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Cc: [YWT Planning](#)

Subject: 14.05.25 Copmanthorpe Neighbourhood Plan_Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Response

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Attachments:

[Copmanthorpe Neighbourhood Plan YWT Response.pdf](#) [REDACTED]

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Hi

Please find our response attached.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Planning Specialist

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

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Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England Number 409650.

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DATE 14.05.25

BY EMAIL ONLY:

Copmanthorpe Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for consulting Yorkshire Wildlife Trust on the Copmanthorpe Neighbourhood Plan. YWT believe Neighbourhood Plans provide an excellent opportunity to improve the local environment, including protecting and enhancing existing assets, such as local parks, nature reserves and other green spaces. We are pleased to see that our previous comments from 2017 have been taken on board by the parish council. YWT stand by our previous comments as being our main concerns about the development of this plan due to the proximity of our flagship reserve, Askham Bog. A summary of these comments are as follows:

- 1. Concern about any negative impact of development on Askham Bog.**
- 2. The Trust would like to see that the important green spaces around the village are enhanced for biodiversity rather than damaged by any development.**
- 3. There could also be potential for extra impacts from an increase in the number of people living nearby. Connecting areas for wildlife will be very valuable in the area.**

Askham Bog is a very important and unique reserve for the Trust and is designated as an SSSI for its botanical interest. With this in mind It is good to see that an outline ESA¹ has been undertaken, "The need for environmental assessment of Neighbourhood Plans stems from [...] English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (EAPP) 2004"² The Basic condition statement section of the plan includes the following guidance, "The making of the neighbourhood development plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site".³ We welcome this due to the proximity of Askham Bog, to the proposed housing development (ST31).

Regarding the updates relating to our 2017 comment, CNP7 of the plan states, "Developers will be required to ensure that the development of ST31 does not result in damage to the notified features of Askham Bog Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and nature reserve through changes to the

¹ Copmanthorpe Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Screening Assessment, Published by Copmanthorpe Parish Council January 2025

² Paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012

³ As defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010



water levels at Askham Bog.” We would be interested in reviewing more information on how this is planned to be monitored and expect to see evidence of this at the next stage of consultation. It would be great to see the incorporation of wildlife friendly features into development areas in your neighbourhood plan, such as sustainable drainage schemes (SUDS).

YWT believes Neighbourhood Plans should look at all the existing green space in your area including parks, playing fields, and landscape schemes identifying where they could be enhanced. Also, where they could be linked to create green corridors giving local people better access and enabling wildlife to move within the neighbourhood and beyond. Our second comment at the previous stage of consultation, stated that increasing biodiversity within green spaces within the plan area would be desirable. The NPPF⁴ refers to the conservation of the natural environment including biodiversity. YWT was pleased to see reference to the commitment of increasing biodiversity, and that the wording of this clause was amended following our suggestion. Additionally, the ESA screening indicates “There are five sites in the Parish, identified for their Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCS)” and “The Plan policies seek to conserve and enhance the natural and built environment. It seeks, for example, to protect and enhance biodiversity and identifies Local Green Spaces for protection.” We would be happy to advise on methods and management for the intended sites mentioned above, in advance of seeing a strategy for these enhancements.

The wider countryside and urban gardens are also vital for wildlife to thrive. A strip of green or a hedgerow can link wildlife sites and YWT was pleased to see the plan also mentions the importance of conserving hedgerows in the locality, “Maintain and improve the hedgerow network throughout the landscape: Hedgerows should be gapped up and managed to improve their condition” We would expect to see evidence of this in the landscape management plan and again, would be happy to advise on the topic.

The response to our third comment from 2017 has resulted in YWT receiving S106 funding for improvements to Askham Bog, from the Developer of ST31, as a compensatory measure. This was agreed in June 2024. These funds will enable a new boardwalk to be constructed to mitigate the possible negative effects of extra footfall on our reserve. In addition to this it would be helpful to be notified when the CEMP is distributed so we can advise on any additional mitigation required during the construction phase of the housing developments, central to the Copmanthorpe Neighbourhood Plan proposal. If the LPA could advise when this material will be made available, we can provide additional comments.

⁴ NPPF 174 – 188, Section 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment





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In addition to this, we would be interested in seeing a management plan for the recreational impacts of increased footfall on the green spaces included in the neighbourhood plan, that will be driven by the housing development. Mitigating the recreational impacts of increased footfall, dog-walkers and cat ownership in the area, as well as an increase in traffic and car usage, will be essential. Not only for Askham Bog, but for the green spaces throughout the parish where Biodiversity is to be encouraged.

We hope you have found this response useful.

Kind regards,

The Planning Team
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

planning@ywt.org.uk



ywt.org.uk

**Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is the only charity entirely dedicated to
conserving, protecting and enhancing Yorkshire's wildlife and wild places**