



# **Biodiversity Duty Report**

**1 January 2024 – 1 January 2026**

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The [Environment Act 2021](#) introduced a strengthened 'Biodiversity Duty', which means that public authorities in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. An amendment to the original [Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006](#) (NERC Act 2006) section 40 duty, provided for in the Environment Act 2021, extends the biodiversity duty on public authorities to include the enhancement of biodiversity alongside conservation by way of creating “the general biodiversity objective. For a Local Authority the general biodiversity objective is taken to mean the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity through the exercise of its functions and adopted policies.
- 1.2. The production of the Biodiversity Duty report is a statutory requirement under the provisions detailed in the NERC Act 2006 and further strengthened by the Environment Act 2021. The report serves as an accountability tool to monitor progress toward environmental targets and documents actions taken to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

## 2. Report Contents

- 2.1. This report documents the policies and actions City of York Council (CYC) have undertaken to fulfil our ‘biodiversity duty’ as set out in the Environment Act 2021. The content of this report builds upon the detail with our “[first consideration](#)” report published in December 2024 which outlined the framework of actions CYC would seek to undertake to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- 2.2. By law the Biodiversity Duty Report must include the following:
  - a summary of the action we have taken to comply with the biodiversity duty.
  - how the authority plan to comply with the biodiversity duty in the next reporting period.
  - any other information considered appropriate.
- 2.3. Reports from local planning authorities must also include the following biodiversity net gain (BNG) information:
  - the actions carried out to meet BNG obligations.
  - details of BNG resulting, or expected to result, from approved biodiversity gain plans.

- how you plan to meet BNG obligations in the next reporting period.
- 2.4. To comply with our Biodiversity Duty obligation, actions undertaken to conserve and enhance biodiversity must be reviewed at least every 5 years as an iterative process. More regular intervals can be considered when existing policies, frameworks and processes are updated to change them to better conserve and enhance biodiversity.

### **3. Links to National Targets**

- 3.1. Actions that CYC undertake to conserve and enhance biodiversity will aim to contribute to the achievement of national goals and targets such as those defined by the Environment Act 2021 and The UK government Environment Improvement Plan (EIP). These targets are briefly described below:

#### ***The Environment Act 2021***

- 3.2. The Environment Act 2021 statutory targets for restoring nature are:
- halt the decline in species abundance by 2030.
  - increase species abundance so that by 2042 it is greater than in 2022 and at least 10% greater than in 2030.
  - improve the Red List Index for England for species extinction by 2042 compared to 2022 levels.
  - restore or create more than 500,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites by 2042.
  - increase tree canopy and woodland cover to at least 16.5% of total land area by 2050.
  - ensure that at least 70% of protected features in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are in favourable condition by the end of 2042, with the remainder in recovering condition.

#### ***Environment Improvement Plan (EIP)***

- 3.3. Action that CYC to conserve and enhance biodiversity will contribute to the achievement of national goals and targets. The UK government [Environment Improvement Plan](#) (EIP), published in December 2025, sets out a roadmap for restoring England's environment. The EIP contains measurable commitments across several priorities from cleaner air and water to thriving wildlife and resilient landscapes. Linked to these commitments are a range of interim targets for restoring nature. These targets include:

- restore or create a total of 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats outside of protected sites by December 2030.
- by December 2030, 50% of Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) features to have actions on track to achieve favourable condition.
- by 2030, double the number of farms providing sufficient year-round resources for farm wildlife, compared with 2025.
- reduce the rate of establishment of invasive non-native species (INNS) by at least 50% by December 2030, compared to 2000 levels.
- increase England's tree canopy and woodland cover by 0.33% of land area by December 2030 from the 2022 baseline of 14.9%. (Equivalent to a net increase 43,000 hectares).
- at least 49% of Marine Protected Area (MPA) protected features are in favourable condition and at least 46% in recovering condition, by December 2030.

#### **4. Overview of Biodiversity Within the City of York**

- 4.1. Actions that CYC undertake to conserve and enhance biodiversity through the exercise of its functions and adopted policies are informed by the existing habitats and species of national, regional and local conservation importance that the city supports. These are briefly described below alongside some of the significant pressures identified within the region which have led to general declines in biodiversity.
- 4.2. Within the administrative boundary of the City of York there are five sites internationally designated as either Special Protection Areas (SPA) or Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) or Ramsar sites. These are Strensall Common SAC, Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar/SPA/SAC and River Derwent SAC. Ten nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) occur within the city and surrounding area. This includes key sites such as Askham Bog SSSI, a surviving remnant of Yorkshire's ancient peatland. Askham Bog supports rare sedges, as well as botanically rich fenland habitat and key species such as royal fern, rare water beetles and over 800 species of moth have been recorded at this site.
- 4.3. There is a network of regionally and locally important sites for biodiversity located within the City of York boundary. These include four statutorily designated Local Nature Reserves (LNR)

and 76 ratified Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).

- 4.4. York supports species and habitats which are of national, regional and local conservation importance including the endangered Tansy Beetle which until 2014 was known only to occur along stretches of the River Ouse around York and Selby. Nationally important habitats such as ancient flood meadows of which c.9-10% of the national resource occur in York along the River Ouse and River Derwent corridors. The River Ouse, River Foss and their tributaries flow through the city and support populations of protected species such as otter and water vole. The city also encompasses the country's most northerly example of extensive lowland heath habitat Strensall Common. The Lower Derwent Valley to the east of the city supports internationally important populations of wetland birds.

The [North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) (LNRS) is a locally-led spatial strategy designed to identify/focus opportunities across the region to reverse nature decline, enhance biodiversity, and map priority areas for habitat creation. The LNRS highlights that the York and North Yorkshire area contains over 8,600 species considered to be endangered or vulnerable to extinction, including Adder, Curlew, European Eel, Water Vole, burnt Orchid and the iconic City of York species the Tansy Beetle. In addition, species that may be thought of as common such as the Common Toad, European Hedgehog or Swift are classed as priority species due to their dramatic declines in numbers in recent years.

- 4.5. Many habitat areas across North Yorkshire and York are heavily fragmented, functionally isolated, and lacking in management, causing significant declines in biodiversity and ecological condition. [The State of Yorkshire's Nature report](#) produced by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust states that in Yorkshire over 25% of species have declined in the last 30 years. The LNRS has highlighted some of the significant pressures that have led to the decline in species, and the condition of designated sites/habitats that will continue to have adverse impacts into the future if not addressed. These include:

- Habitat loss and fragmentation.
- Water pollution.
- Air pollution.
- Invasive species.

- Pest and diseases.
- Climate use.
- Land use.

## **5. Local Adopted Policies and Local Strategies**

- 5.1. To enhance and conserve biodiversity within the City of York authority has undertaken actions to develop, adopt and implement strategies and local policies to comply with its Biodiversity Duty. The following sections of this report provide a summary of these actions and a proposed framework of ongoing/future actions the authority intend to take for biodiversity.

### ***Council Plan 2023-2027***

- 5.2. The [City of York's Council Plan 2023-2027](#) sets a clear vision for the council that we will establish the conditions that would make the city healthier, fairer, more affordable, more sustainable and more accessible. The plan includes priorities Cutting carbon, enhancing the environment and contains commitments to increase biodiversity and planting trees across the city. In addition, the plan commits to understanding/considering biodiversity impacts when taking council decisions. The plan also highlights that CYC will take action to make the most of our green and blue infrastructure, to increase biodiversity, improve health and wellbeing and support nature recovery.

### ***York Climate Change Strategy 2022-32: A City Fit for The Future***

- 5.3. In 2019, the Council declared a Climate emergency and in line with this declaration, continues to engage in projects and initiatives to protect our most important sites, inclusive of but not limited to parks, woodlands, nature reserves, which improve all habitats for wildlife across the City, build in resilience to climate change and identify and develop sites to remove carbon emissions.
- 5.4. The [Climate Change Strategy 2022-32](#) was produced by the council response to the Full Council Motion in 2019 that declared a Climate Emergency.
- 5.5. This strategy includes objectives to address impacts of Climate Change within the City of York utilizing the co-benefits of improving natural environment/biodiversity. These Objectives include:

- **Increase Tree Planting:** Plant more trees to increase the canopy cover across the city (see CYC [Tree Canopy Target](#) and [York Green Streets](#) Initiative).
- **Increase Carbon Storage:** Make better use of land to absorb carbon from the atmosphere.
- **Promote sustainable land management:** Diversify and innovate within the agricultural sector.
- **Reduce the impacts of extreme weather events:** Use our natural environment to reduce the risks and impacts of flooding and overheating (see [Ousewem](#) partnership – a CYC led local partnership project implementing nature-based solutions (NbS) including natural flood management (NFM) to help manage flood risk).

### **City of York Local Plan: Plan Period 2017 - 2033**

5.6. The [City of York Local Plan: Plan Period 2017 - 2033](#) was formally adopted in February 2025. The local plan includes planning policies that seek to conserve and enhance York's landscapes, geodiversity, biodiversity and natural environment, recognising the important role of green infrastructure in planning decisions. The main policies contained in the local plan relating to biodiversity are listed below (and provided in detail within Appendix 1 of this report):

- GI1: Green Infrastructure.
- GI2: Biodiversity and Access to Nature.
- GI2a: Strensall Common Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
- GI3: Green Infrastructure Network.
- GI4: Trees and Hedgerows.
- GI5: Protection of Open Space and Playing Fields.
- GI6: New Open Space Provision.
- GI1: Green Infrastructure.

5.7. Additional policies where biodiversity is also taken into consideration in decision making process include the following:

- DP1: York Sub Area.
- DP2: Sustainable Development.
- DP3: Sustainable Communities.
- CC1: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation and Storage.

- ENV5: Sustainable Drainage.
- 5.8. The planning policies listed above support the Council's planning case work and are given full weight when delivering planning advice and determining planning applications.

***North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Partnership (LNP)***

- 5.9. The North Yorkshire and York LNP are one of 48 partnerships in England endorsed by Defra in 2012. The LNP was formed with an aim to create a step-change in how the natural environment is managed and embed the value of the environment in local decisions to support healthier people and a thriving economy. The LNP covers the County of North Yorkshire and the City of York and is managed by a collaborative multi-sector board to oversee this work. Members of the partnership include North Yorkshire Council, City of York Council, North York Moors National Park Authority, Howardian Hills National Landscape, Natural England, National Farmers Union, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, York and North Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, North Yorkshire Public Health Team, University of York, and Historic England.
- 5.10. The council maintains an active role as part of the LNP board to promote/deliver its vision of seeing that the natural environment of North Yorkshire and York conserved, enhanced and connected across the whole LNP area for the benefit of wildlife, people and the economy. The LNP will seek to deliver its vision by:
- creating a single voice for nature across the LNP area.
  - encouraging groups to work together at landscape scale.
  - ensuring more co-ordinated and resource efficient delivery.
  - sharing best practice between projects.
  - striving towards better cross-sector integration.
  - providing stronger proposals to potential funders.
  - providing stronger engagement on strategic planning matters.

***North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy***

- 5.11. The [North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) considers land at a county scale and identifies locations to improve nature and provide other benefits, such as capturing carbon from the atmosphere, flood regulation and access to nature-rich spaces where this is most needed for health and wellbeing.

5.12. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy:

- sets out priorities for nature's recovery, such as increasing woodland cover or creating wetlands.
- maps the most valuable existing areas for nature.
- maps specific proposals for creating and improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals.

5.13. As a supporting authority CYC has taken a key role in the development of the LNRS by being involved of the decision-making process of identifying opportunities and priorities for nature recovery in the region. CYC officers were also involved in advisory board/groups throughout the development of the LNRS providing technical input on local habitats and species.

5.14. The North Yorkshire and York LNRS was published February 2025 and is now entering a phase where mechanisms for delivery and funding of nature recovery are being defined. Moving forward into the delivery phase of the LNRS City of York will have a key role to play as part of the Local Nature Partnership (LNP) Board and LNRS Steering Group in providing strategic direction and advisory input to the delivery of the LNRS objectives (including Priorities and Measures). This will be in as part of collaborative partnership with other membership organisations.

***City of York Pollinator Strategy 2020–2025***

5.15. City of York Council is committed to helping to conserve the UK's pollinators by ensuring the council will consider the needs of pollinators in the delivery of its duties and work. Through the implementation of the [City of York Pollinator Strategy 2020–2025](#) the authority will seek to protect and increase the amount and quality of pollinator habitat and manage its greenspace to provide greater benefits for pollinators. CYC will ensure local people are provided with opportunities to make York more pollinator friendly.

**Our vision:** Our local environment will be rich in pollinator friendly habitats, helping support sustainable pollinator populations and making places more attractive for people to live and work in.

5.16. The aims of the project are that CYC will work to:

- Ensure the needs of pollinators are represented in local plans, policy and guidance.

- To protect, increase and enhance the amount of pollinator habitat on council owned or managed land, and help to improve the status of any locally threatened species.
- Improve our knowledge and understanding of pollinators in our local area.
- Increase awareness of pollinators and their habitat needs across local residents, businesses and other landowners; and
- Work together with partners to deliver these aims.

## **6. Projects and Actions During the Reporting Period**

- 6.1. The council has many activities that can positively impact biodiversity such as climate change, transport, or air and water quality. These are not described here. Instead, below is a sample of projects and actions with the aim of conserving and enhancing biodiversity as the primary objective.

### ***Planning and Development***

- 6.2. Using the Local Plan, local decision-taking has applied the necessary policy approach to secure BNG and other green infrastructure in applicable developments. There is ongoing work with developers across the city to maximise and make best use of the land to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

### ***York Community Woodland***

- 6.3. City of York Council and Forestry England are working in partnership to create an extensive new community woodland of predominantly native mixed broadleaf species on a 78-hectare site near the village of Knapton to the west of York. York Community Woodland opened to the public in August 2024, providing public access to this newly created habitat comprising of 200,000 planted trees and shrubs via a network of forest roads and tracks. The site contributes to the combined outline objectives of City of York Council and Forestry England to sequestrate residual carbon, enhance biodiversity, improve the health and wellbeing of residents and provide new green jobs, skills development and volunteering opportunities. The ongoing development of the site has been promoted through community engagement and activities such as woodland walks, wildflower meadow sowing, and tree planting. Forestry England is responsible for the future management and monitoring of York Community Woodland as the site continues to develop and mature.

### ***Local Investment in Natural Capital (LINC)***

- 6.4. Local Investment in Natural Capital (LINC) is a DEFRA and Environment Agency multi-phased project nationally, of which York and North Yorkshire are one of four pilot regions. It is designed to mobilise private investment in order to deliver regional nature and climate benefits. LINC is a joint partnership between North Yorkshire Council, York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority, City of York Council and the National Park Authorities – Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors.
- 6.5. York and North Yorkshire LINC’s ambition is to become the most attractive region nationally for investment into Natural Capital. LINC is developing a pipeline of projects linked to nature that are currently investable or will be in the future. Initial project investments will seek to link with other regional strategic programmes (e.g. Local Nature Recovery Strategy). Long term, there is an ambition for York and North Yorkshire to increase Natural Capital at a regional scale by enabling investment across multiple projects in the pipeline – by providing aggregated funding regionally. Regional opportunities for further improving Natural Capital through nature restoration have been analysed and mapped based on existing habitat and land-use data within the region.
- 6.6. LINC programme has developed in several phases looking at investable pilot opportunities across York and North Yorkshire. This has involved recording the baseline of Natural Capital Assets of pilot areas within in York, identifying Priority Ecosystem Service provision, and opportunity mapping. Reporting on this aspect of the programme was undertaken in late 2024 which led on to workshops in early 2025 for potential investors to demonstrate opportunities. Work to prepare a pre-strategic business case was delivered in summer 2025. LINC programme activities will continue throughout 2026 with a view to developing a Natural capital Investment Plan and establishing a pipeline of investment projects for 2027. Pilot project sites across the City of York were assessed as part of an overall shortlist of LINC opportunities for investment. To date no decisions have been made to progress any specific site.

### ***St. Nicks Green Corridors***

- 6.7. St. Nicks is registered charity partly funded by City of York Council. One of the key activities St.Nicks lead on is the [Green Corridors York](#) project. Green Corridors York strives for “more, bigger, better and more joined up” green spaces. The projects initial focus has been on connecting fragments of green space in

Yorks urban landscape, including Foss Islands Cycle Path, Tang Hall Beck and Osbaldwick Beck, with a view to linking access to habitats and reducing the isolation of wildlife populations. St. Nicks are also involved in extending its work on green corridors to Yorks main river catchments, the River Ouse and Foss, both hugely important corridors for wildlife across our region.

- 6.8. Staff and volunteers at St. Nicks also manage a nature reserve in the heart of the city (St Nicholas Fields LNR) alongside an Environmental Centre used as an educational resource. St Nicholas Fields LNR is approximately 9.4ha and contains a mosaic of scrub, young woodland, meadow, rough grassland, and coppice habitat. A section of Osbaldwick Beck also runs through the LNR.

### ***Ousewem***

- 6.9. [Ousewem](#) is a local partnership project funded by the UK government, working with farmers and landowners within North Yorkshire's Swale, Ure, Nidd and Ouse (SUNO) catchments. The aim of this project is to actively implement nature-based solutions (NbS) including natural flood management (NFM) to help manage flood risk.
- 6.10. Ousewem is led by City of York Council in close collaboration with North Yorkshire Council alongside other delivery partners such as Natural England, Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust and the University of York.
- 6.11. The Ousewem project is funded by Defra as part of the Flood and Coastal Innovation Programmes managed by the Environment Agency. The programmes will drive innovation in flood and coastal resilience and adaptation to a changing climate.
- 6.12. Within the City of York Ousewem has launched a riverside project designed to help people reconnect with their local environment and understand how rivers, landscapes and community action are shaping a more climate-resilient future.
- 6.13. The route tells the story of how flood resilience and nature-based solutions can make a difference, both upstream and in the city itself. From creative installations to educational resources, the project will invite residents, schools and visitors to see York's rivers in a new light.

### ***York Walls in Bloom***

- 6.14. The [York Walls in Bloom](#) initiative has been implemented to with a view to promote the vision contained with the CYC Pollinator Strategy whereby we would manage our local environment to be rich in pollinator friendly habitats, helping support sustainable pollinator populations and making places more attractive for people to live and work in.
- 6.15. To achieve its ambitions wildflower seeded areas have been created/introduced on various sections of the city walls focusing on Station Rise, Red Tower, off Foss Islands Road and at Queen Street, near York Station.

### ***City of York Green Infrastructure***

- 6.16. City of York green infrastructure includes a network of multifunctional open spaces, including strays, waterways, formal parks, gardens, woodlands, street trees, green corridors, nature reserves and open countryside. These areas are intrinsically linked to York's unique character, valuable in maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity, provide opportunities for sport and recreation and contribute to wider environmental benefits, including managing flood risk. These corridors which link the urban centre and the countryside are vital in maintaining York's green infrastructure network and the environmental quality of the city. The following examples give an indication of how City of York manage its green infrastructure with the aim of conserving and enhancing biodiversity as a guiding principle.
- 6.17. Hob Moor LNR is a one of York's ancient commons consisting of unimproved pasture and areas of ridge and furrow grassland. The LNR is traditionally grazed over the summer months which ensures habitats that support species of conservation concern such as breeding populations of skylark and meadow pipit are maintained.
- 6.18. York's strays cover over 800 acres of open space across the city and include Bootham, Micklegate, Monk and Walmgate Strays. They are important not only for their ecological and historical interest but as well as for their recreational and educational value. Grazing plays a role in restoring and maintaining species-rich grassland habitats in these areas by controlling more aggressive plant species which would otherwise dominate.
- 6.19. CYC work with local farmers/land managers to ensure that grazing on the strays is undertaken in a way that enhances: the natural environment, the species diversity present on the site and

historic features. The continued seasonal grazing by livestock and/or hay cropping is essential for the upkeep of the strays and in practical terms grazing is the most suitable way that the majority of the land can be maintained.

- 6.20. CYC is a key member of The Tansy Beetle Action Group (TBAG) which was set up, in 2008, to initiate and oversee conservation efforts aimed at saving this species from extinction in Britain. Where possible open space/habitat management operations by CYC adjacent to the River Ouse (a stronghold for Tansy beetle within the city) are undertaken with the conservation of this species in mind. Where practicable CYC managed areas have implemented cutting regimes for river and drain banks where Tansy Beetle occurs timed to avoid destruction of eggs, larvae or adults. Where possible the mowing regime also seeks to avoid/maintain large clumps of Tansy (the plant on which the beetle almost exclusively feeds).

### **Designated Sites**

- 6.21. Table 1 below provides an overview of statutory designated sites within the City of York boundary (Ramsar, SAC, SPA, SSSIs and LNRs) and their condition in relation to designated features. Assessment of condition is based on Natural England SSSI condition monitoring data and other data sources where available).

**Table 1: City of York Statutory Designated Sites**

Designation	Site Name	Approx. Size (ha)	Condition
Ramsar	Lower Derwent Valley	915	See details for overlapping designations: River Derwent SSSI, Derwent Ings SSSI
SAC	Lower Derwent Valley	922	See details for overlapping designations: River Derwent SSSI, Derwent Ings SSSI
SAC	Strensall Common	572	Favourable
SAC	River Derwent	407	See details River Derwent SSSI
SPA	Lower Derwent Valley	1092	See details for overlapping

Designation	Site Name	Approx. Size (ha)	Condition
			designations: River Derwent SSSI, Derwent Ings SSSI
SSSI	Strensall Common	572	Favourable
SSSI	Derwent Ings	666	Most habitat units in favourable condition. Some component habitats (grassland and fen) assessed as unfavourable: recovering or declining
SSSI	River Derwent	407	Most habitat units in favourable condition. Some components units assessed as unfavourable – recovering due to diffuse water pollution
SSSI	Heslington Tilmire	46	Floodplain Fen: Unfavourable (declining)  Lowland mire grassland and rush pasture: Favourable
SSSI	Acaster South Ings	39	Unfavourable - Recovering
SSSI	Church Ings	7	Favourable
SSSI	Naburn Marsh	13	Favourable
SSSI	Askham Bog	44	Unfavourable (no change/ recovering)
SSSI	Fulford Ings	13	Unfavourable (declining)

Designation	Site Name	Approx. Size (ha)	Condition
SSSI	Clifton Ings and Rawcliffe Meadows	56	Unfavourable (recovering – Tansy Beetle/ declining MG4 and MG8 lowland neutral grassland)
LNR	Acomb Wood and Meadow	4.3	Favourable
LNR	Hob Moor	35	Favourable
LNR	St Nicholas Fields	9.4	Favourable
LNR	Clifton Backies	18.5	Favourable

6.22. The overall responsibility for the management/maintenance of statutory designated sites is not within the remit of the council unless the site is owned by the council or where the council is a key stakeholder directing management works as part of a partnership (i.e. Hob Moor LNR and Clifton Backies LNR). However, we work in partnership with organisations such as Natural England and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to ensure we understand and have considered biodiversity impacts throughout the undertaking of council functions such as planning and local policy matters.

6.23. Table 2 below provides an overview of the number ratified SINC's across the City of York that are in positive management. Annual reporting of this data is a [government requirement](#) for local authorities. SINC's in positive management are defined as sites which have been or are being managed in such a way to benefit their specific nature conservation interest, within the last five years. This data collection is intended to measure the performance of Local Authorities in protecting their local biodiversity and helps demonstrate meeting the council's biodiversity duty.

**Table 2: City of York Statutory Designated Sites**

Total No. of SINC's	SINC's in Positive Management	SINC's With No Data Available or Not in Positive Management	% SINC's in Positive Management
76	41	35	54

### **York Green Streets**

- 6.24. The [York Green Streets initiative](#) aims to increase the tree canopy cover across York.
- 6.25. In 2022 York's tree canopy cover was 10.8%. The council has a target to increase this to 13% by 2050. As part of this, the Council Plan contains a commitment to plant 4,000 new trees within York's urban environment by 2028.
- 6.26. During the 2023 to 2024 tree planting season the council planted 2,500 trees across 13 sites, including 10 schools. Tree planting is fully funded by external grants that include aftercare to ensure the trees successfully establish.
- 6.27. The council planted a further 2,800 trees in 2024 to 2025, with a particular focus on street trees and 2 new micro woods of 200 square metre each will also be planted to mark the coronation of King Charles III.
- 6.28. York Green Streets tree planting has been supported by the [White Rose Forest](#), the Community Forest for North and West Yorkshire, with funding from the government's [Nature for Climate Fund](#).

## **7. Partnerships**

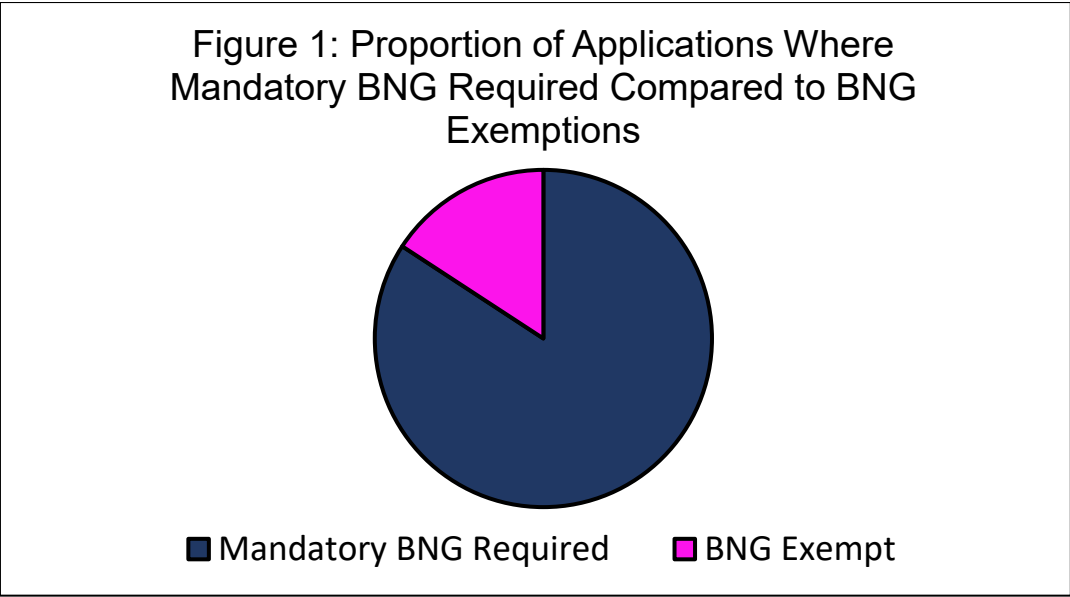
- 7.1. The CYC has been involved a number of key longstanding partnerships that support biodiversity and will continue to work with these organisations to conserve/enhance biodiversity across the city. These include:

- North Yorkshire Nature Partnership. schemes and policy support).
- North Yorkshire SINC Partnership.
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.
- Natural England (SSSI protection & management and policy support).
- Yorkshire Water.
- Environment Agency (flood alleviations
- Strensall Common SAC Conservation Panel.
- Clifton Backies Nature Reserve Management Board.
- The University of York (research and conservation support).
- St John's University.
- Forestry England.
- White Rose Forest.

- North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre.
- Treemendus York.
- Trust for Conservation Volunteers.
- Wild York.
- Froglife.
- Wildscapes.
- Species Conservation Trust (Tansy Beetle Action Group)
- Buglife.
- Askham Bryan College.
- Rare British Plants (York Groundsel Recovery Project)
- Yorkshire Dales River Trust.
- River Foss Society.
- St Nicks (conservation charity).

## 8. Biodiversity Net Gain

- 8.1. Under the Environment Act 2021, where applicable, a minimum 10% net gain in biodiversity became mandatory for major developments on the 12 February 2024 and for small sites on the 2 April 2024.
- 8.2. Since becoming mandatory for planning applications in early 2024 Biodiversity Net Gain has been fully integrated into the City of York planning casework and supported by the CYC local plan policies.
- 8.3. A combination of external and internal training has ensured CYC officers involved in planning casework understand the processes involved in implementing BNG. This is supported by the development of a BNG planning application flow path (See Appendix 2) used by CYC planning officers in their casework. To track and monitor applications subject to mandatory BNG add-on software has been procured that directly links with existing development management tools for assessment/determining planning applications and monitoring S.106 compliance.
- 8.4. This section of the report documents the details of BNG resulting, or expected to result, from approved biodiversity gain plans as required by law.
- 8.5. Figure 1 below provides an overview of the proportion of planning applications reviewed by the CYC development management team, where mandatory BNG has been required compared to applications where it is [exempt](#) from mandatory BNG.



8.6. To date CYC have approved 7 biodiversity gain plans mainly for small developments. Post-development BNG details for approved biodiversity gain plans are summarised in Table 1 below. This is broken down by habitat category (habitat (area based), hedgerow (linear) and watercourse) and whether the habitat provision is “on-site” or “off-site”. Figures presented in Table 1 are total biodiversity units (BU) for all applications where biodiversity gain plans have been approved. Biodiversity units (BU) calculated for a habitat depends on a number of factors such as size (area/length), quality/condition, location and habitat type.

**Table 3: BNG Summary from Approved Biodiversity Gain Plans (Period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025).**

Onsite (BU)	Habitat	2.4044
	Hedgerow	0
	Watercourse	0
Offsite (BU)	Habitat	0.94
	Hedgerow	0
	Watercourse	0
Average % Biodiversity Net Gain		15.5

8.7. A number of planning applications for allocated development sites within the local plan have been approved. In general, these pre-date mandatory BNG however to demonstrate they are delivering net gains for biodiversity as per the requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024) some of these projects have used versions of the BNG calculator.

**Table 4: Non-mandatory BNG for Approved Applications - (CYC Local Plan Allocated Sites - Reporting Period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025).**

Onsite	Habitat	318.95
	Hedgerow	135.77
	Watercourse	1.65
Offsite	Habitat	16.51
	Hedgerow	4.5
	Watercourse	0
Average % Net Gain		13.5

How the Council plans to meet biodiversity net gain obligations in the next reporting period

8.8. CYC plans to meet BNG obligations over the next reporting period through the following specific actions:

- Continue to apply the Biodiversity Net Gain condition on applicable planning permissions.
- Continue to track monitor and report on BNG within the City of York.
- Adapt planning processes and procedures as required in line with any government guidance on future legislative or national policy changes to the mandatory BNG framework.
- Develop Local Plan policy to appropriately reflect BNG in line with national policy and provide guidance to developers and landowners.
- Promote the use of the North Yorkshire and York LNRS to focus target off-site BNG provision in the most appropriate areas of the city.
- Explore the delivery of a habitat bank(s) on council-owned land through collaboration with responsible bodies.
- Engage with partners and government on BNG guidance and policy development.
- As required further training for planning officers will continue to take place to respond to new guidance and material considerations, to ensure that applications are determined in accordance with best practice.

## 9. Future Actions

- 9.1. The objectives and actions in Table 3 below will be reviewed and reported on, in line with government requirements. Not all items presented in Table 3 are council approved and/or fully funded proposals. The intention of this section is to present an overview of ongoing activities/projects or potential opportunities for future actions or projects to be explored by the council. These will then be reviewed over the next review period to identify any measurable outcomes that have been achieved to conserve and enhance biodiversity as per the council's "Biodiversity Duty"
- 9.2. The Biodiversity Duty Report and Future Biodiversity Actions will then be reviewed and reported upon every five years.

**Table 5: Future Biodiversity Actions**

Action	Responsibility	Status	Future Actions for Next Reporting Period
<b>Ecology Mapping</b>			
Dependant on suitable available resource, explore opportunities to manage the Council's use of spatial mapping and ecological data including: updating our internal GIS mapping systems and integrating cross-service geo-spatial data, for example planning, and public realm. Link to LNRS	Ecology and Countryside Management Team /Strategic Planning Policy/Public Realm	Under review	Review/reporting of opportunities and any actions undertaken.

Action	Responsibility	Status	Future Actions for Next Reporting Period
mapping and monitoring.			
<b>Green Infrastructure Plan</b>			
Delivery of strategy for Green Infrastructure	Strategic Planning Policy / Design and Conservation Team	Commissioning Phase.	Commission new strategy and action plan as core evidence to support spatial policy, taking consideration for current/ ongoing actions and anticipated future activities.
<b>Designated Sites</b>			
To review the CYC landholding against statutory and locally designated protected sites and determine if management plans are in place. Where feasible address any gaps to ensure all sites have plans in place as soon as possible.	Ecology and Countryside Management Team /Strategic Planning Policy	Under review	Review/reporting of opportunities and any actions undertaken.
<b>SINC Meadow Management</b>			
Continue existing Programme of Positive management of SINC sites	Ecology/CYC Public Realm Team/St. Nicks.	Ongoing	Review of available data to determine SINC condition and explore potential actions required to increase number of

Action	Responsibility	Status	Future Actions for Next Reporting Period
			sites in positive management.
<b>Local Investment in Natural Capital (LINC)</b>			
Throughout 2026 continue to research opportunities and engage	Climate Change Team (Lead)	Ongoing	Review of progress and actions undertaken.
<b>SINC Survey Updates</b>			
Update baseline of SINC where information is greater than 10 years old.	Ecology and Countryside Management Team (Lead)/Local Record Centre (NEYEDC)	Ongoing	Review of available data to determine: SINC condition, updates required to baseline/ site boundaries and explore potential options for improved management.
<b>LNRS Delivery</b>			
Drive local nature recovery as part of the Local Nature Partnership (LNP) Board and LNRS Steering Group to provide strategic direction and advisory input to the delivery of the LNRS objectives.	Strategic Planning Policy (Lead)/Ecology and Countryside Management Team	Ongoing	Review/reporting of local nature recovery action within the CYC boundary and explore potential for any potential future projects.
<b>Local Nature Partnership</b>			
Continued membership of the LNP to guide actions to deliver the	Ecology and Countryside Management Team (Lead)/	Ongoing	Review/reporting of local nature recovery action within the CYC boundary and

Action	Responsibility	Status	Future Actions for Next Reporting Period
overriding principles of the partnership (i.e. to see the natural environment of North Yorkshire and York conserved, enhanced and connected across the whole LNP area for the benefit of wildlife, people and the economy).	Climate Change Team		explore potential for any potential future projects.
<b>City of York Habitat Bank (BNG)</b>			
Explore opportunities to create habitat banks on CYC owned land and support stakeholders/landowners where opportunities occur on private land.	CYC: Chief Strategy Officer (Lead)/ Ecology and Countryside Management Team (Lead)/ Property Team/Public Realm Team	Ongoing	Review of status of habitat bank opportunities across the city and investigate potential suitable land parcels within CYC or private ownership.
<b>York Green Corridors</b>			
As required provide support/advice for ongoing project and explore future opportunities within CYC	St. Nicks (Lead)	Ongoing	Review of projects and actions undertaken.

Action	Responsibility	Status	Future Actions for Next Reporting Period
boundary (especially on CYC owned land).			
<b>York Walls in Bloom</b>			
As required provide support/advice for ongoing works on the city walls	CYC Ancient Monuments Team (Lead)/ St. Nicks	Ongoing	Review/reporting of projects and actions undertaken.
<b>Ousewem</b>			
Continued CYC leadership of the Ousewem collaborative partnership to actively implement catchments level nature-based solutions (NbS) including natural flood management (NFM) to help manage flood risk.	CYC Flood Risk Team (Lead)	Ongoing	Review/reporting of projects and action undertaken.
<b>Management of Habitat Within CYC Open Spaces</b>			
Explore opportunities to adjust management practices to enhancing biodiversity benefit of CYC managed open spaces across	Open Realm Team (Lead)/ Ecology and Countryside Management Team (Lead)	Under Review.	Review/reporting of opportunities and any actions undertaken.

Action	Responsibility	Status	Future Actions for Next Reporting Period
the city including Hob Moor, Bootham, Micklegate, Monk and Walmgate Strays.			
<b>Management of Habitats on CYC Managed Road Verges</b>			
Explore opportunities to adjust management practices with a view to enhancing biodiversity benefit of CYC managed road verges across the city.	Ecology and Countryside Management Team (Lead)/CYC Open Realm Team (Lead)	Under Review	Review/reporting of opportunities and any actions undertaken.
<b>York Green Streets</b>			
Progress the council target to increase tree cover to 13% by 2050. As part of this, the Council Plan contains a commitment to plant 4,000 new trees within York's urban environment by 2028.	Public Trees Team (Lead)	Ongoing	Review/reporting of opportunities and any actions undertaken.
<b>Tansy Beetle Action Group</b>			
Continued role within Tansy Beetle Action	Ecology and Countryside Management	Ongoing	Review/reporting of opportunities and

Action	Responsibility	Status	Future Actions for Next Reporting Period
Group. Explore opportunities to adjust management practices across York with a view to enhancing habitat suitability for Tansy Beetle.	Team (Lead)/CYC Open Realm Team (Lead)		any actions undertaken.
<b>CYC Local Plan Review</b>			
Provide support for Future Local Plan Review and Evidence Base Update.	Strategic Planning Policy (Lead)	Under Review	Review/reporting any actions undertaken.
<b>Public Engagement</b>			
Engage with local schools/colleges/universities to provide teaching, outreach, learning to increase understanding of biodiversity and why it's important to conserve and enhance.	Ecology and Countryside Management Team	Under Review	Review/reporting any actions undertaken.
<b>Countryside Management</b>			
Provide general advice/support for land managers, private land	Ecology and Countryside Management Team	Ongoing	Review/reporting any actions undertaken.

Action	Responsibility	Status	Future Actions for Next Reporting Period
owners and residents on countryside management issues with an aim of conserving and enhancing biodiversity.			

## 10. References

1. City of York: Biodiversity Report - First Consideration 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 – 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026.  
[https://democracy.york.gov.uk/\(S\(aw2b23jofoyuejfc1asnI055\)\)/documents/s179407/Biodiversity%20Report.pdf](https://democracy.york.gov.uk/(S(aw2b23jofoyuejfc1asnI055))/documents/s179407/Biodiversity%20Report.pdf)
2. City of York Climate Change Strategy 2022-32  
<https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/8948/york-climate-change-strategy-2022-to-2032>
3. City of York's Council Plan 2023-2027.  
<https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/9262/council-plan-2023-to-2027>
4. City of York Local Plan - Plan Period 2017 – 2033.  
<https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/10103/city-of-york-adopted-local-plan-2025>
5. City of York Pollinator Strategy 2020–2025  
[https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s141785/Annex%206%20CYC%20Pollinator%20Strategy\\_Draft%20v2.pdf](https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s141785/Annex%206%20CYC%20Pollinator%20Strategy_Draft%20v2.pdf)
6. Environment Act 2021:  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted>
7. Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents>
8. North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy: Document 2: Thriving Nature in North Yorkshire and York – Our Local Nature Recovery Strategy:  
<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-02/NYY%20LNRS%20document%202%20overview.pdf>
9. State of Yorkshire's Nature – Yorkshire Wildlife Trust:  
<https://www.ywt.org.uk/StateofNature>
10. UK government Environment Improvement Plan (EIP):  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan-2025/environmental-improvement-plan-eip-2025#annex-1-summary-of-eip-review>

## Appendix 1 – City of York Local Plan: Green Infrastructure Policies

Policy Reference	Detail
GI1: Green Infrastructure	<p>York's landscapes, geodiversity, biodiversity and natural environment will be conserved and enhanced recognising the multifunctional role of green infrastructure in supporting healthy communities, cultural value, a buoyant economy and aiding resilience to climate change. This will be delivered as part of the Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy and subsequently through the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="560 819 1326 1155">i. the delivery of the aspirations of partner strategy documents and action plans, including the Leeds City Region Green Infrastructure Strategy (2018), any other current regional strategies, any other plans formally approved in the future by the Council as part of the Green Infrastructure Strategy.</li> <li data-bbox="560 1155 1347 1323">ii. the protection and enhancement of existing recreational open space in York, and through increasing provision in areas where a deficiency has been identified.</li> <li data-bbox="560 1323 1353 1541">iii. maintaining the integrity of existing green corridors and their role in the green infrastructure network and enhancing and extending it where possible through major new development.</li> <li data-bbox="560 1541 1318 1839">iv. recognising the role that common land, village greens and other important local green spaces play in protecting and enhancing the historic character of York as well as providing important recreational and nature conservation benefits to the city; and</li> <li data-bbox="560 1839 1353 2136">v. increasing appropriate access to nature and open spaces to cater for the recreational and well-being needs on an increasing population and mitigating a growing pressure on natural habitats and the wildlife and flora it supports. Where appropriate, development proposals will</li> </ol>

Policy Reference	Detail
	<p>be expected to demonstrate that they are consistent with the above objectives and meet other specific policies below on green infrastructure.</p>
<p>GI2: Biodiversity and Access to Nature</p>	<p>In order to conserve and enhance York's biodiversity, any development should where appropriate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="560 667 1318 875">i. assess potential effects on International Sites in accordance with the statutory protection which is afforded to the site. Proposals will be determined in accordance with statute.</li> <li data-bbox="560 887 1353 1261">ii. demonstrate that proposals will not have an adverse effect on a National Site (alone or in combination). Where adverse impacts occur, development will not normally be permitted, except where the benefits of development in that location clearly outweigh both the impact on the site and any broader impacts on the wider network of National Sites.</li> <li data-bbox="560 1272 1342 1603">iii. demonstrate that where loss or harm to a National site cannot be prevented or adequately mitigated, as a last resort, provide compensation for the loss/harm. Development will be refused if loss or significant harm cannot be prevented, adequately mitigated against or compensated for.</li> <li data-bbox="560 1615 1326 2033">iv. avoid loss or significant harm to Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), whether directly or indirectly. Where it can be demonstrated that there is a need for the development in that location and the benefit outweighs the loss or harm the impacts must be adequately mitigated against or compensated for as a last resort.</li> <li data-bbox="560 2045 1289 2114">v. retain irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and veteran trees.</li> </ol>

Policy Reference	Detail
	<p>Development resulting in the loss, deterioration and/or fragmentation of irreplaceable habitats will not be supported unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation plan exists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="560 539 1359 748">vi. ensure the retention, enhancement and appropriate management of features of geological, or biological interest, and further the aims of the current Biodiversity Audit and Local Biodiversity Action Plan.</li> <li data-bbox="560 748 1359 920">vii. take account of the potential need for buffer zones around wildlife and biodiversity sites, to ensure the integrity of the site's interest is retained.</li> <li data-bbox="560 920 1359 1173">viii. achieve net gain in biodiversity in accordance with The Environment Act 2021 (when enforced) and national policy, contributing to the recovery of priority species and habitats and new habitat creation.</li> <li data-bbox="560 1173 1359 1391">ix. enhance accessibility to York's biodiversity resource where this would not compromise their ecological value, affect sensitive sites or be detrimental to drainage systems.</li> <li data-bbox="560 1391 1359 1733">x. maintain and enhance the rivers, banks, floodplains and settings of the Rivers Ouse, Derwent and Foss, and other smaller waterways for their biodiversity, cultural and historic landscapes, as well as recreational activities where this does not have a detrimental impact on the nature conservation value.</li> <li data-bbox="560 1733 1359 2114">xi. maintain water quality in the River Ouse, River Foss and River Derwent to protect the aquatic environment, the interface between land and river, and continue to provide a viable route for migrating fish. New development within the catchments of these rivers will be permitted only where sufficient capacity is available at the appropriate wastewater treatment</li> </ul>

Policy Reference	Detail
	<p>works. Where no wastewater disposal capacity exists, development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that it will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the River Derwent, Lower Derwent Valley and Humber Estuary European Sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>xii. maintain and enhance the diversity of York's Strays for wildlife; and</li> <li>xiii. ensure there is no detrimental impact to the environmental sensitivity and significant Lower Derwent Valley and its adjacent functionally connected land which whilst not designated, are ultimately important to the function of this important site.</li> </ul>
<p>GI2a: Strensall Common Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</p>	<p>Development not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the SAC will only be permitted where it will not adversely affect the integrity of the Strensall Common SAC, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Proposals will be determined in accordance with the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) There is an 'exclusion zone' set at 400m linear distance from the SAC boundary. Permission will not be granted for development that results in a net increase in residential units within this zone. Proposals for non-residential development within this zone must undertake Habitats Regulation Assessment to demonstrate that they will not harm the integrity of the SAC.</li> <li>b) There is a 'zone of influence' between 400m and 5.5km linear distance from the SAC boundary. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Where new residential development is proposed within the zone of influence on allocated housing sites SS9/ST7, SS10/ST8, SS11/ST9 and SS12/ST14, provision of open space must include or secure access to areas of suitable natural greenspace secured by way of mitigation prior to any</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>Policy Reference</b>	<b>Detail</b>
	<p>occupation of new dwellings and secured in perpetuity.</p> <p>ii. Proposals for other housing development which are not within plan allocations will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that they will have no adverse effects on the integrity of the SAC, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Any necessary mitigation measures may be sought through planning contributions and must be secured prior to the occupation of any new dwellings and secured in perpetuity. Open space provision must also satisfy policy GI6.</p>
GI3: Green Infrastructure Network	<p>In order to protect and enhance York's green infrastructure networks any development should where relevant:</p> <p>i. maintain and enhance the integrity and management of York's green infrastructure network, including its green corridors and open spaces.</p> <p>ii. protect and enhance the amenity, experience and surrounding biodiversity value of existing rights of way, national trails and open access land.</p> <p>iii. ensure the protection of the hierarchy and integrity of York's local, district and regional green corridors; and</p> <p>iv. create and/or enhance 'stepping stone and new green corridors that improves links between existing corridors including those in neighbouring authorities, nature conservation sites, recreational routes and other open space.</p>
GI4: Trees and Hedgerows	<p>Development will be permitted where it:</p> <p>i. recognises the value of the existing tree cover and hedgerows, their biodiversity value, the contribution they can make to</p>

<b>Policy Reference</b>	<b>Detail</b>
	<p>the quality of a development, and its assimilation into the landscape context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. provides protection for overall tree cover as well as for existing trees worthy of retention in the immediate and longer term and with conditions that would sustain the trees in good health in maturity.</li> <li>iii. retains trees and hedgerows that make a positive contribution to the character or setting of a conservation area or listed building, the setting of proposed development, are a significant element of a designed landscape, or value to the general public amenity, in terms of visual benefits, shading and screening.</li> <li>iv. does not create conflict between existing trees to be retained and new buildings, their uses and occupants, whether the trees or buildings be within or adjacent to the site; v. supplements the city's tree stock with new tree planting where an integrated landscape scheme is required; and</li> <li>v. Provides suitable replacement planting where the loss of trees or hedgerows worthy of retention is justified.</li> </ul>
<p>GI5: Protection of Open Space and Playing Fields</p>	<p>Development proposals will not be permitted which would harm the character of, or lead to the loss of, open space of recreational importance unless the open space uses can be satisfactorily replaced in the area of benefit and in terms of quality, quantity and access with an equal or better standard than that which is proposed to be lost.</p> <p>Where replacement open space is to be provided in an alternative location (within the area of benefit) the replacement site/facility must be fully available for use before the area of open space to be lost can be redeveloped.</p>

<b>Policy Reference</b>	<b>Detail</b>
	<p>Development proposals will be supported which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide allotments and productive land, to encourage local food production, and its benefits to education and healthy living.</li> <li>• protects playing pitch provision except where a local area of surplus is indicated in the most up to date Playing Pitch Strategy.</li> <li>• improves the quality of existing pitches and ensure that any new pitches are designed and implemented to a high standard and fully reflect an understanding of the issues affecting community sport; and</li> <li>• Provide new pitches in a suitable location that meet an identified need.</li> </ul>
<p>GI6: New Open Space Provision</p>	<p>Residential development proposals should contribute to the provision of open space for recreation and amenity in accordance with current local standards and using the Council's up to date open space assessment. The successful integration of open space into a proposed development should be considered early in the design process.</p> <p>The Council will require on-site provision where possible but off-site provision will be considered acceptable in the following circumstances:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. if the proposed development site is of insufficient size in itself to make the appropriate provision (in accordance with the Council's standards) feasible within the site.</li> <li>ii. it is demonstrated that provision can be met more appropriately by providing either new or enhanced provision off-site; and</li> <li>iii. On allocated strategic sites, it may be appropriate for green infrastructure master planning to make accessible provision beyond the allocated site boundary.</li> </ol>

Policy Reference	Detail
	<p>Open space standards as set out in the most up to date open space evidence base document should still be used as a guide to overall provision. New open space is identified on the Policies Map at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OS1: Land North of Manor Church of England Academy</li> <li>• OS2: Land to North of Poppleton Juniors, Millfield Lane, Poppleton</li> <li>• OS5: Germany Beck</li> <li>• OS6: Land abutting the River Foss at Heworth Croft</li> </ul> <p>Indicative new significant areas of open space have been identified in connection with the following strategic sites, as shown on the Policies Map:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OS7: Land at Minster Way at ST7</li> <li>• OS8: New Parkland to the East of ST8</li> <li>• OS9: New Recreation and Sports Provision to the south of ST9</li> <li>• OS10: New Area for Nature Conservation on land to the South of A64 in association with ST15</li> <li>• OS11: Land to the East of ST31</li> </ul> <p>This new open space will be complemented by further on-site provision of local green and open space (as required in this and other relevant sections of the plan), and both should be planned cohesively in order, where appropriate, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• manage impacts on the city's historic character and setting.</li> <li>• mitigate and compensate for ecological impacts and provide for ecological enhancement.</li> <li>• meet open space requirements arising from new development.</li> <li>• accommodate drainage infrastructure, flood storage and attenuation.</li> </ul>

<b>Policy Reference</b>	<b>Detail</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• retain and enhance landscape and heritage features; and</li><li>• frame pedestrian and cycle linkage. The precise delineation and extent of the new open space will be set through detailed master planning and the planning process.</li></ul>

## Appendix 2 – CYC Biodiversity Net Gain Planning Application Flow Path

