducing the impact of transport on the natural and built environment and tackling climate change (environment and climate change); • improving transport safety and security and promoting healthier travel (safety and healthier travel); • promoting greater equality of opportunity for all by improving people's access to all necessary services (access to services); and • ensuring transport helps improve quality of life for all (quality of life). <p>In considering ways to achieve the objectives, the type of solutions available within the next ten years will be smaller scale, targeted interventions at specific problem sites (e.g. junctions). It is highly unlikely that there will be any scope or funding for major new road building, upgrading to dual carriageway or major rail improvements or re-openings in the foreseeable future.</p> <p>The Highway Authority will take all reasonable measures to ensure that the environmental impact of the new transport infrastructure that they provide is minimised.</p>	<p>Lack of detailed policies at this stage in the development of the DPD to be able to assess whether there is likely to be any adverse 'in combination' impacts on any Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>The lack of any major infrastructure improvements, funded by the Highway Authority, and the objective in the LTP to reduce congestion and the impact of transport on the environment suggests that there are no likely 'in combination' significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites as a result of this strategy and the policies of the RDC Core Strategy.</p>
<p>North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority</p>		<p>Adopted Core Strategy and Development Policies DPD</p>	<p>Adopted November 2008</p>	<p>This document sets out a spatial vision for the future of the National Park until 2026. Core Policies setting a strategic framework for the scale and location of all types of new development promoting development appropriately within the settlement hierarchy. The document also provides more detailed Development Policies against which individual proposals including waste and mineral proposals will be assessed.</p>	<p>In consideration of the modest size and location of development – as well as the policy protection of protected species and designated conservation sites – it is considered that there would not be any 'in combination' significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites as a result of this strategy and the policies of the RDC Core Strategy.</p>

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				<p>It seeks to protect, enhance and manage the natural environment, protect and enhance cultural and historic assets, support the rural economy, promote healthy and sustainable communities and promote accessibility and inclusion.</p>	

5.0 Appropriate Assessment: conclusions and recommendations

- 5.1 The Policy Matrix above critically assessed the Spatial Principles, Sub Area Strategies and Core Policies of the Core Strategy in terms of their likely significant effect on *Natura 2000* sites - both within the Richmondshire plan area and up to 20 km beyond the boundaries of the plan area. Although none of the Spatial Principles, Sub Area Strategies or Core Policies were considered to have a significant impact on the integrity of any of the relevant European sites identified earlier in this document; this assessment considered that certain Principles, Strategies and Policies had the potential to have some negative effect on one or more of them.
- 5.2 This section will summarise the likely significant effects on the European sites that have been identified as a result of the implementation of the policies and principles of the Core Strategy, either in isolation or 'in combination' with other policies and strategies. Where potential adverse effects have been identified, recommendations for changes to the relevant Core Strategy Spatial Principles, Sub Area Strategies and Core Policies – and supporting text – have been suggested in order to avoid or mitigate the identified potential significant effects.
- 5.3 In order to mitigate some of the potential effects of policies where they could have an adverse impact upon a *Natura 2000* site the following text has been added within the justifying text of CP12 Sustaining and Enhancing Environmental and Historic Assets. This wording has been agreed with English Nature (March 2012) to provide sufficient protection for these European designated sites:

The integrity of Natura 2000 sites shall be maintained and protected in accordance with its statutory protection under European and national legislation. Development or other initiatives that have the potential to adversely affect the integrity of these European sites, either in isolation or in combination with other development, plans or strategies, will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that the legislative provisions to protect such sites can be fully met. This applies to proposed development and initiatives within and outside of the boundaries of the designated Natura 2000 sites. The impact of development and initiatives on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites outside of the plan area should be equally considered.

5.4 Review of Spatial Principles and Policies with potential significant effects and recommendations

Spatial Principle SP1: Sub Areas

Summary: SP1 highlights the Central sub area (which includes Richmond) as the sub area where the most housing and employment-related development will occur. This Spatial Principle directs a relatively large proportion of new development towards the settlements in the Central sub area, including Richmond. Although the majority of this development will be located within the Catterick Garrison area rather than Richmond Town, this Spatial Principle could lead to additional pressures on the SAC sites located close to the settlement limits of Richmond, similar to those identified as a result of SP2 below in terms of additional light pollution, airborne pollution and disturbance. Although Lower Wensleydale is identified as an area of modest growth, a relatively large proportion of new development within this sub area is expected to be accommodated in Leyburn, which could potentially place pressure on the SAC and SPA sites to the north and west of

Leyburn for the reasons discussed in respect of SP2.

'In Combination' Impacts: None identified.

Recommendation: Similar to SP2, the Spatial Principle is a general one and does not relate to any specific sites or allocations within either sub area. The additional wording added to the supporting text of CP12 – as suggested above (see para 5.3) – should therefore be sufficient to ensure that *Natura 2000* sites are both considered and protected in relation to the individual or cumulative impacts of any new development in both the Central and Lower Wensleydale sub areas. Reference to minimising airborne pollution has been added to CP2 and the minimisation of light pollution to CP13.

5.5 **Spatial Principle SP2:** Settlement Hierarchy

Summary: The concentration of new development within the 'higher order' settlements of the Sustainable Settlement Hierarchy - specifically Richmond and Leyburn - was considered to have a likely significant effect on SAC and SPA sites both within and immediately outside the plan area due the close proximity of several European sites to the development limits of these towns. More specifically, significant effects could potentially arise from noise, airborne and light pollution from new, closely-located development and/or associated alterations or increases in use of the local road network. Additional pressures could also result from disturbance from increases in urban recreational activities and vandalism/arson as a result of new housing development in Richmond, Leyburn and other smaller, lower order villages in Lower Wensleydale.

'In Combination' Impacts: None identified.

Recommendation: Although SP2 does direct development to the settlements of Richmond and Leyburn, the spatial principle is a general one and does not relate to any specific sites or allocations within either town. The additional wording to the supporting text of CP12 – as suggested above (see para 5.3) – should therefore be sufficient to ensure that *Natura 2000* sites are both considered and protected in relation to the individual or cumulative impacts of any new development in both towns. Reference to minimising airborne pollution has been added to CP2 and the minimisation of light pollution to CP13.

5.6 **Spatial Principle SP4:** The Scale and Distribution of Housing Development

Summary: The issues and impacts are similar to those identified in relation to SP1 and SP2 respectively.

'In Combination' Impacts': None identified.

Recommendation: Similar to SP1 and SP2, the Spatial Principle is a general one and does not relate to any specific sites or allocations in relation to housing development. The additional wording to the supporting text of CP12 – as suggested above (see para 5.3) – should therefore be sufficient to ensure that *Natura 2000* sites are both considered and protected in relation to the individual or cumulative impacts of any new housing development within the plan area. Reference to minimising airborne pollution has been added to CP2 and the minimisation of light pollution to CP13.

5.7 **Spatial Principle SP5:** The Scale and Distribution of Economic Development

Summary: The potential increase in business-related traffic on the local road network around Leyburn as a result of this policy could have a significant effect - in terms of airborne pollution and disturbance - on elements of the North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA sites outside of the plan area, particularly as parts of the local road network both traverse and border the European sites providing road links between Leyburn and Reeth.

Employment development will be encouraged to locate within the development limits of Richmond, Colburn / Hipswell / Scotton and Leyburn, whilst also specifically mentioning key employment locations including the Gallowfields Industrial Estate. Given the Estate's relatively close proximity to the Gingerfields North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC site, there is a potential for light, noise and airborne pollution as a result of increased industrial activity and associated traffic movements from any change in the size and character of the Estate.

'In Combination' Impacts': None identified.

Recommendation: The additional wording to the supporting text of CP12 – as suggested above – should therefore be sufficient to ensure that *Natura 2000* sites are both considered and protected in relation to the individual or cumulative impacts of any economic and employment-related development within the plan area. Reference to minimising airborne pollution has been added to CP2 and the minimisation of light pollution to CP13.

5.8 **CRSS:** Central Richmondshire Spatial Strategy

Summary: The relatively close proximity of the North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC sites to the urban settlement limits of Richmond could mean that any increase in housing and economic development within Richmond (particularly to the northern and southern outskirts) could have a detrimental impact for the reasons discussed in relation to SP1 and SP2. However, the environmental and physical constraints on the scale and distribution of housing development around Richmond and the specific requirement of the policy to retain key green corridors and wedges within the town would help negate any possible impact of additional development on these *Natura 2000* sites. There is no broad location steer for development in Richmond in the CRSS.

'In Combination' Impacts: None identified.

Recommendation: The additional wording added to the policy and supporting text of CP12 – as suggested above – should therefore be sufficient to ensure that *Natura 2000* sites are both considered and protected in relation to the individual or cumulative impacts of any development within or immediately adjacent to the Development Limits of Richmond.

5.9 **LWSS:** Lower Wensleydale Spatial Strategy

Summary: The relatively close proximity of the North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA sites to the urban settlement limits of Leyburn could mean that any increase in housing and economic development within Leyburn could have a detrimental impact on the North Pennine Moors sites for the reasons discussed in relation to SP1 and SP2. However, the environmental and physical constraints on the scale and distribution of housing development

and the specific requirement of the policy to retain key green corridors and wedges within the town should help negate any impact of possible additional development on these *Natura 2000* sites. A broad area of search for development is identified on the north west edge of Leyburn.

'In Combination' Impacts: None identified.

Recommendation: The additional wording to the supporting text of CP12 – as suggested above – should therefore be sufficient to ensure that *Natura 2000* sites are both considered and protected in relation to the individual or cumulative impacts of any development within or immediately adjacent to the Development Limits of Leyburn.

5.10 **Core Policy CP7:** Promoting a Sustainable Economy

Summary: The policy does not raise any specific threats to the integrity of *Natura 2000* sites within and adjacent to the plan area, although potential changes and increases in the nature and intensity of economic related uses within existing employment sites and town centres (as discussed in relation other Core Strategy policies) could pose a potential threat to *Natura 2000* sites through pollution and disturbance caused by increased business and retail-related traffic and any new infrastructure needed to help support business. Rural diversification business schemes and tourist related development could pose a risk to *Natura 2000* both within and immediately adjacent to the plan area, although this threat is not site specific. The potential pollution and disturbance impacts of tourist related development are discussed in more detail in relation to CP10.

'In Combination' Impacts: None identified.

Recommendation: The additional wording to the supporting text of CP12 – as suggested above – should be sufficient to ensure that *Natura 2000* sites are both considered and protected in relation to the individual or cumulative impacts of any new economic or employment-related development. Reference to minimising airborne pollution has been added to CP2 and the minimisation of light pollution to CP13.

5.11 **Core Policy CP8:** Achieving Rural Sustainability

Summary: The rural context of the policy means that it could have an impact on *Natura 2000* sites both within and closely adjacent to the plan area. The generally modest scale, dispersed distribution (over a large area) and low-key nature of rural development which would be supported by this policy means that it is unlikely to have a significant effect on any of the identified *Natura 2000* sites inside or outside of the plan area.

'In Combination' Impacts: None identified.

Recommendation: The additional wording to the supporting text of CP12 – as suggested above – should be sufficient to ensure that *Natura 2000* sites are both considered and protected in relation to the individual or cumulative impacts of any rural-related development, particularly as Policy CP12 already states that development (supported by this policy) 'should not conflict with landscape character, environmental protection or nature conservation policies of the LDF...'

5.12 **Core Policy CP9: Supporting Town and Local Centres**

Summary: The rural context of the policy means that it could have an impact on *Natura 2000* sites both within and closely adjacent to the plan area. The generally modest scale, dispersed distribution (over a large area) and low-key nature of rural development which would be supported by this policy means that it is unlikely to have a significant effect on any of the identified *Natura 2000* sites inside or outside of the plan area.

'In Combination' Impacts: None identified

Recommendation: The additional wording to the supporting text of CP12 – as suggested above – should be sufficient to ensure that *Natura 2000* sites are both considered and protected in relation to the individual or cumulative impacts of any rural-related development, particularly as Policy CP12 already states that development (supported by this policy) 'should not conflict with landscape character, environmental protection or nature conservation policies of the LDF...'

5.13 **Core Policy CP10: Developing Tourism**

Summary: The policy states that tourist-related activities will not be encouraged where they have a detrimental impact on the local environment and landscape, although the rural nature and location of many tourist-related activities as well as the high quality of landscape and environment within and around *Natura 2000* sites make them attractive to tourist and tourist-related businesses. Therefore there could be pressure in and around the European sites related to tourist activities and development - encouraged by this policy, i.e. increased traffic, litter, vandalism, arson, general noise and disturbance as well as destruction of habitat could result from increased tourist footfall.

'In Combination' Impacts: None identified.

Recommendation: The additional wording to the supporting text of CP12 – as suggested above – should be sufficient to ensure that *Natura 2000* sites are both considered and protected in relation to the individual or cumulative impacts of tourist-related activities and development supported by this policy.

5.14 **Core Policy CP14: Providing and Delivering Infrastructure**

Summary: The provision of additional development within the towns will require the provision of additional infrastructure. This may involve improvements to the road and cycle network, new pipelines, cabling and telecommunications. Such infrastructure provision could have an impact upon the North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA and North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC.

'In Combination' Impacts: None identified.

Recommendation: There are requirements within CP14 that the provision of infrastructure should take account of environmental sustainability concerns. It is therefore considered unlikely that there will be a likely significant effect on any of the identified *Natura 2000* sites inside or outside of the plan area.

APPENDIX A: Details of the characteristics and conservation objectives of the identified SAC and SPA sites (within and outside the plan area)

The following information has been gathered from the aforementioned Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and Natural England websites in relation to each individual site:

1. North Pennine Moors SAC

North Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is made up of a series of component Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), a number of which lie within the geographical range of this assessment.

Qualifying Features:

This SAC has been designated due to the presence of the following qualifying features:

- European dry heaths
- *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands
- Blanket bogs * Priority feature
- Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) * Priority feature
- Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation
- Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles
- North Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*
- Calaminarian grasslands of the *Violetalia calaminariae*
- Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands
- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*)
- Alkaline fens
- Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladanii*)
- Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation
- Marsh saxifrage *Saxifrage hirculus*

Conservation Objectives:

There is no one overall set of objectives for the SAC, although some individual SSSIs within the SAC have draft conservation objectives for their features of national interest, which have been provided in confidence by Natural England. As there are a large number of qualifying features and a large number of component SSSIs, for which the conservation objectives are in varying states of readiness, it is not reasonable to provide all of these here. Consequently, this section presents a summary of the available draft conservation objectives as they relate to SAC qualifying features. The conservation objective supplied by Natural England is:

“To maintain the designated habitats in favourable condition, which is defined in part in relation to habitat extent. Maintenance implies restoration if evidence from condition assessment suggests a reduction in extent.”

- Presence, distribution and abundance of characteristic positive indicator species
- Characteristic zones of vegetation
- Low cover of bracken, trees and scrub for heathland and grassland features
- Low cover of non-native species
- Low cover of negative indicator species
- Low levels of grazing/browsing
- No evidence of burning or other disturbance such as mowing
- Low levels of drainage
- Low levels of physical disturbance to the habitat (e.g. from vehicle tracking)
- Low levels of erosion
- Low cover of disturbed bare ground
- Natural topography/morphology of site
- Vegetation community composition
- Vegetation structure including age composition and recruitment of young individuals of positive indicator species
- Presence of dead wood habitat (woodland features)

- Natural hydrological regime
- Natural sediment load
- No impact from artificial structures
- No impact from recreational activities

Factors which may affect the qualifying features:

Given the definition of favourable condition provided above, there are a number of factors which could result in reduction or loss of the above qualifying features. Based upon consultation with Natural England, the following factors have been identified as the most important or likely to adversely affect the SAC:

- Climate change
- Grazing
- Air quality
- Water quality – organics/silt form physical disturbance
- Drainage (new or inappropriate)
- Scrub/tree/bracken encroachment
- Inappropriate moorland management e.g. burning
- Stock feeding

The following factors have been identified as less important in terms of maintaining favourable condition:

- Physical disturbance to habitat e.g. trampling by stock
- Water quality – agricultural runoff
- Invasive plants

Current status of the site:

The site is divided into a large number of units for the purposes of condition assessment. The majority of the units were reported at the last condition assessment (2006/7) as unfavourable with no change. A number of units are classified as favourable and a significant number of others are regarded as unfavorable but recovering following suitable management implementation.

1. North Pennine Moors SPA

In addition to its designation as a SAC the North Pennine Moors also has a designation as a Special Protection Area (SPA), both designations are for the same areas. The SPA as with the SAC is made up of a number of a series of component SSSIs, some of which lie within the geographical scope of this assessment.

Qualifying Species:

The SPA had been designated because it supports the following breeding species that are considered of European importance as listed in Annex I of the Directive (79/409/EEC):

During the breeding season:

- Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* – 1400 pairs representing at least 6.2% of the breeding population of Great Britain
- Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* – 11 pairs representing at least 2.2% of the breeding population of Great Britain
- Merlin *Falco columbarius* – 136 pairs representing at least 10.5% of the breeding population of Great Britain
- Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* – 15 pairs representing at least 1.3% of the breeding population of Great Britain.

The site also qualifies because it supports breeding populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

- Curlew *Numenius arquata* – 3930 pairs representing at least 3.3% of the breeding populations of Europe
- Dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii* – 330 pairs representing at least 3.0% of the breeding population of Baltics/UK/Ireland

Conservation Objectives:

There is no one overall set of objectives for the SPA, although some individual SSSIs within the SPA have draft conservation objectives for their features and species of international/national interest, which have been provided in confidence by Natural England. This section presents a summary of the available draft conservation objectives as they relate to SPA qualifying species. The conservation objective supplied by Natural England is:

“To maintain the designated populations in favourable condition, which is defined in part in relation to habitat extent. Maintenance implies restoration if evidence from condition assessment suggests a reduction in extent.”

- Maintain population presence
- Maintain population size, abundance and distribution
- Maintain population structure

Factors which may affect the qualifying species for the site:

Given the definitions of favourable condition provided above, there are a number of factors which could result in reduction or loss of the qualifying species. Based upon consultation with Natural England, the following factors have been identified as most important or likely to adversely affect the SPA:

- Climate change
- Inappropriate moorland management e.g. burning
- Invasive/destructive plant and animal species
- Scrub, tree and bracken encroachment
- Air quality

Current status of the site:

The site is divided into a number of units for the purpose of condition assessment. The most recent assessments of these units have classified the majority of the units as unfavourable but recovering. Most of the remainder of the units are classified as unfavourable with no change.

2. North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC

North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC is made up of a series of component SSSIs within the geographical scope of this assessment.

Qualifying Features:

This SAC has been designated due to the presence of the following qualifying features:

- Mountain hay meadows
- *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey silt-laden soils (purple moor-grass and rush pasture)

Conservation Objectives:

There is no one overall set of objectives for the SAC, although some individual SSSIs within the SAC have draft conservation objectives for their features of national interest, which have been provided in confidence by Natural England. As there are a large number of qualifying features and a large number of component SSSIs, for which the conservation objectives are in varying states of readiness, it is not reasonable to provide all of these here. Consequently, this section presents a summary of the available draft conservation objectives as they relate to SAC qualifying features. The conservation objective supplied by Natural England is:

“To maintain the designated habitats in favourable condition, which is defined in part in relation to habitat extent. Maintenance implies restoration if evidence from condition assessment suggests a reduction in extent.”

Natural England has provided information on how favourable conditions of habitats are to be assessed. In summary, favourable condition is defined by the following elements:

- Extent of qualifying habitat
- Bare ground cover
- Cover of plant litter
- Sward height

- Composition of sward – positive and negative indicator species and ratio of grasses to forbs.

Factors which may affect the qualifying features:

Based upon consultation with Natural England, no factors have been identified as particularly important for maintaining favourable condition. However, the following factors have been identified as less important at the present time in terms of maintaining favourable condition:

- Overgrazing
- Undergrazing
- Grazing/cutting at wrong time of year
- Encroachment of bracken/scrub/trees
- Inappropriate nutrient enrichment
- Herbicide use
- Lack of management
- Development on or adjacent to the site

Current status of the site:

The site is divided into a number of units for the purpose of condition assessment. The most recent assessments were made in 2007; a few units were of favourable condition and the majority of the units were found to be unfavourable but recovering. However a comparatively large number of the units were also found to be unfavourable with no change largely resultant of overgrazing, burning and inappropriate management.

3. Ox Close SAC

Ox Close is a Special Area of Conservation that is also a SSSI and lies 5km outside the plan area.

Qualifying Features:

This SAC has been designated due to the presence of the following qualifying features:

- Calaminarian grassland
- Semi-natural grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates
- *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines [* Priority feature]

Conservation Objectives:

There is no one overall set of objectives for the SAC, although some individual SSSIs within the SAC have draft conservation objectives for their features of national interest, which have been provided in confidence by Natural England. As there are a large number of qualifying features and a large number of component SSSIs, for which the conservation objectives are in varying states of readiness, it is not reasonable to provide all of these here. Consequently, this section presents a summary of the available draft conservation objectives as they relate to SAC qualifying features. The conservation objective supplied by Natural England is:

“To maintain the designated habitats in favourable condition, which is defined in part in relation to the habitat extent. Maintenance implies restoration if evidence from condition assessment suggests a reduction in extent.”

- Low levels of grazing / browsing
- No evidence of burning or other disturbance such as mowing
- Low cover of bare disturbed ground
- Low levels of physical disturbance to the habitat (e.g. from vehicle tracking)
- Low levels of erosion
- Presence, distribution and abundance of characteristic positive indicator species
- Natural topography/morphology of site
- Vegetation community composition
- Vegetation structure including age composition and recruitment of young individuals of
 - positive indicator species
- Presence of deadwood habitat
- Sward height

- No impact from artificial structures
- No impact from recreational activities

Factors which may affect qualifying features

Given the definition of favourable condition provided above, there are a number of factors which could result in reduction or loss of the above qualifying features. Based upon consultation with Natural England, the following factors have been identified as the most important or likely to adversely affect the SAC:

- Air quality
- Grazing
- Drainage (new or appropriate)
- Inappropriate habitat management e.g. burning
- Scrub/tree/bracken encroachment
- The following factors have been identified as less important in terms of maintaining favourable condition:
 - Invasive plants
 - Physical disturbance to habitat e.g. trampling by stock

Current status of the site:

The site is divided into a number of units for the purpose of condition assessment. The majority of the units at Ox Close are classified as favourable, the remaining few units are unfavourable but recovering.

4. Craven Limestone Complex SAC

Craven Limestone Complex is made up of a series of component SSSIs, which lie within a 20km range of the area being assessed.

Qualifying Features:

The SAC has been designated due to the presence of the following qualifying features:

- Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp.
- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*)
- *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)
- Active raised bogs [* Priority feature]
- Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) [* Priority feature]
- Alkaline fens
- Limestone pavements [* Priority feature]
- Calaminarian grasslands of the *Violetalia calaminariae*
- Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines [* Priority feature]
- White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish *Austropotmobius pallipes*
- Bullhead *Cottus gobio*
- Lady's-slipper orchid *Cypripedium calceolus*

Conservation Objectives:

There is no one overall set of objectives for the SAC, although some individual SSSIs within the SAC have draft conservation objectives for their features of national interest, which have been provided in confidence by Natural England. As there are a large number of qualifying features and a large number of component SSSIs, for which the conservation objectives are in varying states of readiness, it is not reasonable to provide all of these here. Consequently, this section presents a summary of the available draft conservation objectives as they relate to SAC qualifying features. The conservation objective supplied by Natural England is:

“To maintain the designated habitats in favourable condition, which is defined in part in relation to habitat extent. Maintenance implies restoration if evidence from condition assessment suggests a reduction in extent.”

- Presence, distribution and abundance of characteristic positive indicator species
- Characteristic zones of vegetation

- Low cover of algae
- Low cover of bracken, trees and scrub for heathland and grassland features
- Low cover of non-native species
- Low cover of negative indicator species
- Low levels of grazing/browsing
- No evidence of burning or other disturbance such as mowing
- Low levels of drainage
- Low levels of physical disturbance to the habitat (e.g. from vehicle tracking)
- Low levels of erosion
- Low cover of disturbed bare ground
- Natural topography / morphology of site
- Vegetation community composition
- Vegetation structure including age composition and recruitment of young individuals of positive indicator species
- Presence of dead wood habitat (woodland features)
- Natural hydrological regime
- Natural sediment load
- Maintain population presence
- Maintain size, abundance, and distribution of populations
- Maintain population structure
- No impact from artificial structures
- No impact from recreational activities

Factors which may affect the qualifying features:

- Climate change
- Grazing
- Air quality
- Water quality – organic/silt from disturbance
- Water quality – agricultural runoff
- Water quality – in general
- Inappropriate management of water levels
- Fish stocking (inappropriate and/or non-native fish to the habitat)
- Drainage (new or inappropriate)
- Scrub/tree/bracken encroachment
- Inappropriate moorland management e.g. burning
- Stock feeding

The following factors have been identified as less important in terms of maintaining favourable condition:

- Physical disturbance to habitat e.g. trampling by stock
- Water quality – agricultural runoff
- Invasive plants

Current status of site:

The site is divided into a number of units for the purpose of condition assessment. The most recent assessments made in 2007 classified the majority of the units as either favourable or unfavourable but recovering. Only a small number of the units were found to be unfavourable with no change.

5. Asby Complex SAC

Asby Complex SAC is made up of a series of component SSSIs which lie within a 20km range of Richmondshire.

Qualifying Features:

The SAC has been designated due to the presence of the following qualifying features:

- Semi-natural grasslands and scrubland facies: calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*)
- Molinia meadows on the calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)
- Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) [* Priority feature]

- Alkaline fens
- Limestone pavements [* Priority feature]
- Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp.
- European dry heaths
- Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae* [* Priority feature]
- Geyer's whorl snail *Vertigo geyeri*
- Slender green feather-moss *Drepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) vernicosus*

Conservation Objectives:

There is no one overall set of objectives for the SAC, although some individual SSSIs within the SAC have draft conservation objectives for their features of national interest, which have been provided in confidence by Natural England. As there are a large number of qualifying features and a large number of component SSSIs, for which the conservation objectives are in varying states of readiness, it is not reasonable to provide all of these here. Consequently, this section presents a summary of the available draft conservation objectives as they relate to SAC qualifying features. The conservation objective supplied by Natural England is:

“Subject to natural change, to maintain the following habitats in favourable condition (^), with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features (habitats, vegetation types, species, species assemblages etc.) for which the land is designated (SSSI, cSAC, SPA, Ramsar)”.

(^) or restored to favourable condition if the features are judged to be unfavourable.

Natural England has provided information on how favourable condition of habitats at the Asby Complex is to be assessed. In summary, favourable condition is defined by the following elements:

- Extent of qualifying habitats
- Sward height
- Composition of sward – positive and negative indicator species and ratio of grasses to forbs
- No measurable decline of the habitats
- Limestone pavements should have little or no damage
- Low cover of bracken, trees and scrub for heathland and grassland features
- Low cover of non-native species
- Low levels of grazing/browsing (preferably under 33%)
- Low levels of physical disturbance to the habitat from vehicles or walkers
- No impact from recreational activities

Conservation objectives for the species features of the site are to maintain the population in favourable condition. Criteria for favourable condition of each species have been provided by Natural England and can be summarised as follows:

- Maintain population presence, size/abundance and distribution
- Absence or low level of disease

Factors which may affect the qualifying features

Given the definition of favourable condition provided above, there are a number of factors which could result in reduction or loss of the above qualifying features. Based upon consultation with Natural England, the following factors have been identified as most important or likely to adversely affect the SAC:

- Climate change
- Grazing
- Air quality
- Drainage
- Inappropriate management e.g. burning
- Scrub/tree/bracken encroachment

The following factors have been identified as less important in terms of maintaining favourable conditions:

- Physical disturbance to habitat (e.g. trampling by stock)
- Water quality – agricultural runoff

- Invasive plant species

Current status of the site:

The site is divided into a number of units for the purpose of condition assessment. The last assessment dates were in 2004 and 2006 and a large number of the units were found to be unfavourable but recovering; however a similarly large proportion of the units were found to be unfavourable and declining due to excessive heavy grazing. Some units are classified as unfavourable with no change although there are some units which are classified as favourable due to the introduction of new low-intensity cattle grazing.

6. North York Moors SAC

A hilly upland landscape that is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK for heathland, containing the largest continuous tract of upland heather moorland in England.

Qualifying Features:

The SAC has been designated due to the presence of the following qualifying features:

- North Atlantic Wet Heaths (with *Erica Tetralix*)
- European Dry Heaths
- Blanket Bogs [* Priority feature]

Conservation Objectives:

There is no one overall set of objectives for the SAC, although some individual SSSIs within the SAC have draft conservation objectives for their features of national interest, which have been provided in confidence by Natural England. As there are a large number of qualifying features and a large number of component SSSIs, for which the conservation objectives are in varying states of readiness, it is not reasonable to provide all of these here. Consequently, this section presents a summary of the available draft conservation objectives as they relate to SAC qualifying features. The conservation objective (in accordance with the reasons for which the SAC designation was designated) as supplied by Natural England is:

*“To maintain, in favourable condition, the designated habitats (*listed above)...
Maintain implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.”*

Vulnerabilities/Factors which may affect the qualifying features:

The habitat is highly sensitive to changes to the existing moorland management, which is currently carried out by sheep farmers and by gamekeepers through the sport shooting of grouse. Changes to grazing levels could impact upon the diversity of heather and overgrazing could lead to heather loss whilst under-grazing could allow the encroachment of scrub. The wetter habitats (i.e. blanket bog) are susceptible to any drainage changes, which could lead to a loss in structural diversity as well as the potential loss of mosses and lichens. These habitats could also be adversely affected by over burning or uncontrolled fires, which can be more prevalent as a result of increasing visitor numbers.

6. North York Moors SPA

Qualifying Species:

During the breeding season:

- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) - more than 35 breeding pairs, representing at least 2.7% of the GB breeding population (1996)
- Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) – more than 526 breeding pairs, representing at least 2.3% of the GB breeding population (1996)

Conservation Objectives:

There is no one overall set of objectives for the SPA / SAC, although some individual SSSIs within the SAC have draft conservation objectives for their features of national interest, which have been provided in confidence by Natural England. As there are a large number of qualifying features and a large number of component SSSIs, for which the conservation

objectives are in varying states of readiness, it is not reasonable to provide all of these here. Consequently, this section presents a summary of the available draft conservation objectives as they relate to SAC qualifying features. The conservation objective (in accordance with the reasons for which the SAC designation was designated) as supplied by Natural England is:

“To maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of species of European importance, with particular reference to:

- *upland moorland*
- *merlin (falco columbarius)*
- *golden plover (pluvialis apricaria)*

Maintain implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition”

Vulnerabilities/Factors which may affect the qualifying features:

The value of the NYM as a habitat for merlin, golden plover and other breeding birds is dependent upon maintaining the existing levels of moorland management currently carried out by farmers and gamekeepers. Over-grazing or too frequent heather burning (either deliberate or accidental) could lead to a loss of structural diversity on the heaths and mires, whilst the removal of grazing could result in large areas of older heather and invasion by bracken. In addition, poor keeping of the moors for grouse may also lead to increasing persecution of raptors, including merlins.

APPENDIX B: Additional information regarding airborne pollutants

The Air Pollution Information System (APIS) identified *acidification*, *eutrophication*, *photochemical oxidants* and *particulate matter* as the main air pollution concerns in relation to Unimproved Hay Meadows such as the SAC/SSSI sites at Gingerfields and Richmond Meadows as well as the Upper Heathlands which include areas designated as North Pennine Moors SAC / SPA.

Acidification describes the loss of nutrient bases (calcium, magnesium and potassium) through the process of leaching and their replacement by acidic elements (hydrogen and aluminium). Acidification is commonly associated with atmospheric pollution arising from anthropogenically derived (i.e. human caused) sulphur and nitrogen (as NO_x or ammonia). Anthropogenically derived pollutant deposition enhances the rates of acidification, which may then exceed the natural neutralising capacity of soils. The environmental impacts of acidification are one of the major contemporary environmental issues, both in the UK and globally. The acidification of soils and freshwaters in regions remote from major sources of pollutants may have been accelerated by the increased dispersion of acidic pollutants caused by high level emissions from power stations. The weight of evidence suggests that enhanced Sulphur and Nitrogen deposition is causing damage to a wide variety of habitats, communities and species in Britain.

Eutrophication is the addition /increase of artificial or natural substances, nutrients or organic matter to an eco-system. The process is usually referred to in the context of aquatic systems, but can also apply to terrestrial ecosystems. Increased nitrates in soil have led to the endangerment of some European plant species. Meadows, forests and bogs in particular are characterized by low nutrient content and the species inhabiting these habitats have slowly adapted to these low levels and they can easily be overgrown by faster-growing and more competitive species where the increased levels of nitrogen acts as a stimulus to increased plant growth. For instance, tall grasses in meadow habitats can take advantage of higher nitrogen levels and this can change the dynamic of the habitat leading to the loss of natural species. In heathland communities, rapid changes in the species composition have occurred as a result of increased nutrient availability. Changes in the composition of plants in a habitat can have an adverse knock-on effect for insects and birds that rely on the habitat. Eutrophication can occur in relation to an increase in the level of phosphates as well as nitrogen.

Photochemical oxidants within the lower atmosphere can also have a significant impact on habitats. Arguably the most well-known and widest-impacting of these oxidants is Ozone (O₃). Elevated and excessive concentrations of ozone in the lower atmosphere can have toxic effects on plants and vegetation, including visible injury, premature aging and lower yields of some crops, although more research is needed on the effects of ozone on natural (non-crop) plant life in particular.

Airborne particulates and dusts can occur from a wide variety of sources, whilst the size and chemical composition of the particulates can equally vary depending on its history and source. Particles may be generated mechanically, for example by the wind, may be emitted directly to the atmosphere or may be formed by chemical reactions in the atmosphere with precursor gases. In terms of the latter, sulphates are produced from the reaction of sulphur dioxide released into the atmosphere from both naturally occurring and human processes. Ammonia and nitric acid can be produced from the release of nitrogen oxide into the atmosphere, whilst man-made emissions of ammonia and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) can lead to the formation of ammonium and organic aerosols. Industrial and transport related combustion processes can directly emit fine particles such as soot from the combustion of carbon-based fuels, particles containing heavy metals from a wide variety of industrial and transport sources and fly-ash particles emitted from the high

temperature combustion of coal. Mechanically generated particles are predominately distributed by wind turbulence. Mineral containing particles can have their origin from quarrying and building activities whilst cement and fertilizer dusts can come from factories and construction sites.

Given the wide variety of pollutants and chemical composition involved, dust particles play a role in many air pollution issues and can have localised effects of dusts covering vegetation, resulting in the deposition of regional pollutants causing acidification and eutrophication; the deposition of heavy metals with toxic effects on fauna and flora and the transboundary transport of air pollutants as fine particles.