



# Habitat Regulation Assessment

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Local Plan Preferred Options

June 2013

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	BACKGROUND .....	3
1.2	YORK'S LOCAL PLAN .....	4
	<i>Key Drivers for the Local Plan Preferred Options .....</i>	<i>6</i>
	<i>Consultation on the Local Plan and HRA .....</i>	<i>7</i>
1.3	PREVIOUS HABITAT REGULATION ASSESSMENTS .....	8
<b>2</b>	<b>MAIN STAGES OF ASSESSMENT .....</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1	(1) SCREENING: .....	9
2.2	(2) APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT: .....	9
2.3	(3) IDENTIFYING MITIGATION AND ALTERNATIVES: .....	9
2.4	(4) ASSESSMENT WHERE NO ALTERNATIVES EXIST AND ADVERSE IMPACTS REMAIN: .....	10
<b>3</b>	<b>SCREENING STAGE .....</b>	<b>11</b>
3.1	EUROPEAN SITES (NATURA 2000) IDENTIFIED .....	11
3.2	LOCAL PLAN - INDICATIVE POLICY REVIEW .....	19
	<i>Conclusions of the indicative policy review: .....</i>	<i>31</i>
3.3	ASSESSMENT OF THE LOCAL PLAN AGAINST THE POTENTIAL ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF EACH SITE .....	31
3.4	LOCAL PLAN - INDICATIVE SITE SELECTION REVIEW .....	50
<b>4</b>	<b>APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT .....</b>	<b>52</b>
4.1	ISSUE 1: RECREATIONAL PRESSURE /BIOLOGICAL DISTURBANCE AT STRENSALL COMMON, RIVER DERWENT AND THE LOWER DERWENT VALLEY .....	52
	<i>Strensall Common Assessment .....</i>	<i>55</i>
	<i>Lower Derwent Valley and The River Derwent .....</i>	<i>57</i>
4.2	ISSUE 2: WATER ABSTRACTION, QUALITY AND DRAINAGE AT STRENSALL COMMON, LOWER DERWENT VALLEY, RIVER DERWENT AND HUMBER ESTUARY .....	61
4.3	ISSUE 3: FLOOD RISK AND MANAGEMENT ON RIVER DERWENT, LOWER DERWENT VALLEY AND HUMBER ESTUARY .....	68
4.4	ISSUE 4: BIOLOGICAL DISTURBANCE FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS AT LOWER DERWENT VALLEY .....	77
<b>5</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS .....</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? .....</b>	<b>81</b>
6.1	CONSULTATION .....	81
	<i>How to comment on this report .....</i>	<i>81</i>
	<b>APPENDIX 1: LOCATION OF STRATEGIC SITES AND ALLOCATIONS .....</b>	<b>82</b>
	<b>APPENDIX 2: OPENSACE IN STRENSALL, WHELDRAKE AND ELVINGTON (FROM PPG17 STUDY) .....</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>List of Figures</b>		
	FIGURE 1: HABITAT REGULATION PROCESS .....	10
	FIGURE 2: EUROPEAN SITES CONSIDERED WITHIN THIS HABITAT REGULATION ASSESSMENT .....	12
	FIGURE 3: LOCATION OF NATURA 2000 SITES WITHIN 15KM OF AUTHORITY BOUNDARY .....	19
	FIGURE 4: POLICY ANALYSIS MATRIX .....	21
	FIGURE 5: ASSESSMENT OF THE LOCAL PLAN AGAINST THE POTENTIAL ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF EACH SITE .....	32
	FIGURE 6: SUSTAINABLE LOCATION ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY SUMMARY .....	51
	FIGURE 7: HOUSING SITES WITHIN PROXIMITY OF STRENSALL COMMON .....	55
	FIGURE 8: SITES WITHIN PROXIMITY OF LOWER DERWENT VALLEY AND RIVER DERWENT .....	58
	FIGURE 8: ACCESS TO WHELDRAKE INGS .....	58
	FIGURE 9: WATER QUALITY IN CATCHMENTS WITHIN THE YORKSHIRE WATER SUPPLY AREA .....	64
	FIGURE 10: REASONS FOR SITES FAILING TO ACHIEVE GOOD ECOLOGICAL STATUS .....	64
	FIGURE 11: FLOOD RISK .....	74
	FIGURE 12: CURRENT AND FUTURE RENEWABLE ENERGY POTENTIAL .....	78
	FIGURE A2.1: OPENSACE ACCESSIBILITY IN STRENSALL WARD AND IMPLICATIONS FOR AA .....	88
	FIGURE A2.2: MAP OF OPENSACE IN STRENSALL IN RELATION TO STRATEGIC SITES AND ALLOCATIONS .....	90
	FIGURE A2.3: OPENSACE ACCESSIBILITY IN WHELDRAKE/ DERWENT WARDS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR AA .....	91
	FIGURE A2.4: MAP OF OPENSACE IN WHELDRAKE/DUNNINGTON IN RELATION TO STRATEGIC SITES AND ALLOCATIONS .....	94

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## 1 Introduction

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1.0.1 This assessment has been produced to determine whether the policies and proposals in the City of York Local Plan Preferred Options will have a significant effect on the integrity of European Conservation Sites, known as Natura 2000 Sites, within the vicinity of York. This document builds upon the previous version produced for the Submission Draft Core Strategy (June 2009).

### 1.1 Background

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- 1.1.1 The European Directive 92/43/EEC on the *Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna* (the 'Habitats Directive') provides a legal framework for the protection for habitats and species of European importance through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of European sites, known as Natura 2000. The Natura 2000 network is made up of Special Protection Areas (SPA) (designated under the Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Offshore Marine Sites (OMS). European sites are designated for being of exceptional importance in respect of supporting natural habitats and species that are rare, endangered or vulnerable within a European context.
- 1.1.2 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2010 (as amended) and The Offshore Marine Conservation (Regulation 2007 (as amended) (collectively referred to in this report as the Habitat regulations) implement the Habitat Directive in England and Wales. The Habitats Regulations apply to SACs, candidate SACs, Sites of Community Importance (SCIs), SPAs and Offshore Marine Sites. Ramsar Sites (designated under the 1976 Ramsar Convention) and potential SPAs (including proposed extensions or additions to existing SPAs) are not European Sites in the context of the Habitat Regulations but under UK planning policy (the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)) they receive a similar level of protection. For the purposes of this report, all of these sites, including Ramsar sites and potential SPAs, are referred to as European Sites.
- 1.1.3 The Habitat Regulations require "*competent authorities*" to determine whether any plans that they prepare are likely to have a significant adverse effect on European Sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects. If significant effects upon a European Site is anticipated the plan must be subject to an Appropriate Assessment. In light of the conclusions of any Appropriate Assessment, the draft plan can only be adopted after the competent authority has ascertained that the plan will not result in an adverse effect on the integrity of any European Site or, if it could have an adverse effect on integrity, that it can pass further tests relating to there being no alternatives and to imperative reasons of overriding public interest. Previous rulings show that this is difficult and very rare. In such cases however, compensatory measures would be necessary to ensure the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.

The main article relevant in the Habitat Regulations is:

*“6(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the sites conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”*

## 1.2 York’s Local Plan

1.2.1 The Local Plan is the principle document that includes a vision for the future development of the city and spatial strategy and covers both strategic policies and allocations, alongside detailed development management policies. The Local Plan builds on the previous Local Development Framework (LDF Core Strategy), which was withdrawn in 2012 after Members instructed officers to undertake the necessary steps to withdraw the City of York LDF Core Strategy from the Examination process.

1.2.2 The City of York Local Plan provides the spatial delivery mechanism for ‘*The Strategy for York 2011-2025*’, York’s Sustainable Community Strategy. It also reflects ‘*Delivering for the People of York: The Council Plan 2011-2015*’.

<p>The ‘Strategy for York’ Vision is:  <b>York: A City Making History</b>  <b>Making our mark by</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building confident, healthy and inclusive communities;</li> <li>• Being a leading environmentally friendly city;</li> <li>• Being at the forefront of innovation with a diverse and thriving economy;</li> <li>• Being a world class centre for culture, education and learning for all; and</li> <li>• Celebrating our historic past and creating a successful and ambitious future.</li> </ul>	<p>The Council Plan 2011-2015 sets out the Council’s priorities and a number of targets that the Council is committed to meeting in relation to the five priority areas. The priorities are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create jobs and grow the economy;</li> <li>• Get York moving;</li> <li>• Build strong communities;</li> <li>• Protect vulnerable people; and</li> <li>• Protect the environment</li> </ul>
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1.2.3 Policy SD1: Sustainable Development sets out the Council’s intention to encourage growth and development whilst balancing it with environmental and social factors. This policy defines sustainable development in planning terms for York in response to the National Planning Policy Framework’s ‘*Presumption in favour of sustainable development*’. The following is the most relevant section of the policy regarding the Local Plan aims and objectives. Each of the objectives is grouped under themes reflecting the Community and Council Strategies.

**SD1: Sustainable Development**

iv. The Local Plan aims to deliver sustainable development in planning terms for York whilst addressing climate change and supporting social inclusivity. Future planning in York, including future development, will need to support the delivery of the following high level objectives which are defined in the subsequent sections of the plan. The Spatial Strategy (*Sections 5 -7*) responds to all the objectives highlighted.

**Create Jobs and Grow the Economy** (*Section 8 and 9*)

- Support sustainable economic growth to improve prosperity whilst respecting the City's unique built and natural environment.

**Build Strong Communities** (*Sections 10-15*)

- Build strong, sustainable communities through addressing the housing and community needs of York's current and future population.

**Protect the Environment***Built Environment* (*Section 16*)

- Conserve and enhance York's heritage by ensuring new development is of the highest quality standards in urban design and public realm.

*Natural Environment* (*Section 17 and 18*)

- Conserve and enhance York's Green Infrastructure whilst promoting accessibility to encourage opportunities for sport and recreation, and restore and recreate sites of priority species and habitats.
- Protect and preserve York's setting and special character

*Natural Resources and Environmental Protection* (*Sections 19-22*)

- Reduce flood risk by ensuring that new development is not subject to or does not contribute to flooding.
- Ensure sustainable design techniques are incorporated in new developments and maximise the generation and use of low carbon/renewable energy resources to reduce York's carbon footprint and help adapt and mitigate against climate change.
- Improve air quality and limit environmental nuisance including noise, vibration, light, dust, odour, fumes and emissions, from development.
- Reduce waste levels through the reducing, reusing and recycling hierarchy, and ensure appropriate sites for waste management are provided.
- Safeguard natural mineral resources and maximise the production and use of secondary aggregates.

**Get York Moving** (*Section 23 and 24*)

- Promote sustainable modes of transport whilst delivering transport infrastructure.

## Key Drivers for the Local Plan Preferred Options

- 1.2.4 York's sub-regional role, key drivers and location factors for growth have been explored and used to develop York's approach to spatial growth.
- 1.2.5 York is identified as having a sub-regional role with a sphere of influence extending beyond the local authority boundary. York is known to have inter-dependencies with other nearby towns and cities, is an economic driver for the Sub Area, the principal retail and services hub and the centre of the Sub Area's commuting patterns and transport network. The city's influence on the housing market is also known to extend beyond the boundary and many people who work in York have sought housing in adjoining districts. The nature and extent of any functional relationships have been explored through evidence base work, such as the York Sub Area Study (2011), Leeds City Region Interim Strategy Statement (2011) and North Yorkshire and York Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2011). The Council's intention to ensure that these roles and functions are supported through the Local Plan have been carried through to inform policy development.
- 1.2.6 Ensuring sustainable growth patterns is an important part of the Plan's vision and the spatial approach has explored the key principles for delivering sustainable growth for York. The key drivers are identified as economic growth and population/housing growth recognising that economic and housing growth intrinsically influence each other and if delivered together, should enable sustainable growth patterns by allowing people to live and work within the authority. Evidence base commissioned as part of the Local Plan preparation identifies alternative growth scenarios for York for both the economy and housing. The preferred approach recommends York should deliver approximately 16,000 additional jobs between 2012 and 2030 as well as nearly 22,000 homes to meet demand for economic and population growth. (More detail is given in Section 4.3)
- 1.2.7 In determining the locations for this growth, a numbers of key environmental factors were considered as they provide an overarching narrative of influencing factors which shape the choices in accommodating growth. The methodology for site selection also uses the following characteristics in selecting sites. This is set out in more detail within section 3 of this SA report. The environmental factors considered are:
- The character and setting of the city
  - Environmental assets – Nature Conservation, Green Corridors and Openspace
  - Flood Risk
  - Location Sustainability
  - Settlement capacity
- 1.2.8 The overall approach to the Spatial Strategy underpins the approach to York's future growth through directing the location and scale of new housing, employment and retail. Delivering the spatial approach in the Local Plan is through:
- Core Strategy Policies - Core Strategy Policies are intended to support the delivery of the spatial strategy.

- Strategic Sites and allocations - In order to help achieve the spatial strategy, 24 strategic sites and 45 other allocations have been identified to support housing and economic growth.
- Development Management Policies - will outline the criteria against which planning applications will be assessed and will reflect the strategic objectives and core policies of the Core Strategy

1.2.9 The Local Plan chapters are grouped under the relevant Council Plan headings and include policies reflecting the following topics:

- **Create Jobs and Grow the Economy**
  - Economy (5 policies)
  - Retail (4 policies)
- **Build Strong Communities**
  - Housing Growth and Distribution (4 policies)
  - Aiding Choice in the Housing Market (6 policies)
  - Affordable Housing (1 policy)
  - Community Facilities (4 policies)
  - Education, Skills and Training (4 policies)
  - Universities (5 policies)
- **Protect the Environment**
  - Design and the Historic Environment (14 policies)
  - Green Infrastructure (7 policies)
  - Green Belt (5 policies)
  - Flood Risk Management (3 policies)
  - Climate Change (2 policies)
  - Environmental Quality (3 policies)
  - Waste and Minerals (2 policies)
- **Get York Moving**
  - Transport (12 policies)
  - Communications Infrastructure (1 policy)
  - Infrastructure and Developer Contributions (1 policy)
  - Delivery and Monitoring

1.2.10 In addition, the Plan includes:

- Sustainable Development Chapter (1 policy)
- Spatial Strategy Chapter, including:
  - Spatial Strategy
    - York Sub Area (1 policy)
    - Delivering Sustainable Growth for York (4 policies)
    - The Role of Greenbelt and Safeguarded Land (2 policies)
  - York City Centre (1 policy)
  - York Central (1 policy).

### **Consultation on the Local Plan and HRA**

1.2.11 The Local Plan Preferred Options document is currently out to Public Consultation. More information on how to respond is in section 6.

1.2.12 Following this consultation period officers will assess the comments received and will then go on to produce a submission draft version of the Local Plan. This document will be subject to public consultation ahead of it being submitted to the Secretary of State and following this it will be assessed at an Examination in Public before being adopted by the Council.

### **1.3 Previous Habitat Regulation Assessments**

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1.3.1 The Core Strategy Preferred Options and Submission document was subject to a Habitat Regulation Assessment to accompany public consultations of the document.

1.3.2 The development of this Habitat Regulation Assessment has been in conjunction with Natural England who have positively engaged in the process since July 2008. The dialogue with Natural England has resulted in the review of draft documents and provision of comments to take the process forward. This document follows the previously agreed format taken for the LDF. Further dialogue will take place with English Heritage and the Environment Agency to determine and agree the effects with Natural England as part of the consultation process. Formal consultation responses were sort in respect to the:

- Screening report (August 2008)
- Screening report amended following Natural England's comments and draft Preferred Options document. (April 2009)
- Draft of the Habitat Regulation Assessment for the Preferred Options Core Strategy (May 2009)
- Final Document of the Habitat Regulation Assessment for the Preferred Options Core Strategy (June 2009) as part of the formal Core Strategy consultation process.
- Draft of the Habitat Regulation Assessment for the Submission Local Plan ().

1.3.3 The Preferred Options and Core Strategy Submission HRA found that there was the potential for recreational disturbance at Strensall Common due to development of housing in the Huntington area. An Appropriate Assessment was undertaken for this potential effect and it was concluded that, due to the recognition and provision of green infrastructure (including openspace) in policy, an increase in population in this area would not have significant environmental effect on the Natura 2000 site. No other significant impacts were identified.

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## **2 Main Stages of Assessment**

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### **2.1 (1) Screening:**

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- 2.1.1 Determining whether the plan 'either alone or in combination with other plans and projects' is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site. This involves:
- Identifying all Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites within vicinity of the local authority boundary.
  - Understanding the conservation objectives and characteristics of each site, including vulnerabilities and threats.
  - Considering the individual and cumulative impact of plans, policies and proposals. Baseline data should be established so the plan impacts can be ascertained.
  - Establishing whether the plan, policy or proposal is directly connected with the management of a site, as no further steps would be required. (which is unlikely for DPDs).
- 2.1.2 The assessment must be based on the 'Precautionary Principle' and therefore requires those undertaking the exercise to prove that the plan will not have a significant impact on a sites conservation objectives. Where there is uncertainty regarding the effects, an adverse impact should be assumed and subsequent AA steps should be undertaken.

### **2.2 (2) Appropriate Assessment:**

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- 2.2.1 Determining whether, in view of the site's conservation objectives, the plan 'either alone or in combination with other plans and projects' would have an adverse effect (or risk of this) on the integrity of the site. If not, the plan can proceed.
- 2.2.2 This stage necessitates a detailed assessment of the significant impacts established in stage 1 to determine whether the plan will have an adverse effect on the integrity of a site. The significance of effects should be determined in relation to the specific features of the site and requires detailed input of the flora and fauna for which it may be designated.
- 2.2.3 Ecological integrity is described by the ODPM circular 06/2005: Biodiversity and Geological conservation (para.20) as "the site's coherence, ecological structure and function across its whole area that enables to sustain habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of species for which it is classified".

### **2.3 (3) Identifying mitigation and Alternatives:**

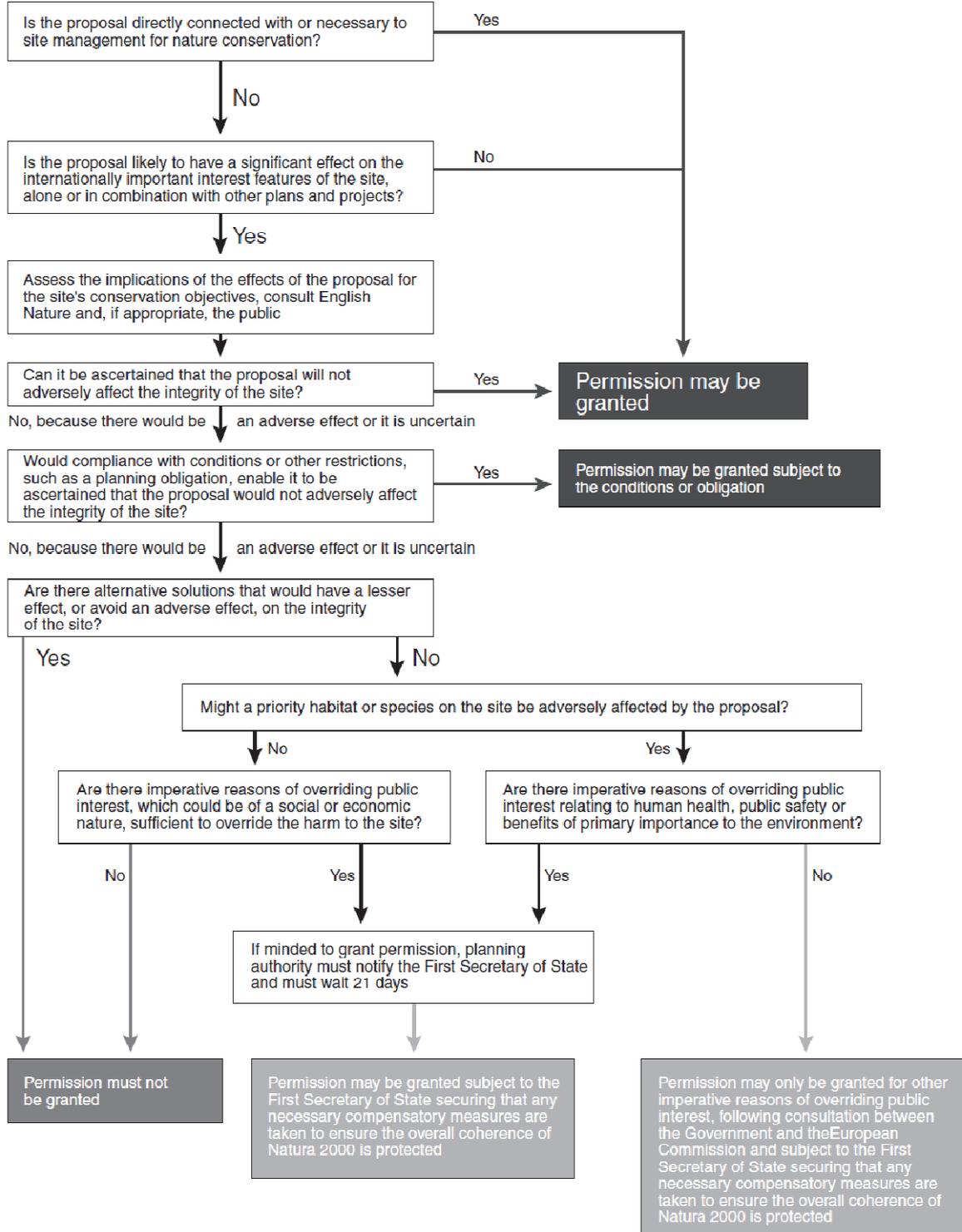
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- 2.3.1 Where the plan is assessed as having an adverse impact (or risk of this) on the integrity of a site, there should be an examination of mitigation measures and alternative solutions. Mitigation should be proved to be viable, timely and possible to implement.

**2.4 (4) Assessment where no alternatives exist and adverse impacts remain:**

2.3.2 If it is not possible to mitigate or find an alternative solution it will be necessary to establish the ‘*imperative reasons of overriding public interest*’ (IROPI). This procedure is complex and lengthy and is normally required only in exceptional circumstances.

**Figure 1: Habitat Regulation Process<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> Source: DPM (2005) Circular 06/2005: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and Their Impact Within the Planning System.

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## 3 Screening Stage

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3.0.1 The principle aim of the screening process is to identify the potential impacts of City of York's Local Plan for its likely impact on Natura 2000 sites.

3.0.2 This section identifies:

- The Natura 2000 network of sites applicable;
- The vulnerabilities and possible ecological impacts on each Natura 2000 site;
- The possible effects on the sites identified from the Local Plan and screens out those issues which are deemed to not have a significant effect;
- Considers the specific policies from the Local Plan and their impact on the identified vulnerabilities on the Natura 2000 sites.

### 3.1 European sites (Natura 2000) identified

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3.1.1 An initial buffer of 15km outside of the City of York Authority Boundary has been used to determine which sites should be assessed. In addition the assessment includes the Humber Estuary SAC, which is outside of this distance but which could potentially be affected by being downstream of York.

3.1.2 Every European Site is made up of one or more component Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), many of which support habitats and species of national value in addition to those of European interest. However, for the purpose of this HRA, it is only the European qualifying interest features that are considered. Therefore, for each European Site details of its qualifying interest features were collated.

3.1.3 Table 1 sets out the relevant European sites, a brief outline of their characteristics/vulnerabilities and their conservation objectives. The information has been compiled using the following sources:

- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) website ([www.jncc.gov.uk](http://www.jncc.gov.uk));
- Natural England website [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk);
- Magic website ([www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk))
- Previous advice obtained from Natural England for the LDF.

**Figure 2: European sites considered within this Habitat Regulation Assessment**

Site	Characteristics														
<p><b>Strensall Common SAC, SSSI</b></p> <p><b>Located in:</b></p> <p><b>City of York Authority</b></p>	<p>Strensall Common is one of two remaining sites of heathland in the Vale of York and covers 654 hectares. The common is primarily designated as an SAC due to the habitats and vegetation comprising of Northern Atlantic west heaths and European dry heaths. The site is also designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).</p> <p>The site is jointly managed between the MOD, Natural England, The Forestry Commission and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. Currently the MOD undertake military training on the heath and it can be used for recreational purposes when live firing is not taking place.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><u>Conservation Objectives (as per JNCC submission):</u></p> <p>To maintain (and restore if feature is not currently in favourable condition)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Atlantic Wet Heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></li> <li>European Dry Heaths</li> </ul> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><u>Vulnerabilities include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of Muirburn Management</li> <li>Lack of scrub management</li> <li>Overgrazing by sheep</li> <li>Recreational Pressure</li> <li>Golf Course management</li> <li>Deteriorating water quality and changes in drainage</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Component SSSIs and their condition status:</u></p> <p>SSSI name: Strensall Common</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ccc;">% Area meeting PSA target</th> <th style="background-color: #ccc;">% Area favourable</th> <th style="background-color: #ccc;">% Area unfavourable recovering</th> <th style="background-color: #ccc;">% Area unfavourable no change</th> <th style="background-color: #ccc;">% Area unfavourable declining</th> <th style="background-color: #ccc;">% Area destroyed / part destroyed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>100.00%</td> <td>32.34%</td> <td>67.66%</td> <td>0.00%</td> <td>0.00%</td> <td>0.00%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-right: 20px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: green;">■</span> % Area favourable</li> <li><span style="color: yellow;">■</span> % Area unfavourable recovering</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">■</span> % Area unfavourable no change</li> <li><span style="color: red;">■</span> % Area unfavourable declining</li> <li><span style="color: darkred;">■</span> % Area destroyed / part destroyed</li> </ul> </div> </div>	<p><u>Conservation Objectives (as per JNCC submission):</u></p> <p>To maintain (and restore if feature is not currently in favourable condition)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Atlantic Wet Heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></li> <li>European Dry Heaths</li> </ul>	<p><u>Vulnerabilities include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of Muirburn Management</li> <li>Lack of scrub management</li> <li>Overgrazing by sheep</li> <li>Recreational Pressure</li> <li>Golf Course management</li> <li>Deteriorating water quality and changes in drainage</li> </ul>	% Area meeting PSA target	% Area favourable	% Area unfavourable recovering	% Area unfavourable no change	% Area unfavourable declining	% Area destroyed / part destroyed	100.00%	32.34%	67.66%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
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100.00%	32.34%	67.66%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%										

**Lower Derwent Valley SAC, SPA, RAMSAR**

**Located in:  
City of York Authority**

This site is a seasonally inundated river floodplain, which is composed of a number of individual sites situated either side of the River Derwent SPA. The Lower Derwent Valley is one of the largest and most important examples of traditionally managed species rich alluvial flood meadow habitat remaining in the UK. This site has been designated as an SPA due to the number of breeding and migratory waterbird populations that it supports of international significance. The site is also designated as an SAC due to the high quality examples of lowland hayland meadows.

Conservation Objectives (as per JNCC submission):

To maintain in favourable condition, the

- Alluvial forests with *Alnus Glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae* - priority features).

Vulnerabilities include:

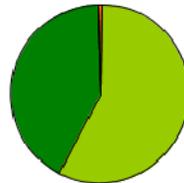
- Coal extraction
- Flood management and tidal barrage
- Domestic and industrial sewage outflow
- Intensive agriculture
- Process industry
- Alteration of channel structure
- Water abstraction
- Waste management
- Housing Development

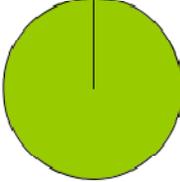
Component SSSIs and their condition status:

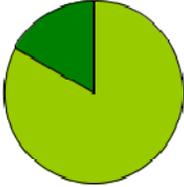
SSSI name: Derwent Ings

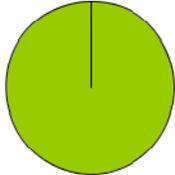
% Area meeting PSA target	% Area favourable	% Area unfavourable recovering	% Area unfavourable no change	% Area unfavourable declining	% Area destroyed / part destroyed
99.56%	42.09%	57.47%	0.44%	0.00%	0.00%

- % Area favourable
- % Area unfavourable recovering
- % Area unfavourable no change
- % Area unfavourable declining
- % Area destroyed / part destroyed



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<p><b>River Derwent SAC</b></p> <p><b>Located in:</b> <b>City of York Authority</b></p>																		
<p><u>Conservation Objectives (as per JNCC submission):</u></p> <p>To maintain in favourable condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation</li> </ul> <p>To maintain in favourable condition, the habitats for the</p>			<p><u>Vulnerabilities include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood management and water extraction</li> <li>• Nutrient enrichment</li> <li>• Siltation (agricultural runoff)</li> <li>• Agricultural and industrial outflow</li> <li>• Alteration of channel structure</li> </ul>															

	population of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Artificial barriers</li> <li>Waste management</li> </ul>												
<p><b>Skipwith Common SAC</b></p> <p><b>Located in:</b> <b>Selby District</b></p>	<p><u>Component SSSIs and their condition status:</u> See above Derwent River and Derwent Ings</p> <p>Skipwith Common is one of only two extensive heathland areas within the Vale of York, the other being Strensall Common. The area covers 295.2 hectares and is the most extensive amount of Northern Atlantic wet heath within Northern England, which is the primary reason for its designation as an SAC. There is also European Dry Heaths on the site, which is also a primary reason for designation.</p> <p>The heath is currently in private ownership but has public access. There is a joint management agreement between English nature, Escrick Park Estate, the main landowners, although the Friends of Skipwith Common are a voluntary organisation who are helping to implement the management strategy.</p>													
	<p><u>Conservation Objectives (as per JNCC submission):</u> To maintain (and restore if feature is not currently in favourable condition)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Atlantic Wet Heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></li> <li>European Dry Heaths</li> </ul>	<p><u>Vulnerabilities include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of Scrub Management</li> <li>Water abstraction</li> <li>Deep coal mining</li> <li>Recreational Pressure</li> <li>Unauthorised use</li> </ul>												
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<p><b>Kirk Deighton SAC</b></p> <p><b>Located in:</b> <b>Harrogate, North Yorkshire</b></p>	<p>Kirk Deighton is a 4ha site located within North Yorkshire primarily consisting of grassland within some inland water and cultivated wood crops. The primary reason for it's designation as a Special Area of Conservation is the presence of Great Crested Newts which are designated as an Annex II species.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="483 312 2042 596"> <tr> <td data-bbox="483 312 1263 596"> <p><u>Conservation Objectives (as per JNCC submission):</u> To maintain in favourable condition, the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitats for the population of Great Crested Newts (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>)</li> </ul> </td> <td data-bbox="1263 312 2042 596"> <p><u>Vulnerabilities include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heavy Livestock poaching</li> <li>Introduction of predatory fish</li> <li>Agricultural , transport and industrial runoff/discharge (water quality)</li> <li>Water abstraction</li> <li>Transport industry</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Component SSSIs and their condition status</u></p> <p>SSSI name: Kirk Deighton</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="483 724 1653 810"> <thead> <tr> <th>% Area meeting PSA target</th> <th>% Area favourable</th> <th>% Area unfavourable recovering</th> <th>% Area unfavourable no change</th> <th>% Area unfavourable declining</th> <th>% Area destroyed / part destroyed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>100.00%</td> <td>0.00%</td> <td>100.00%</td> <td>0.00%</td> <td>0.00%</td> <td>0.00%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <div data-bbox="483 865 757 1002"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: green;">■</span> % Area favourable</li> <li><span style="color: lightgreen;">■</span> % Area unfavourable recovering</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">■</span> % Area unfavourable no change</li> <li><span style="color: red;">■</span> % Area unfavourable declining</li> <li><span style="color: darkred;">■</span> % Area destroyed / part destroyed</li> </ul> </div> 	<p><u>Conservation Objectives (as per JNCC submission):</u> To maintain in favourable condition, the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitats for the population of Great Crested Newts (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>)</li> </ul>	<p><u>Vulnerabilities include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heavy Livestock poaching</li> <li>Introduction of predatory fish</li> <li>Agricultural , transport and industrial runoff/discharge (water quality)</li> <li>Water abstraction</li> <li>Transport industry</li> </ul>	% Area meeting PSA target	% Area favourable	% Area unfavourable recovering	% Area unfavourable no change	% Area unfavourable declining	% Area destroyed / part destroyed	100.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
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<p><b>The Humber Estuary SPA, SAC, RAMSAR</b></p> <p><b>Located in:</b> <b>East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston Upon Hull, North Lincolnshire and</b></p>	<p>The Humber Estuary is one of the largest rivers in northern England and drains about one-fifth of the entire country. The estuary is designated as an SPA due to the representation of breeding and migratory birds. The catchment is sensitive to change and is regulated by the Humber Estuary Management Strategy developed by all statutory bodies to assist in the delivery of their duties under the Habitat Regulations. Changes to the flow rate and water quality in the Rivers Ouse and Derwent could therefore have an impact upon the Humber Estuary environment.</p> <p><u>Conservation Objectives for SPA (as per JNCC submission):</u> To maintain in favourable condition:</p>														

**North East  
Lincolnshire**

-The habitats for the populations of the breeding Annex 1 bird species, with particular reference to :

- Little Tern *Sterna albeifrons*
- March Harrier *Circus aeriginosus*

-The habitats for the populations of the migratory Annex 1 bird species, with particular reference to:

- Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*
- Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*
- Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*
- Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

-The habitats for the population of the migratory bird species of European importance, with particular reference to:

- Redshank *Tringa tetanus*
- Sanderling *Calidris alba*
- Dunlin *Calidris alpine alpine*
- Knot *Calidris canutus*
- Shelduck Tadorna *Tadorna*

To maintain in favourable condition (and restore if feature is not currently in favourable condition) the habitats for the populations of birds that contribute to the breeding and migratory wetland bird assemblage of European importance.

Conservation Objectives for SAC (as per JNCC submission):

Annex I habitats that are the Primary reason for designation:

- Estuary, in particular the saltmarsh communities, intertidal mudflat and sandflat communities and subtidal sediment communities
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, in particular the intertidal gravel and sand communities, intertidal muddy sand communities, intertidal mud communities and eelgrass bed communities upstream from the Humber Bridge

Annex I qualifying features which are not the primary reason for designation:

- Atlantic salt meadow, in particular the low to mid marsh, mid to upper marsh and transitional communities
- Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all of the time, in particular the subtidal gravel and sands and subtidal muddy sands
- Coastal Lagoons (priority feature)
- *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand, in particular the samphire and sea-blite marsh communities (glasswort beds)

- Embryonic shifting dunes
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ('white dunes')
- Fixed Dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("Grey Dunes")
- Dunes with *Hippophae rhamnoides*

Annex II qualifying features which are not the primary reason for designation:

- Habitats of River Lamprey "*Petromyzon marinus*"
- Habitats of Sea Lamprey "*Lampetra Fluviatilis*"
- Grey Seal "*Halichoerus grypus*"

Vulnerabilities include:

- Coastal Development – housing, commercial and industry
- Flood defence
- Sewage discharge
- Recreational pressure

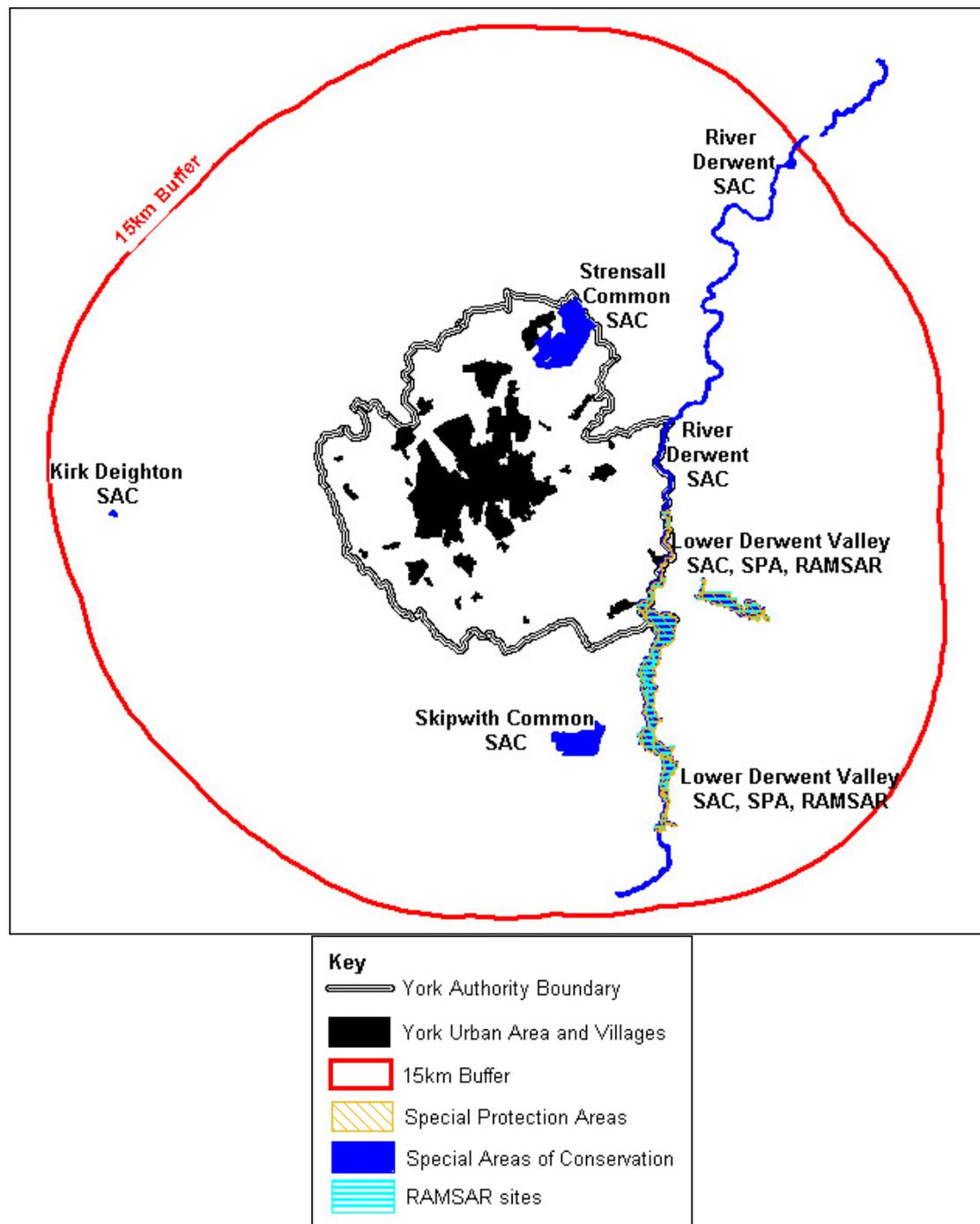
Component SSSIs and their condition status

SSSI name: Humber Estuary

% Area meeting PSA target	% Area favourable	% Area unfavourable recovering	% Area unfavourable no change	% Area unfavourable declining	% Area destroyed / part destroyed
98.86%	7.59%	91.27%	0.20%	0.95%	0.00%

- % Area favourable
- % Area unfavourable recovering
- % Area unfavourable no change
- % Area unfavourable declining
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**Figure 3: Location of Natura 2000 sites within 15km of Authority Boundary.**

### 3.2 Local Plan - Indicative Policy Review

3.2.1 In order to understand how the Local Plan may potentially affect the European Sites, an indicative analysis of the policies has been undertaken against the identified vulnerabilities of the sites (see Figure 2). The vulnerability criteria have been taken from the Appropriate Assessment undertaken for the former Yorkshire and Humber Regional Spatial Strategy. The Review Criteria indicates overall how the policy is likely to affect the Natura 2000 sites and whether a policy should be

specifically taken forward for appropriate assessment. A full analysis of all of the policies has been undertaken for completeness.

3.2.2 Key assumptions in determining the effects has been the spatial growth agenda set out in the city. These include:

- At least 21,936 dwellings between 2012 and 2030 based upon policy H1. This has implication for both site location and also the effects arising from population growth;
- Allocation of approximately 39ha of employment land for B1, B2 and B8 use;
- Additional retail floorspace focussed primarily within the city centre and Monks Cross;
- Setting of the Greenbelt boundary;
- The allocation of strategic and allocated development sites;
- The allocation of 397 ha of safeguarded land for longer term development needs post 2030.

3.2.3 In general the Local Plan's growth agenda may cause potential impacts on the identified Natura 2000 sites through:

- Urbanisation: more development, more activity, more noise and light etc.
- Increased visitor use of the sites for recreational purposes with possible implications associated with disturbance of fauna and flora on the habitats.
- Increased traffic with possible impacts on pollution which could potentially effect habitat / species sensitive to air quality;
- Increased water use and flood risk associated with development which may effect water levels and quality within European sites and impact on the protected flora and fauna.

Effect of Local Plan Spatial strategy and policies on Natura 2000 sites	Review Criteria	Rationale
No significant adverse effects in the natura 2000 sites (shown Green)	1	The policy will not itself lead to development (e.g. the policy relates to design or qualitative criteria for development, or it is not a land use policy)
	2	No development could occur through this policy alone, because it is implemented through sub-ordinate policies or DPDs, which are more detailed and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on the European Site, and associated sensitive areas.
	3	The policy steers a quantum or type of development that can have no foreseeable, direct or indirect effect upon the Natura 2000 sites.
	4	The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the historic or natural environment, including biodiversity and enhancement measures will not be likely to have any effect on a European site
Possible adverse effect in the Natura 2000 (shown yellow)	5	The policy steers a quantum or type of development towards, or encourages development in, an area that includes a European site or an area where development could possibly indirectly affect a European Site.
Likely to have a significant adverse effect in the Natura 200 sites (Shown Red in table)	6	The policy makes provision for a quantum, or type of development, that in the location(s) proposed would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site. The proposal must be subject to appropriate assessment to establish, in light of the site's conservation objectives, whether it can be ascertained that the proposal would not be adversely affect the integrity of the site.





















**Conclusions of the indicative policy review:**

- 3.2.4 The policy review recognises that there may be potential adverse effects arising from:
- Biological disturbance at Strensall Common SAC, Skipwith Common SAC, Lower Derwent Valley SAC, SPA, RAMSAR and the Humber Estuary SAC ;
  - Recreational Pressure at Strensall Common SAC and Skipwith Common SAC;
  - Water contamination at Strensall SAC, River Derwent SAC, Lower Derwent Valley SAC, SPA, RAMSAR and the Humber Estuary SAC;
  - Water quality in the Humber Estuary SAC;
  - Water abstraction at Strensall SAC and Lower Derwent Valley SAC, SPA, RAMSAR
  - Hydrological change at River Derwent SAC, Lower Derwent Valley SAC, SPA, RAMSAR and the Humber Estuary SAC;
- 3.2.5 The policy review also shows that the policies which may have possible adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 sites are:
- SS6: Safeguarded Land
  - EMP1: Strategic Employment Locations;
  - EMP2: Provision of Employment Land
  - GB5: Major Developed Sites in the Green Belt
  - CC1: Supporting Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation
  - WM1: Sustainable Waste Management.
- 3.2.6 The policy matrix identifies that the following policies are likely to have a significant adverse effect in Natura 2000 sites.
- H1: Scale of Housing Growth
  - H2: Housing Allocations

**3.3 Assessment of the Local Plan against the potential ecological impacts of each site**

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- 3.3.1 Given the broad issues which may affect each site, a further assessment of the Local Plan has been undertaken against each potential ecological impact identified on each site to further help scope out the issues which will not have a potential adverse effect on the European sites. Table 3 details the findings of this analysis.

Figure 5: Assessment of the Local Plan against the potential ecological impacts of each site

Site	Qualifying Features	<u>Vulnerabilities and potential ecological impacts</u>	Potential Impacts of Local Plan	Is there a risk of a significant effect from the Local Plan?
Strensall Common SAC  Lowland Heath  (City of York Council)  569.63 ha	<b>Northern Atlantic wet heaths (M16 <i>Erica tetralix</i> – <i>Schphagnum compactum</i> wet heath)</b> Annex 1 Species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purple moor-grass <i>Molina caerulea</i></li> <li>Cross leaved heath <i>Erica tertalix</i></li> </ul> Other species to note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marsh gentian <i>Gentiana pneumonanthe</i></li> <li>Narrow buckler fern <i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i></li> <li>Long-leaved sundew <i>Drosera intermedia</i></li> </ul> <b>European dry heaths (H9 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i></li> <li>Petty whin <i>Genista angelica</i></li> </ul>	<u>Lack of Muirburn management</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical loss – removal of heath</li> <li>Changes in drainage - Habitat fragmentation</li> <li>Accidental fires</li> </ul>	The Local Plan would not have an effect on the direct management of the site. The document will support the use of the nature conservation sites through policies on green infrastructure and openspace (Section 17).	No
		<u>Lack of scrub management</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical loss - smothering by scrub encroachment</li> </ul>	The Local Plan would not have an effect on the direct management of the site. The document will support the use of the nature conservation sites through policies on green infrastructure and openspace (Section 17).	No
		<u>Overgrazing by sheep</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical loss – removal of heath</li> <li>Physical damage – Erosion, habitat fragmentation</li> <li>Non toxic contamination– nutrient enrichment</li> </ul>	The Local Plan would not have a direct influence over the management of sheep grazing on the site. This is outside the remit of the Local Plan.	No
		<u>Recreational pressure</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical damage –Erosion, habitat fragmentation</li> <li>Accidental fires</li> <li>Biological disturbance –</li> </ul>	The Local Plan intends to develop a minimum of 1090 dwellings per annum equalling 21,936 homes over the plan period. The associated population increase could lead to more use of Strensall Common although this is also dependent on the location and proximity of	Potential Impact  This issue will be taken forward for Appropriate

Site	Qualifying Features	<u>Vulnerabilities and potential ecological impacts</u>	Potential Impacts of Local Plan	Is there a risk of a significant effect from the Local Plan?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bird's foot <i>Ornithopus perpusillus</i></li> </ul> Birch woodland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birch <i>Betula</i></li> </ul>	noise and associated disturbance from visitors	<p>development. The Local Plan Preferred Options proposes 24 Strategic Sites, 45 Housing allocations, 14 Employment Allocations and 8 Safeguarded areas in various locations around the authority alongside its strategic and development management policies concerning the protection and enhancement of Green Infrastructure, including the requirement for new openspace.</p> <p>Potential impacts on Strensall Common from the Local Plan Preferred Options cannot be discounted without further assessment of the potential impacts. An Appropriate Assessment on the influence of the Local Plan on Strensall Common is required.</p>	Assessment. This can be found in section 5.
		<u>Golf course management</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Toxic contamination - Herbicides</li> </ul>	Policies on outdoor sports spaces / green infrastructure are set out within Section 17 within the Local Plan. However, the direct management of golf courses and their contamination is outside the remit of the Local Plan. The Local Plan will not have direct influence on the management of golf courses and looks to support the designated conservation sites through policy.	No
		<u>Deteriorating water quality and changes in drainage</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water extraction – changes to water levels /</li> </ul>	Water for York is abstracted from the River Ouse and River Derwent. Increase in development and population will lead to further water resource abstraction, which may impact on the two rivers.	Potential Impact This issue will be taken forward

Site	Qualifying Features	<u>Vulnerabilities</u> and potential ecological impacts	Potential Impacts of Local Plan	Is there a risk of a significant effect from the Local Plan?
		<p>drainage resulting in habitat loss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water quality changes - Changes of conditions may be adverse effects entomologically and ornithologically.</li> </ul>	<p>Furthermore, the Local Plan influences the spatial distribution of housing etc through policies, which could potentially affect both quantity and quality of water through abstraction and drainage in different parts of the authority.</p> <p>Further assessment is required to establish the impact on water quality and drainage issues at Strensall Common. An Appropriate Assessment of this has been undertaken.</p>	<p>for Appropriate Assessment. This can be found in section 5.</p>
<p>Skipwith Common</p> <p>Lowland Heath</p> <p>(Selby District Council)</p> <p>295.2 ha</p>	<p><b>Northern Atlantic wet heaths (M16 <i>Erica tetralix</i> – <i>Schphagnum compactum</i> wet heath)</b></p> <p>Annex 1 Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purple moor-grass <i>Molina caerulea</i></li> <li>Cross leaved heath <i>Erica tertalix</i></li> </ul> <p>Other species to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marsh gentian <i>Gentiana pneumonanthe</i></li> <li>Narrow buckler fern <i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i></li> </ul>	<p><u>Lack of scrub management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical loss - smothering by scrub encroachment</li> </ul> <p><u>Water abstraction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water extraction – changes to water levels / drainage resulting in habitat loss</li> </ul>	<p>Policies within the Local Plan will not have a direct effect on management of the heath. The document will support the use of the nature conservation sites through policies on green infrastructure, biodiversity and openspace (Section 17).</p> <p>Water for York is abstracted from the River Ouse and River Derwent. Increase in development and population will lead to further water resource abstraction, which may impact on the two rivers. Furthermore, the Local Plan influences the spatial distribution of housing etc through policies, which could potentially affect both quantity and quality of water through abstraction and drainage in different parts of the authority.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>This issue will be taken forward for Appropriate Assessment. This can be found in section 5.</p>

Site	Qualifying Features	<u>Vulnerabilities</u> and potential ecological impacts	Potential Impacts of Local Plan	Is there a risk of a significant effect from the Local Plan?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-leaved subdew <i>Drosera intermedia</i></li> </ul> <p><b>European dry heaths (H9 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i></li> <li>• Petty whin <i>Genista angelica</i></li> <li>• Brid's foot <i>Ornithopus perpusillus</i></li> </ul> <p>Birch woodland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birch <i>Betula</i></li> </ul>	<p><u>Deep coal mining</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical loss – removal of heath and smothering</li> <li>• Hydrological change – water level and flow rate</li> <li>• Biological disturbance – noise and associated disturbance from vehicles and industry.</li> </ul>	<p>Further assessment is required to establish the impact on water quality and drainage issues at Strensall Common. An Appropriate Assessment of this has been undertaken.</p> <p>The Local Plan for York will not directly effect the management of the coal mining in this area as this is out of the York Authority area. However, there may be risk of in-combination effects due to increased development pressure from the York authority and Selby District, which will result in higher energy consumption which may indirectly lead to the extraction of coal. However, Section 20 of the Local Plan regarding Climate Change requires the implementation of renewable energy schemes and energy efficiency measures in new development and so would try to limit it's effect on the extraction of fossil fuels leading to the potential ecological impacts listed. Major developments which would have the most significant combined impact are required to submit a Sustainable Energy Statement as part of the planning applications process to demonstrate these measures to mitigate their impact on resources. It is therefore expected that the Local Plan will have not a significant negative impact affecting the integrity of Skipwith Common in relation to coal mining. This issue will also</p>	<p></p> <p>No</p>

Site	Qualifying Features	<u>Vulnerabilities</u> and potential ecological impacts	Potential Impacts of Local Plan	Is there a risk of a significant effect from the Local Plan?
			be picked up within the HRA of the Joint Waste and Mineral Plan in relation to the specific sites identified.	
		<u>Recreational Pressure</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical damage - erosion, habitat fragmentation</li> <li>• Accidental fires</li> <li>• Biological disturbance - increased noise and visibility associated with recreational use</li> </ul>	Population increase in York will lead to increased demand for recreational space. There is a potential that this could result in physical damage as well as possible accidental fires in some locations. However, the impact of recreational use depends largely on the location of development and provision of adequate openspace. New development in York will be required to demonstrate access to varied openspace including additional recreational /openspace opportunities commensurate to the level of development (policies SS3 and GI5). The Spatial Strategy for the Local Plan has identified the location of major development to be within or adjacent to the main urban area with strategic extension to Clifton Moor (northwest), the villages of Copmanthorpe (southwest) and Haxby (north ) with a new settlement to the south. All of developments will be required under policy SS3 and GI5 to provide openspace and recreational opportunities. Although there are existing deficiencies around the city, Skipwith Common is 13km away from the York boundary and therefore it is considered that there is limited risk to Skipwith Common from recreational pressure over and above the current levels.	No

Site	Qualifying Features	<u>Vulnerabilities</u> and potential ecological impacts	Potential Impacts of Local Plan	Is there a risk of a significant effect from the Local Plan?
		<u>Unauthorised use</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical damage - problems of flytipping, trespassing</li> <li>Biological disturbance</li> </ul>	The direct management of this site is out of the remit of CYC's Local Plan given that it falls within another Local Authority's boundary. Furthermore, the site is approx 13km away from the York boundary and only accessible via b-roads within the village. It is therefore unlikely that development within York will influence unauthorised access onto this site. This is not anticipated to have a negative impact.	No
River Derwent SAC	Annex 1 Habitat (qualifying feature): <b>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation</b>	<u>Flood Management &amp; Water Abstraction</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydrological change – water level and flow rate</li> <li>Physical damage -Barrier effects and habitat fragmentation</li> </ul>	Development within the City of York will have an effect on flood risk and will inevitably lead to more water abstraction. There is a potential effect identified from this on the River Derwent. Therefore, this issue has been taken forward for appropriate assessment in Section 5.	Potential Impact  This issue will be taken forward for Appropriate Assessment.  This can be found in section 5
Freshwater and woodland Habitats  City of York, North Yorkshire & East Riding of Yorkshire  411.23	Annex 2 species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>River Lamprey (fish) <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i></li> <li>Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i></li> <li>Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i></li> <li>Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i></li> </ul> Other Species to note:	<u>Nutrient enrichment</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat loss</li> </ul>	The Local Plan will not have a direct influence on nutrient enrichment of the river, which could lead to habitat loss. However, effects from industry, development and recreation may have an indirect impact on the River Derwent. The River Quality was assessed at Elvington as 'good' upstream of Elvington sluice and 'fair' downstream of the sluice. Development and industry as a result of the Local Plan would take on	No

Site	Qualifying Features	<u>Vulnerabilities</u> and potential ecological impacts	Potential Impacts of Local Plan	Is there a risk of a significant effect from the Local Plan?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></li> <li>• Brook Lamprey (fish) <i>Lampetra planeri</i></li> <li>• Atlantic Salmon <i>Salmo Salar</i></li> </ul>		board strict guidelines to help prevent adverse effects and detrimental run-off into the rivers. Monitoring is ongoing from the Environment Agency to make sure rivers adhere to the River Quality Objectives set by the Government.	
		<u>Siltation (agricultural runoff)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical damage – Barrier effects, habitat fragmentation</li> <li>• Physical loss</li> </ul>	The Local Plan will not have an impact on this identified vulnerability.	No
		<u>Agricultural and industrial outflow (inc. sheep dip)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toxic contamination of water</li> <li>• Physical loss damage – barrier effects.</li> </ul>	The Local Plan will not have an impact on this identified vulnerability.	No
		<u>Alteration of channel structure</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hydrological change - flow rate</li> <li>• Physical loss and damage – erosion of silt beds</li> </ul>	The Local Plan will not have a direct effect on the alteration of the channel. See data for flood management and water abstraction (section 5).	No
		<u>Artificial Barriers</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical damage – barrier effects, habitat fragmentation</li> </ul>	The Local Plan will not influence artificial barriers within the river and it is expected not to have an impact	No
		<u>Waste management</u>	The efficient management of waste is a key	No

Site	Qualifying Features	<u>Vulnerabilities</u> and potential ecological impacts	Potential Impacts of Local Plan	Is there a risk of a significant effect from the Local Plan?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical loss – removal and smothering</li> <li>• Nutrient deposition and acidification</li> <li>• Hydrological change - water level and flow rate</li> </ul>	<p>consideration for the Local Plan, which must address meeting national targets concerning landfill, recycling and other waste. ‘Let’s talk rubbish’: a Municipal Waste Management Strategy for City of York and North Yorkshire Waste Partnership 2006-2026 sets out the importance of land use planning and policies for the location of waste management facilities. The main locations for waste management currently are Hazel Court, Towthorpe and Harewood Whin, which are all on the west side of the authority except Towthorpe to the Northeast. The Local Plan has identified key factors which are important for the location of waste management facilities, of which the criteria of Spatial Principle 2 is one and corroborated by Policy WM1: Sustainable Waste Management. SS2 aims to ensure that international, national and local nature conservation sites are protected and where appropriate, enhanced. The Local Plan has not identified the locations for new waste sites as this will be progressed through the Joint Waste and Minerals Local in conjunction with North Yorkshire but has detailed the safeguarding of existing facilities. It is anticipated that the Local Plan will not adversely effect this vulnerability but further analysis of this issue will be considered as part of the HRA for the Joint Waste and Minerals Local Plan.</p>	

Site	Qualifying Features	<u>Vulnerabilities</u> and potential ecological impacts	Potential Impacts of Local Plan	Is there a risk of a significant effect from the Local Plan?
<p>Lower Derwent Valley SAC, SPA and RAMSAR</p> <p>Lowland Hay meadows, woodlands and freshwater river</p> <p>City of York, North Yorkshire and East Riding of Yorkshire)</p> <p>915 ha</p>	<p><b>SAC</b> Annex 1 habitat: <b>Lowland hay meadows</b> <b><i>Alopecurus pratensis</i></b></p> <p><b>Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnoia incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)</b></p> <p>Annex 2 species: • Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i></p> <p><b>SPA</b> Annex 1 species: Breeding Birds: • Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> • Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> • Spotted crane <i>Porzana porzana</i> • Northern Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i></p>	<p><u>Coal extraction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical loss - removal and smothering</li> <li>Hydrological change - water level and flow rate</li> </ul> <p><u>Flood Management and tidal barrage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydrological change – water level and flow rate</li> <li>Physical damage – barrier effects and habitat fragmentation</li> </ul>	<p>The Local Plan for York will not directly effect the management of the coal mining in this area as this is out of the York Authority area. However, there may be risk of in-combination effects due to increased development pressure from the York authority and Selby District, which will result in higher energy consumption which may indirectly lead to the extraction of coal. The CYC Local Plan will encourage the implementation of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency in new development and so would try to limit it’s effect on use of fossil fuels leading to the potential ecological impacts listed. It is therefore not expected that the Local Plan will have a significant impact effecting the integrity of Skipwith Common in relation to coal mining. (For hydrological change comments see next section regarding flood management and tidal barrage.)</p> <p>The species within the SPA, SAC and RAMSAR site are vulnerable to changes in the flooding regime and water level. There are potential impacts regarding flood management from the Local Plan. In light of this, this issue has been taken forward for appropriate assessment in Section 5.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Potential Impact</p> <p>This issue will be taken forward for Appropriate Assessment. This can be found in section</p>

Site	Qualifying Features	<u>Vulnerabilities</u> and potential ecological impacts	Potential Impacts of Local Plan	Is there a risk of a significant effect from the Local Plan?
	<p>Wintering birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bewick's swan <i>Cygnus columbianus Bewickii</i></li> <li>• Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i></li> <li>• Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i></li> <li>• Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i></li> </ul> <p>Migratory wintering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teal <i>Anas crecca</i></li> </ul> <p>Other birds to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i></li> <li>• Pochard <i>Aythya farina</i></li> <li>• Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i></li> </ul> <p><b><u>RAMSAR</u></b> Internationally important wetland assemblage of birds:</p>	<p><u>Domestic and industrial sewage outflow</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-toxic contamination - phosphorous enrichment</li> </ul>	<p>Whilst the Local Plan will not address this issue directly, consideration of domestic infrastructure including sewage treatment, will have to be addressed with the development of new housing and employment premises.</p> <p>Currently Yorkshire Water identify that there is likely to be a need for new sewers and to upsize existing sewers to support individual sites. However, brownfield sites are recognised to benefit from the existing infrastructure more than Greenfield.</p> <p>In addition, the Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Boards have highlighted the need to control the amount of surface water which discharges into the sewers network and watercourses. This is supported by Yorkshire Water who on greenfield sites expect all surface water to be kept out of the public sewer network and on brownfield sites allow foul and surface water discharges to remain as existing or less.</p> <p>Section 25 of the Local Plan Preferred Options regarding infrastructure requirements for developments should tackle the issue of ensuring that sewage is appropriately dealt with. Policy IDC1 requires that new development will be supported by</p>	<p>5</p> <p>No</p>

Site	Qualifying Features	<u>Vulnerabilities</u> and potential ecological impacts	Potential Impacts of Local Plan	Is there a risk of a significant effect from the Local Plan?
	Common Quail <i>Corturnix corturnix</i> Black-headed gull <i>Larus ridibundus</i> Peak counts in Winter: Wigeon <i>Anas Penelope</i> Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus Cygnus</i> Gadwall <i>Anas strepera strepera</i> Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> Water rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>		appropriate physical, social and economic infrastructure provision. This will be further supported by the Infrastructure Delivery Plan which identifies in detail what, when and how this will be delivered. In addition, policy FR3: Ground water Management states: “New development will not be permitted to allow outflow from ground water and/or land drainage to enter public sewers. Existing land drainage systems within new development should be adequately maintained”.  Due to this, it is not expected that there will be adverse impacts on this vulnerability or ecological impact.	
	<b>Plants</b> Marsh pea <i>Lathyrus palustris</i> Water parsnip <i>Sium latifolium</i> Narrow leaved water-dropwort <i>Oenanthe silaifolia</i> Water pepper <i>Persicaria laxifora</i> Pondweed <i>Potamogeton trichoides</i>	<u>Intensive agriculture</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical loss - removal</li> <li>• Physical damage – erosion, habitat fragmentation, siltation from agricultural runoff</li> <li>• Toxic contamination of groundwater – sheep dipping</li> <li>• Non-toxic contamination – nutrient enrichment</li> </ul>	The Local Plan will have no impact on intensive agriculture and its associated ecological impacts as this is out of the remit of the Plan.	No
		<u>Process industry</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non toxic contamination –</li> </ul>	The Local Plan will not have an impact on this vulnerability.	No

Site	Qualifying Features	<u>Vulnerabilities</u> and potential ecological impacts	Potential Impacts of Local Plan	Is there a risk of a significant effect from the Local Plan?
	<b>Invertebrates:</b> Ground beetle <i>Panagaeus crux major</i> Beetle <i>Dytiscus dimidiatus</i> Beetle <i>Saprinus virescens</i> <i>Hydraena palustris</i> <i>Atheta terminalis</i> , <i>parphotistus nigricornis</i> Weevils <i>Hypera diversipunctata</i> <i>Rhamphomyia phyoprocta</i> <i>Hilara brevittata</i> Flies: <i>Hilara merula</i> , <i>dolichopus cilifemoratus</i> <i>Herrostomus angustifrons</i> <i>Antichaeta analis</i> <i>Antichaata obliviosa</i> Crane fly <i>Dichetophora finlandica</i>	acidification from sulphur deposition		
		<u>Alteration of channel structure (canalisation, artificial barriers)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical loss and damage – removal of and damage to riverside woodlands, barrier effects and habitat fragmentation</li> <li>• Hydrological change – water level and flow rate</li> </ul>	The Local Plan has not outlined plans to alter the channel structure of the River Derwent, which would affect the Lower Derwent Valley. At present the management of the river is undertaken by Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency who have not outlined any plans of this nature. It has been acknowledged that woodland management upstream has been identified as an issue and that this could potentially impact on this SAC/SPA. However the Local Plan will not directly effect the level of woodland management upstream either. See also the impacts for the River Derwent.	No
		<u>Water abstraction</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hydrological change - water level and flow rate</li> <li>• Physical damage – drying and habitat fragmentation</li> </ul>	Development within the City of York will have an affect on flood risk and will inevitably lead to more water abstraction. There is a potential effect identified from this on the Lower Derwent Valley. Therefore, this issue has been taken forward for appropriate assessment in Section 5.	Potential Impact  This issue will be taken forward for Appropriate Assessment. This can be found in section 5
		<u>Waste management</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical loss – removal and</li> </ul>	The efficient management of waste is a key consideration for the Local Plan, which must address	No

Site	Qualifying Features	<u>Vulnerabilities and potential ecological impacts</u>	Potential Impacts of Local Plan	Is there a risk of a significant effect from the Local Plan?
		smothering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrient deposition and acidification</li> <li>• Hydrological change – water level and flow rate</li> </ul>	meeting national targets concerning landfill, recycling and other waste. ‘Let’s talk rubbish’: a Municipal Waste Management Strategy for City of York and North Yorkshire Waste Partnership 2006-2026 sets out the importance of land use planning and policies for the location of waste management facilities. The main locations for waste management currently are Beckfield Lane, Hazel Court, Towthorpe, Harewood Whin and Hessay, which are all on the west side of the authority except Towthorpe to the Northeast. The Local Plan has identified key factors which are important for the location of waste management facilities, including a cross reference to the location constraints criteria set out by policy SS2, which seeks to protect internationally, nationally and locally important nature conservation sites. The Local Plan has not identified the locations for new waste sites as this will be progressed through the Key Allocations DPD. This issue will be considered as part of the HRA for the Key Allocations DPD.	
		<u>Housing development (recreation pressure)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical damage – erosion and habitat fragmentation</li> <li>• Accidental fires</li> <li>• Disturbance of nesting</li> </ul>	The Local Plan identifies strategic sites and allocations to meet the growth aspirations of the city. There may be potential impacts on this vulnerability due to this and therefore this issues has been taken forward to Appropriate Assessment within Section 5.	Potential Impact  This issue will be taken forward for Appropriate Assessment.

Site	Qualifying Features	<u>Vulnerabilities</u> and potential ecological impacts	Potential Impacts of Local Plan	Is there a risk of a significant effect from the Local Plan?
		and/or over-wintering birds	In addition, there may be disturbance as a result of renewable energy solutions, such as wind turbines as proposed by Policy CC1 in response to increasing development and resource efficiency. This issues has also been taken forward to an appropriate assessment.	This can be found in section 5
Humber Estuary SPA, RAMSAR Estuary  City of Kingston upon Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire, North and East Lincolnshire, Lincolnshire	<b>SPA:</b> Annex 1 species: Breeding species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little Tern <i>Sterna albeifrons</i></li> <li>• March Harrier <i>Circus aeriginosus</i></li> </ul> Migratory species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i></li> <li>• Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i></li> <li>• Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i></li> <li>• Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i></li> </ul> Habitats for the populations of birds that contribute to the breeding and migratory wetland bird assemblage of	<u>Coastal development – housing, commercial and industry</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss and degradation of habitat – toxic and non-toxic contamination, erosion, fragmentation and sedimentation</li> <li>• Impacts on integrity of breeding and wintering population via disturbance - noise, trampling, presence</li> </ul> <u>Flood defence</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss and degradation of habitat</li> <li>• Fragmentation</li> <li>• Barrier effects</li> <li>• Changes in hydrology – flow rate and water level</li> </ul>	The City of York Authority Area does not extend to coastal areas and therefore will not have an impact on coastal development to affect the Humber Estuary.  The species within the SAC and RAMSAR site are vulnerable to changes in the flooding regime and water level. There are potential impacts regarding flood management from the Local Plan. In light of this, this issue has been taken forward for appropriate assessment in Section 5.	No  Potential Impact  This issue will be taken forward for Appropriate Assessment. This can be found in section 5

Site	Qualifying Features	<u>Vulnerabilities</u> and potential ecological impacts	Potential Impacts of Local Plan	Is there a risk of a significant effect from the Local Plan?
	<p>European Importance</p> <p><b>SAC:</b> Annex 1 habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuary, in particular the saltmarsh communities, intertidal mudflat and sandflat communities and subtidal sediment communities</li> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, in particular the intertidal gravel and sand communities, intertidal muddy sand communities, intertidal mud communities and eelgrass bed communities upstream from the Humber Bridge</li> </ul> <p>Annex I qualifying features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atlantic salt meadow, in particular the low to mid</li> </ul>	<p><u>Sewage discharge – domestic and industrial</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eutrophication, sedimentation changes in turbidity and pH</li> <li>• Salinity</li> <li>• Indirect effects of reduced water quality on food resources</li> </ul>	<p>Due to the main rivers flowing through York draining into the Humber Estuary alongside other tributaries, there is potential for there to be ‘in-combination’ effects. Whilst the Local Plan will not address this issue directly, consideration of domestic infrastructure including sewage treatment, will have to be addressed with the development of new housing and employment premises. This will need to meet regulatory standards for sewage disposal and treatment in order to comply nationally but cannot be determined in terms of the impact development in York on the Humber Estuary at this stage. Policy IDC1 regarding ‘Infrastructure and Developer Contributions’ aims to support the development of appropriate infrastructure provision. The next stage of the Local Plan will include delivery of any key infrastructure schemes and will be assessed in further HRA work. Policy CC2 regarding sustainable design and construction, will also help to limit any adverse impacts given that the development will need to demonstrate sustainable waste disposal methods. As development would need to be compliant with the regulations and the policies set forward in the Local Plan, it is expected that the Local Plan would not have Direct adverse effects on this impact. However, the in-combination effects of this are uncertain and therefore,</p>	<p>No</p>

Site	Qualifying Features	<u>Vulnerabilities</u> and potential ecological impacts	Potential Impacts of Local Plan	Is there a risk of a significant effect from the Local Plan?
	marsh, mid to upper marsh and transitional communities		the issue has been taken forward for appropriate assessment within Section 5.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all of the time, in particular the subtidal gravel and sands and subtidal muddy sands</li> <li>• Coastal Lagoons (priority feature)</li> <li>• <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand, in particular the samphire and sea-blite marsh communities (glasswort beds)</li> <li>• Embryonic shifting dunes</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes')</li> <li>• Fixed Dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("Grey Dunes")</li> <li>• Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i></li> </ul>	<u>Recreation Pressure</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impacts on integrity of breeding and wintering population via disturbance – noise, trampling and presence</li> </ul>	Increases in population within York will have an effect on the number of people taking part in recreational activity both within and outside the authority. It is unlikely however, that recreational pressure from the City of York Authority will have a significant effect upon the integrity of the Humber Estuary due to the authority's distance from the estuary (over 15km straight line distance at its closest point) and similar environments within the authority, e.g. the River Derwent.	No

Site	Qualifying Features	<u>Vulnerabilities</u> and potential ecological impacts	Potential Impacts of Local Plan	Is there a risk of a significant effect from the Local Plan?
	Annex II qualifying features which are not the primary reason for designation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitats of River Lamprey "<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>"</li> <li>• Habitats of Sea Lamprey "<i>Lampetra Fluviatilis</i>"</li> <li>• Grey Seal "<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>"</li> </ul>			
Kirk Deighton SAC  Grassland with some water and cultivated wood crops (e.g. orchards)  Located in North Yorkshire	<b>SAC</b> Annex 2 Species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great Crested Newts <i>Triturus cristatus</i></li> </ul>	<u>Heavy Livestock poaching</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical damage – erosion, habitat fragmentation, siltation</li> </ul>	The CYC Local Plan will not have a direct or indirect influence on this vulnerability.	No
		<u>Introduction of Predatory fish</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biological disturbance</li> </ul>	The CYC Local Plan will not have a direct or indirect influence on this vulnerability.	No
		<u>Agricultural, transport and industrial runoff / discharge (water quality)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non toxic contamination – nutrient enrichment</li> <li>• Physical damage – siltation, habitat fragmentation</li> <li>• Toxic contamination</li> </ul>	The CYC Local Plan will not have a direct or indirect influence on this vulnerability. This issue will be picked up more directly by Planning policy Harrogate District Council and licensing for discharge.	No
		<u>Water Abstraction</u>	Whilst the CYC Local Plan will have a potential effect on	No

Site	Qualifying Features	<u>Vulnerabilities and potential ecological impacts</u>	Potential Impacts of Local Plan	Is there a risk of a significant effect from the Local Plan?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical damage -_habitat fragmentation</li> <li>• Hydrological change – water level &amp; flow rate</li> </ul>	water abstraction on the other Natura 2000 sites listed, it is not anticipated that it will have a direct or indirect impact on Kirk Deighton. This is due to the localised water conditions needed for the Great Crested Newts and the sites distance from City of York (13km approx). The Local Plan will not therefore interfere with or jeopardise the integrity of this SAC.	
		<u>Transport industry</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atmospheric pollution and deposition</li> </ul>	The CYC Local Plan will not have a direct or indirect influence on this vulnerability.	No

## Conclusions:

3.3.2 The outstanding issues which have been taken forward given the potential adverse impacts identified are as follows. These issues have been taken forward to Appropriate Assessment within Section 4.

1. Recreational Impacts/ Biological Disturbance at:
  - i. Strensall Common
  - ii. Lower Derwent Valley
  - iii. River Derwent
2. Water Abstraction, quality and changes in drainage at:
  - i. Strensall Common
  - ii. Skipwith Common
  - iii. River Derwent
  - iv. Lower Derwent Valley
  - v. Humber Estuary
3. Flood Management at:
  - i. River Derwent
  - ii. Lower Derwent Valley
  - iii. Humber Estuary
4. Biological disturbance from renewable energy solutions at:
  - i. Lower Derwent Valley

## 3.4 Local Plan - Indicative Site Selection review

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3.4.1 The Local Plan sets out Strategic Sites and Allocations to meet the growth requirements set out by the employment and housing sections. The location of these sites in relation to the European Sites is an important consideration in understanding any potential impacts.

3.4.2 As part of the site selection process, a 4 stage criteria methodology was used to effectively sieve the sites to find the most sustainable for further more detailed consideration. The methodology took into consideration all 3 aspects of sustainability (economic, social and environmental) in determining the best location for development. This was a desktop assessment using GIS based data to accurately determine the sites location relative to the criteria and was considered the most appropriate way to delineate the best sites for development whilst taking consideration for the York's existing environmental, social and economic assets. All the sites were also subject to a supplementary assessment of environmental considerations to understand more about key assets or issues within the vicinity. Following this process, the sites were appraised by internal officer and Member

workshops for site specific comments before being allocated. The full approach and background is set out in the 'Site Selection Technical Paper' accompanying the Preferred Options Local Plan.

- 3.4.3 Figure 6 summarises the key stages of the assessment process and it's general compatibility to the Sustainability Appraisal objectives. The first criteria level for this included eliminating sites that overlapped with environmental assets. Appendix 1 Sets out the Strategic Sites and Housing Allocations in relation to the European Sites.

**Figure 6: Sustainable Location Assessment Methodology Summary**

Criteria	Compatibility with SA/SEA:		
	Environmental Objectives	Social objectives	Economic objectives
<b>Criteria 1: Environmental Assets protection</b> Is the site wholly or partly within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic Character and Setting</li> <li>• High Flood Risk (Zone 3b)</li> <li>• Statutory Nature Conservation designations (SACs, SPAs, SSSIs, RAMSARs)</li> <li>• Regional Green Infrastructure Corridors</li> <li>• Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC)</li> <li>• Local Sites of Nature Conservations Interest</li> <li>• Ancient Woodland</li> </ul> (Site boundary amended as appropriate)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Criteria 2: Openspace retention</b> Is the site or does it contain existing openspace? (Site boundary amended as appropriate)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Criteria 3: Greenfield and high flood risk protection</b> Is the site greenfield and within flood zone 3a? (Site boundary is amended as appropriate)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Size threshold Applied</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites under 0.2 hectares were considered as under threshold</li> <li>• Sites 0.2 ha – 5 ha: considered for site allocations</li> <li>• Sites over 5ha: considered for Strategic Sites</li> </ul>			
<b>Criteria 4a: Access to facilities and services</b> Is the site within distance of facilities and services? (NB: specific distances relate to facility or service)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Criteria 4b: Access to Transport</b> Is the site within distance of transport modes/routes? (NB: specific distances relate to mode of transport/routes)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Environmental Considerations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

## 4 Appropriate Assessment

### 4.1 Issue 1: Recreational Pressure /Biological Disturbance at Strensall Common, River Derwent and the Lower Derwent Valley

- 4.1.1 The Local Plan sets out York's spatial development over the next 15-20 years. It sets out York's housing and employment growth targets as well as the strategic sites and allocations to accommodate this growth.
- 4.1.2 As a result of this, the indicative policy assessment and the analysis of the local Plan (section 3) shows that there is a risk of ecological impacts on each site from recreational pressure. This has been identified as having potentially adverse impacts on Strensall Common, River Derwent and the Lower Derwent Valley.
- 4.1.3 This appropriate assessment will determine whether or not recreational pressure is likely to have significantly adverse impacts on the European Sites.

#### Planning Policy:

##### **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

- 4.1.4 Section 8 of the NPPF recognises the importance of planning in "*facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities*". The NPPF sets the overall strategic remit to ensure that existing and prospective residents have adequate accessibility to recreational opportunities and openspace. It addresses the need to ensure the delivery of facilities and openspace to enhance the sustainability of communities, residential environments and openspace for the health and well-being of residents.

##### Para 70

To deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

- Plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;
- Ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services."

##### Para 73

Access to high quality openspaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for openspace sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for ne provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.

**Para 74**

Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing field, should not be built on unless:

- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

Source: NPPF (2012) Communities and Local Government

**Local Policy**

- 4.1.5 York's Local Plan transposes the NPPF requirements into the vision and objectives specifically for York as follows:

***“Protect the Environment – Natural Environment:***

*Conserve and enhance York's Green Infrastructure whilst promoting accessibility to encourage opportunities for sport and recreation, and restore and recreate sites of priority species and habitats.*

***Build Strong Communities***

*Build strong, sustainable communities through addressing the housing and community needs of York's current and future population.”*

- 4.1.6 The Local Plan has several sections regarding spatial strategy (Section 5) and Green Infrastructure (Section 17) which aim to provide recreational opportunities for the benefit of residents as well as green infrastructure, including openspace to reduce adverse impacts on existing recreational space and biodiversity now and in the future.

**Policy SS4 (Strategic Site Development Principles):**

*“to deliver new development within a framework of linked multi-functional green infrastructure incorporating existing landscape areas and biodiversity value, and maximising linkages with the wider green infrastructure network”.*

**Policy GI1 (Green Infrastructure):**

*“The Local Plan will conserve and enhance York's Landscape, geodiversity, biodiversity and natural environment recognising the role of Green Infrastructure in supporting healthy communities, cultural value, a buoyant economy and aiding resilience to climate change. This will be delivered through the following:*

- i. the production of management plans to describe, protect and enhance York's biodiversity, especially Council owned sites, with priority given to those designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs);*
- iii. protecting and enhancing existing recreational open space in York, and seeking to increase provision in areas where a deficiency has been identified*

- vi. *requiring applicants to submit green infrastructure assessments with all but minor applications; and*
- vii. *ensuring that development complies with the emerging City of York Council green Infrastructure strategy and any associated SPDs."*

Policy GI5 (New Openspace):

*States that openspace will be required to be "Proportionate to their size, except in areas of deficiency where higher levels may be required through compensatory arrangements; where appropriate in access terms; whilst not compromising scheme viability; and to meet deficiency as identified in the Council's current openspace study."*

Policy GI6 (Green Corridors):

*States that "The local plan will support development which maintains and enhances the integrity and management of York's Green Infrastructure network, including its green corridors and open spaces."*

- 4.1.7 The Council seeks to avoid adverse impacts on local, regional, national and internationally important sites through Section 17. Policy GI1 regarding Green Infrastructure, seeks to continue to protect and enhance biodiverse habitats and landscapes but also to support the multifunctional use of green infrastructure. The aim is to protect and enhance existing openspace as well as delivering new openspace commensurate to the level of development for adequate and alternative opportunities for recreation (GI5). The overall approach, subject to its adherence and implementation, should successfully lead to a variety of openspace types in close proximity to residential areas in York. Large new developments including Strategic Sites, are required to incorporate sufficient openspace on-site commensurate to the level of development and within the required distances to ensure it is accessible (based upon the standards set out in the PPG17 Assessment<sup>3</sup>). This approach should help to protect sites of nature conservation value being significantly impacted by new development given the requirement.
- 4.1.8 It is acknowledged however, that the severity of impacts is largely dependent upon the location of development. This is discussed in the next section regarding the individual European Sites.

<sup>3</sup> The PPG17 Assessment is available via the City of York Council's website at: [http://www.york.gov.uk/environment/Planning/Local\\_development\\_framework/LDF\\_Evidence\\_base/2007OpenSpaceStudy/](http://www.york.gov.uk/environment/Planning/Local_development_framework/LDF_Evidence_base/2007OpenSpaceStudy/)

## **Strensall Common Assessment**

### **Openspace provision:**

4.1.9 The PPG17 Openspace Assessment identified that Strensall had the following provision of openspace:

	<u>Strensall</u>
• City Parks and Local Parks	Deficit
• Natural and semi natural	Deficit
• Amenity Greenspace	Surplus
• Children’s provision	Surplus
• Young people	Deficit
• Outdoor Sports Facilities	Deficit
• Allotments	Deficit

4.1.10 Strensall has a surplus in amenity greenspace and children’s playspace, which will help to relieve pressure on Strensall Common. Also, due to the nature of the Common and the specific requirements for some types of openspace, it is not likely that deficiencies in Young persons, outdoor sports or allotments will have a detrimental effect on the SAC. The impacts arising from a deficit in Local Parks is likely to be dependent on future provision and the proximity of sites.

### **Site Allocations for Housing**

4.1.11 Figure 7 shows that there are 3 sites within 1km of Strensall Common and 7 within 5km. The sites within Strensall are considered to have potential for an impact on recreation at Strensall Common due to proximity reasons. For full analysis of the Strategic Sites and Allocations, see Appendix 1.

**Figure 7: Housing Sites within proximity of Strensall Common**

<b>Local Plan Ref</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Number of dwellings allocated</b>	<b>Proximity to Strensall Common SAC (metres)</b>
H27	Land at Brecks Lane, Strensall	82	1000
H30	Amalgomated sites South of Strensall	61	1000
H32	The Tannery, Strensall	53	1000
H16	Sessions, Huntington Road	17	5000
H37	Land adjacent to Greystone Court, Haxby, York	34	5000
ST8	Land North of Monks Cross	1569	5000
ST9	Land North of Haxby	747	5000
ST11	New Lane, Huntington	411	5000
ST7	Land East of Metcalfe Lane	1800	Intersects at ~5000
ST14	Land North of Clifton Moor	4020	Intersects at ~5000

**Management of the site:**

- 4.1.12 Part of Strensall Common forms a training area for the MOD. There is an integrated management plan for the training area, which also takes consideration of the access to the general public when military training is not on, which is undertaken by MOD, Natural England and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. This is delivered through participation in the Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage Restoring the Heaths of the Vale of York project, which commenced in 2003. Plans or projects submitted by the MOD for this area will be subject to individual HRA. The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust state the site is managed in the following way<sup>6</sup>:

*"Conservation management here aims to maintain the open areas of heath. Grazing using Hebridean sheep has helped control birch seedlings. Bracken is controlled along with invasive coniferous species that are not native to heaths in this part of the UK. Ponds are cleared out from time to time, which maintains patches of open water".* They also state that dogs must be kept on leads and walking is only on recognised footpaths.

**Conclusions:**

- 4.1.13 Given that the spatial principle SS3 in conjunction with the Green Infrastructure policies (Section 17) actively aim to conserve nature conservation sites at all levels, this is likely to have a positive effect on the European Sites.
- 4.1.14 It is recognised that there are deficiencies in Strensall Ward for different types of openspace but that currently, amenity space which is important for recreation, is in surplus supply. Also, this helps to reduce any additional pressure on the Common through the provision of accessible recreational space spread throughout the village. In addition, the management of the site also allows for public access as long as this is on the designated footpaths.
- 4.1.15 Furthermore, as part of any development, policy GI5 requires that delivery of openspace should be commensurate to the level of development and also adhere to the standards of openspace provision as set out in the PPG17 Openspace Assessment. Within 5km there is also identified to be some strategic sites with significant new communities planned. There will be designated strategic openspace planned alongside any area identified as part of these sites to help capture the population for the majority of recreational purposes. This will help to reduce overall pressure on Strensall Common SAC.
- 4.1.16 In conclusion, there may be a rise in recreational use of Strensall Common but this will be mitigated by the provision of appropriate openspace and protection of Nature Conservation Sites through Local Plan policy. Further mitigation will occur as a result of the site's existing access and ongoing active management and maintenance.

<sup>6</sup> Yorkshire Wildlife Trust website: <http://www.ywt.org.uk/reserves/strensall-common-nature-reserve>

**Mitigation measures:**

- 4.1.17 For clarity, the following policy wording should be included in relation to permitting the development covered by the Local Plan Policy GI2: *“No development will be permitted which may have an adverse effect on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site alone, or in-combination, with other plans or projects”*.

**Lower Derwent Valley and The River Derwent**

- 4.1.18 Given that the River Derwent and Lower Derwent Valley are fully connected, they have been considered in-combination with each other. The applicable Wards for baseline information are Derwent and Wheldrake.

**Openspace Provision:**

- 4.1.19 The PPG17 Openspace Assessment identified that Derwent and Wheldrake Wards had the following provision of openspace:

	<u>Wheldrake</u>	<u>Derwent</u>
• City Parks and Local Parks	Deficit	Deficit
• Natural and semi natural	Deficit	Surplus
• Amenity Greenspace	Deficit	Deficit
• Children’s provision	Surplus	Deficit
• Young people	Deficit	Deficit
• Outdoor Sports Facilities	Deficit	Deficit
• Allotments	Surplus	Surplus

- 4.1.20 Whilst there does seem to be an overall deficit between the wards for amenity space, each of the main villages (Wheldrake, Elvington and Dunnington) all have recreational areas spread out within the villages in close proximity to the residents. Also, due to the nature of the two European Sites, it would not be suitable for the specific requirements needed to fulfil the need for outdoor sports for example. The impacts arising from a deficit in Local Parks is likely to be dependent on future provision and the proximity of sites, particularly in Elvington which is within the closest proximity to the European sites.

- 4.1.21 The open space category applicable, should it be applied, to the River Derwent and Lower Derwent Valley would be natural or semi-natural openspace. Dunnington has a large site of this adjacent to the village and it is this local designation, that is likely to received the most visitors for recreational purposes. This is likely to minimise any impacts arising on recreational pressure from development in Dunnington.

**Site allocation for housing**

- 4.1.22 The following sites are within proximity to Lower Derwent Valley and River Derwent European sites. The 2 sites within Elvington village and 1 sites within

Wheldrake village are considered to have the most potential for impact for proximity reasons and access respectively.

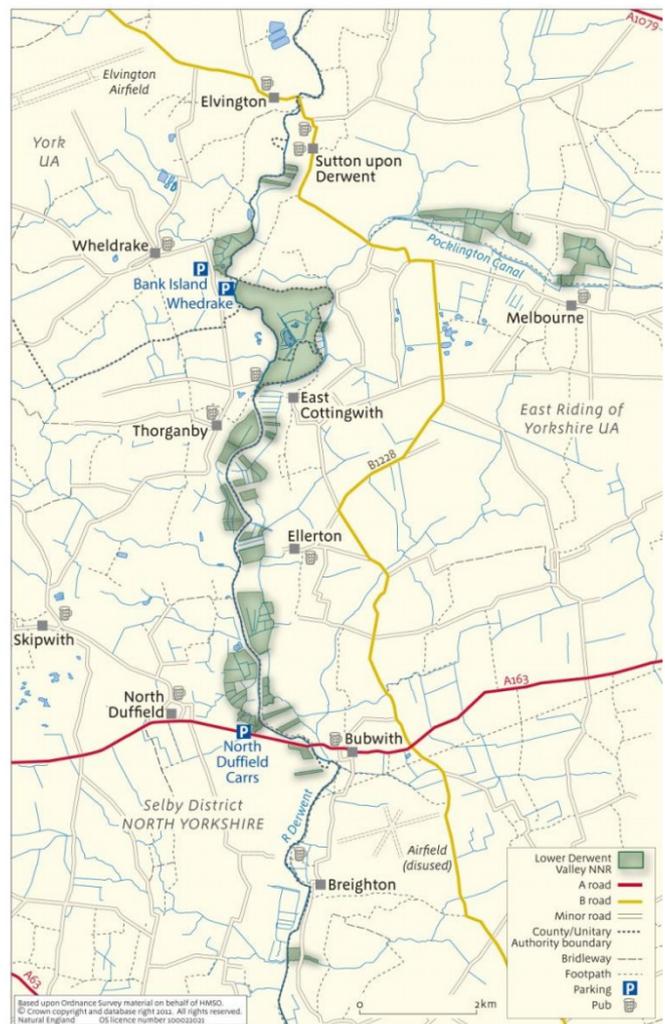
**Figure 8: Sites within proximity of Lower Derwent Valley and River Derwent**

Local Plan Ref	Site Name	Number of dwellings allocated	Proximity to Lower Derwent Valley and River Derwent (metres)
H39	North of Church lane Elvington	25	500
H26	Land at Dauby Lane, Elvington, York	97	1000
H28	Land to north of North Lane, Wheldrake	75	2000
H31	Sites at Eastfield Lane, Dunnington	60	5000
H33	Water Tower Land Dunnington	43	5000
H35	Land at Intake Lane, Dunnington, York	38	5000
H44	Land RO Surgery & 2a/2b Petercroft Lane	6	5000

#### Management of the sites:

4.1.23 The Lower Derwent Valley is a National Nature Reserve as well as being a European Site, commonly known as “Wheldrake Ings”. Parts of the Lower Derwent Valley reserve are managed by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the Carstairs Countryside Trust. Furthermore, bird activity in the area is monitored by Natural England’s NNR team, volunteers and local bird ringers. The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust acknowledges that management of this reserve is in a traditional style. They state<sup>7</sup> that:

*“Management here is a fine balance of controlling water levels to support the wintering, passage and breeding birds, whilst also creating the right conditions for the rare floodplain grassland to thrive. On top of this regular maintenance and cleaning of the ditches is required, which each winter receive silty deposits as the River Derwent bursts its banks and spreads across its floodplain.”*



**Figure 8: Access to Wheldrake Ings**

<sup>7</sup> Yorkshire Wildlife Trust: <http://www.ywt.org.uk/reserves/wheldrake-ings-nature-reserve>

## Existing Public Access

4.1.24 The Lower Derwent Valley NNR is open to the public and offers opportunities to get involved with volunteering, bird monitoring, and events on the Reserve. It is open to visitors between November and March to view the waterfowl on the flooded grassland, or between May and June to see and hear the summer spectacle of breeding birds amidst the flower-filled meadows of the Ings landscape. The reserve also acts as a location for field trips, research and educational visits, with the Reserve office at Bank Island having a small classroom and toilet facilities which is also available to community groups.

4.1.25 There are three main access points to the reserve: North Duffield Carrs car park (1.5 km east of North Duffield, off the A163), Bank Island car park, and the nearby Wheldrake car park, both 1 to 1.5 km south-east of Wheldrake, off the minor road from Wheldrake to Thorganby. The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust acknowledges the open access to the public along existing footpaths. In addition, no dogs are allowed on the reserve preventing adverse impacts associated with dogs such as disturbance.

4.1.26 The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's visitor leaflet specifies that:

*"In WINTER, the floods attract a spectacle of thousands of ducks, geese and waders. The most obvious species are teal and wigeon, plus lots of pintail, mallard and shoveler. Icelandic whooper swans sometimes use the site for roosting and large numbers of greylag geese should be checked for pink-footed, white-fronted or tundra bean geese that occasionally drop in. On the deeper water overlooked by pool hide, tufted duck, pochard and goldeneye can be seen. Large groups of lapwing and golden plover gather, with smaller numbers of ruff, dunlin and curlew. The hordes of wintering birds attract predators including peregrines."*

### Conclusions:

4.1.26 Given that the spatial principle SS3 in conjunction with the Green Infrastructure policies (Section 17) actively aim to conserve nature conservation sites at all levels, this is likely to have a positive effect on the European Sites.

4.1.27 It is recognised that there are deficiencies in Wheldrake and Derwent Wards for different types of openspace. However, Dunnington has a surplus of natural and semi-natural space, which arguably the Lower Derwent Valley and River Derwent European sites would fall into if categorised. This would help to minimise the effects of recreational pressure on the sites. In addition, all of the village have some openspace provision within them for short distance alternatives to the European sites.

4.1.28 Furthermore, as part of any development, policy GI5 requires that delivery of openspace should be commensurate to the level of development. Within the

villages closest to the European sites there are a number of housing developments planned which have the potential to realistically increase their recreational use. There will be however, designated openspace planned alongside these sites to help capture the population for the majority of recreational purposes. This will help to reduce overall pressure on the Lower Derwent Valley and River Derwent.

4.1.29 The Lower Derwent Valley is open to the public with accessible car parks and activities. It is likely that these will cater for people visiting the site, particularly given the established car parks, pathways and no dogs allowed policy. Access to the site is limited during Winter due to flooding and the site being a destination for migratory birds.

4.1.30 In conclusion, there may be a rise in recreational use of Lower Derwent Valley and River Derwent but this will be mitigated by the provision of openspace and protection of Nature Conservation Sites through Local Plan policy alongside the sites active management and ongoing maintenance.

#### **Mitigation**

4.1.31 For clarity, the following policy wording should be included in relation to permitting the development covered by the Local Plan Policy GI2: *“No development will be permitted which may have an adverse effect on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site alone, or in-combination, with other plans or projects”*.

## 4.2 Issue 2: Water Abstraction, Quality and Drainage at Strensall Common, Skipwith Common, Lower Derwent Valley, River Derwent and Humber Estuary

4.2.0 This appropriate assessment will determine whether or not water abstraction, quality and drainage issues are likely to have significantly adverse impacts on the European Sites.

### National Policy

4.2.1 The NPPF is clear that water resources should be a key consideration in the planning of new development to mitigate against climate change and to enhance the natural environment.

#### Para 94

Local planning authorities should adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, taking full account of flood risk, coastal change and water supply and demand considerations.

#### Para 99

Local Plans should take account of climate change over the longer term, including factors such as flood risk, coastal change, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape. New development should be planned to avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change. When new development is brought forward in areas which are vulnerable, care should be taken to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of green infrastructure.

#### Para 109

The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability;

### Local Plan Policy

4.2.2 Water resources, quality and drainage in the Local Plan are covered by the following policies:

#### **Policy CC2: Sustainable Design and Construction**

All new development will be expected to make carbon saving through reducing energy demand, using energy and other resources efficiently and by generating low carbon/ renewable energy in accordance with the energy hierarchy. The key areas the council will seek to address this through the Local Plan are:

##### A. Sustainable Design and Construction of New Development

i. All new development will be required to produce a Sustainability and Sustainable Energy Statement to demonstrate that the following minimum standards of construction (or equivalent standard) are achieved, unless it can be demonstrated that it is not feasible or viable:

- New build Developments: Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4\*\*\*\*
- Conversions of existing buildings and changes of use to residential, to achieve BREEAM Eco Homes 'Very Good';
- Minor Non-residential developments: BREEAM 'very good'; and

- Major Non-residential Developments: BREEAM 'Excellent'.

**Policy FR2: Surface Water Management**

The Local Plan will ensure that new development incorporates sustainable drainage measures and, where practicable, reduces surface water flows, irrespective of which flood zone it lays in.

*Sustainable Drainage*

New development will be expected to incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SDS), unless it can be demonstrated that it is not technically possible to do so or would compromise its viability. Where it can be demonstrated by the developer that the implementation of SDS is not feasible, consideration will be given to approving the development where more conventional surface water drainage techniques (e.g. connection to existing surface water drains) are proposed.

Where new development is proposed within or adjacent to built-up areas retrofitting existing surface water drainage systems in those areas for flood prevention and SDS within the existing built environment should be explored. Any retrofitting proposals must not damage existing environmental assets including but not limited to landscapes, trees and hedgerows and agricultural land.

*Surface water*

New development on brownfield sites will be approved where the surface water flows arising from the development is restricted to 70% of the existing runoff rate i.e. 30% reduction (as agreed with the Environment Agency), for all flood events up to and including a 1:100 year event. Further details of how to calculate existing runoff rates are contained in the SFRA.

New development on greenfield sites will be approved where the surface water flows arising from the development, once it is complete (and including any intermediate stages), is no higher than the existing rate prior to development taking place.

Where these surface water run-off limitations are likely to be exceeded development may be approved provided sufficient facilities for the long-term storage of surface water are installed within the development or a suitable location elsewhere. Long term surface water storage facilities must not cause detriment to existing heritage and environmental assets.

Measures to restrict surface water run-off rates shall be designed and implemented to prevent an unacceptable risk to contamination of groundwater. The acceptable level of this risk shall be agreed with the Environment Agency.

**Policy FR3: Ground Water Management**

New development will not be permitted to allow outflow from ground water and/or land drainage to enter public sewers.

Existing land drainage systems within new development should be adequately maintained.

## Water Supply Baseline

4.2.3 Water is supplied by Yorkshire Water. The Yorkshire Water supply area lies within the Humber River Basin District and is comprised of the following catchments:

- Esk and Cpast
- Swale, Ure, Nidd and Upper Ouse
- Wharfe and Lower Ouse
- Derwent & Humber
- Hull and East Riding
- Aire and Calder
- Don and Rother

4.2.4 Approximately 30% of the York Water's supply is derived from rivers as outlined in their Water Management Plan (2009). Major rivers within the Yorkshire Water supply area include the Wharfe, Ouse and Derwent. Approximately 45% of Yorkshire Waters supply is from reservoirs. Many these are acknowledged to be important to the landscape and often provide nationally/internationally important recreational resources, such as the Lower Derwent Valley.

4.2.5 Approximately 25% of Yorkshire Water's supply is from ground water derived from assets with the Grid SWZ or East GWZ. There are major aquifers in the region with the Sherwood Sandstone, the Magnesium Limestone and Chalk supporting large groundwater abstractions. Groundwaters from the Sandstone and Chalk aquifers are a significant resource for drinking water in the region. The main pressures on groundwaters are from abstraction relating to drinking water supply and contamination with nitrates and pesticides. Unsustainable abstraction from groundwater can lower groundwater levels and affect dependent rivers flows or wetlands or can induce the intrusion of poorer quality water from the sea or from deeper aquifers.

4.2.6 Under the Water Framework Directive, there are two classifications for groundwater bodies: chemical status and quantitative status. A groundwater body will be classified as poor quantitative status where:

- Low groundwater levels are responsible for an adverse impact on rivers and wetlands normally reliant on groundwater;
- Where abstraction of groundwater has led to saline intrusion;
- Where it is possible that the amount of groundwater abstracted will not be replaced each year by rainfall.

4.2.7 For a groundwater body to be at good status overall, both chemical status and quantitative status must be good. Figure ?? summarises the percentage (%) of the rivers relevant to York assessed for biological and chemical quality taken from the respective River Basin Management Plans.

**Figure 9: Water quality in catchments within the Yorkshire Water Supply Area**

	% at good ecological status or potential		% assessed at good or high biological status		% at good chemical status		% at good status overall	
	2009	2015 target	2009	2015 target	2009	2015 target	2009	2015 target
Yorkshire Derwent	11	14	5	11	33	33	11	14
Swale, Use, Nidd & Upper Ouse	28	28	48	48	67	100	28	28
Derwent Humber	39	41	65	74	100	100	39	41

- 4.5.8 The Humber River Basin District River Basin Management Plan reports that 89% of the groundwater was assessed as at good quantitative status now and forecast to 2015. Under the Water Framework Directive, a target has been set aiming to achieve at least 'good status' in all waterbodies by 2015, although in some cases this may be delayed. The main reasons for waterbodies failing to achieve good ecological status or potential are:

**Figure 10: Reasons for sites failing to achieve good ecological status**

Reason for Failure	Contribution (%)
Physical modification	24%
Diffuse source agriculture	19%
Flow/abstraction	4%
Diffuse source non-agriculture	11%
Point source water industry sewage discharge intermittent	5%
Point source water industry sewage discharge continuous	15%
Point source non water industry	6%
Suspect data	4%
Unknown reason	5%
Uncertain failure	6%
Other	3%

- 4.2.9 Catchment Abstraction Management Plans (CAMS) are produced by the Environment Agency and seek to identify where additional water abstractions can be made from the environment, where no additional abstractions can be made and where action is needed to address over-abstraction. They are based upon on river catchments and overlap with Yorkshire Water's supply area as follows:

Water Resource Zone	Relevant CAMS
Grid	Aire & Calder; Don & Rother, Hull & East Riding; Swale, Ure, Nidd and Upper Ouse; Wharfe & Lower Ouse.
East SW Zone	Esk & Coast

East GW Zone	Derwent; Hull & East Riding
Kielder (Tees Swale Option)	Tees, Tyne and Wear

4.2.10 Yorkshire Water currently abstract water from the Derwent above Sutton Lock near Elvington and Loftsome Bridge to serve Leeds, Hull, Wakefield, Sheffield and York. The River Derwent converges with the River Ouse at Barmby Barrage. The purpose of the barrage is to control water quality and levels in the lower River Derwent and excludes the tidal Ouse entering the river to help retain adequate levels for navigation and abstraction. The Derwent Catchment Abstraction Management Plan acknowledges that Barmby Barrage disrupts natural water flows and could potentially affect the River Derwent SSSI and SAC. The plan sets out rules for applying for an abstraction licence, which may affect the Natura 2000 sites. Should a licence be deemed to have an adverse impact, it will be subject to conditions on the licence or refused. It has been acknowledged that permissions and abstraction licences could potentially effect the SPA/SAC's in the Lower Derwent Valley and currently all permissions (including abstraction licences) are under review.

#### **Yorkshire Water's Resources Management Plan (2009)**

4.2.11 The depletion of the Sherwood aquifer is a priority consideration for development in the York sub zone. Yorkshire Water's final Water Resources Management Plan 2009: "Striking the Balance" has weighed up the demand and supply of water for the forthcoming 25 years. The document forecasts demand and the measures which will help to ease any deficit in the future.

4.2.12 The demand model has inbuilt assumptions regarding the projected population and households as well as the projected effects of climate change, leakage, implemented water efficiency measures and assumed new homes in accordance with the Code for Sustainable Homes. The new housing forecast detailed within the report has been based on information from the National House-Building Council, Cambridge Econometric and current Yorkshire Water data. This data was used to take account of Yorkshire specific development plans.

4.2.13 York lies within the Grid SWZ zone within Yorkshire Water's area, which previously had an identified deficit in future dry summers from the previous management plan. However, Yorkshire Water's revised scenarios and updated baseline has led to a positive conclusion in this report. The final WRMP supply-demand balance assessments showed no deficits in the dry year annual average scenarios for all three water zones. It also states that the Grid SWZ zone will remain in surplus throughout the planning scenarios both with and without the integration of the East GWZ in 2011/12.

4.2.14 The two resource management options selected from the draft plan were the Swale groundwater source option and the River Ouse treatment works extension option. As a result of the revised demand forecast, Yorkshire Water are no longer forecasting a deficit in the supply/demand balance and remain in surplus throughout the planning

period to 2034/35. This was including the potential impact of climate change on supply and demand forecasts. The HRA for the Draft WRMP produced by the Environment Agency assessed the options to secure adequate water through the planning period. The final SEA of the WRMP also concurred with the HRA conclusion that the abstractions proposed were considered to have no detrimental on the environment still stand although further measures will be taken to limit the impact on any fish stock as an abstraction point. The SEA for this plan also concluded that Yorkshire Water's preferred option in the management plan has no particular conflict with SSSIs or European sites and therefore the effects were considered as neutral/negligible.

### **Yorkshire Water's Water Resources Management Plan Consultation Draft (dWRMP) (May 2013)**

4.2.15 The forecasts set out by the Yorkshire Water's 2009 strategy are currently being revised and updated as part of the 2013 Yorkshire Water dWRMP.

4.2.15 The demand and supply forecasting from the revised model show that there is the potential for an increasing deficit in the Grid SWZ over the planning period (2015/16-2039/40) as the forecast supply cannot meet demand. The dWRMP states (page 103):

*"The deficit is the result of a continuing decline in water available for supply, due to the impacts of climate change and sustainability reductions. Climate change is forecast to create a year on year incremental reduction in supply. Sustainability reductions are applied between 2012-15 and 2019/20 and maintained going forward.*

*Demand does not show such a critical impact but does, following an initial decline, show an overall increase in 16MI/d between the base years and 2039/40. This increase would not be sufficient to drive a deficit if base year supply was maintained, but does exacerbate the shortfall.*

*The Grid SWZ supply demand deficit starts in 2016/17, when demand, including target headroom is 2.68 MI/d greater than supply. By 2022/23 supply is below demand and no headroom is available. The deficit continues decreasing to 155.69MI/d by 2039/40."*

4.2.16 The dWRMP puts forward a number of options to meet a supply demand deficit. These are grouped into 4 categories:

1. **Resource management** – options which increase deployable output, such as new reservoirs or resource transfers;
2. **Production management** - options targeted at activities between abstraction and distribution input;
3. **Distribution management** – options targeted at activities between distribution input and the point of consumption

4. **Customer side management** – options affecting customers use and supply pipe losses.

4.2.17 The dWRMP has selected its preferred solution. It states (page 117):

*“In selecting the preferred solution we [Yorkshire Water] have aimed to provide a solution that minimises the environmental and social risks of the least cost solution and is flexible to an uncertain future, while remaining costs efficient.... It provides a balance of demand reduction options and options to increase supply. The demand side options will meet our customers’ aspirations and our business objectives to take less from the environment and reduce leakage further. The additional supply side solutions will ensure water is available for future supply and add further adaptability and resilience to the grid.”*

4.2.18 In applying the various solutions across the York Water Supply Area the final planning scenario supply/demand balance shows a surplus in each water zone with the Grid SWZ showing a surplus throughout the 25 year planning period.

4.2.19 The Habitat Regulation Screening Assessment of the preferred solution has concluded that, with mitigation taken into account, the preferred plan is **not likely to have significant effects on the integrity of European Sites** based on the current information and designations.

**Conclusions:**

4.2.20 Local Plan policy FR2 and FR3 will address drainage through the built environment and Policy CC2 sustainable design and construction. Whilst policies regarding housing, employment and strategic sites will inevitably affect the quantity of water abstraction, the Yorkshire Water Management Plans take account of key population growth assumptions as well as the impacts of climate change. To this end, the solutions they provide show that water should be in surplus supply over until 2030. Further, the HRA for this plan shows that there is not likely to be significant adverse effects the integrity of the European Sites. Furthermore, the Local Plan’s policies aim to support resource efficiency and should support the efficiency solution in Yorkshire Water’s dWRMP.

4.2.21 However, Policy FR2: Surface waster management could go further to ensure that future management would not compromise environmental assets. Similarly, where sustainable drainage solutions are proposed, they could be required to also contribute the biodiversity enhancement.

**Mitigation**

4.2.22 For clarity, the following policy wording should be included in relation to permitting the of SDS covered by the Local Plan Policy FR2:  
*“ No development will be permitted which may have an adverse effect on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site alone, or in-combination, with other plans or projects” .*

### 4.3 Issue 3: Flood Risk and Management on River Derwent, Lower Derwent Valley and Humber Estuary

- 4.3.1 There is a well documented history of flooding in York, particularly from the River Ouse, with the records for York dating back to 1263. More recently, the Ouse hit the local and national media headlines as a result of widespread flooding in autumn 2000 and high river levels in September 2012.
- 4.3.2 Flood risk is predicted to alter in the future due to climate change and sea level rise. Climate changes may result in different rainfall patterns, which could increase the flood risk and as a result of sea level rise the flood risk in the tidal parts of the Ouse catchment area will increase. This appropriate assessment will determine whether or not Flood risk and its associated management are likely to have significantly adverse impacts on the European Sites.

#### **National Policy:**

- 4.3.4 The NPPF supports Local Planning Authorities to take a proactive approach to mitigate and adapt to climate change taking full account of flood risk, coastal change and water and demand considerations (para 94). In particular the NPPF states:

#### Para 100

Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk, but where development is necessary, making it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere<sup>8</sup>. Local Plans should be supported by Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and develop policies to manage flood risk from all sources, taking account of advice from the Environment Agency and other relevant flood risk management bodies, such as lead local flood authorities and internal drainage boards. Local Plans should apply a sequential, risk-based approach to the location of development to avoid where possible flood risk to people and property and manage any residual risk, taking account of the impacts of climate change, by:

- applying the Sequential Test;
- if necessary, applying the Exception Test;
- safeguarding land from development that is required for current and future flood management;
- using opportunities offered by new development to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding; and
- where climate change is expected to increase flood risk so that some existing development may not be sustainable in the long-term, seeking opportunities to facilitate the relocation of development, including housing, to more sustainable locations.

#### Para 101

The aim of the Sequential Test is to steer new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding. Development should not be allocated or permitted if there

<sup>8</sup> Technical guidance on flood risk published alongside this Framework sets out how this policy should be implemented.

are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower probability of flooding. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will provide the basis for applying this test. A sequential approach should be used in areas known to be at risk from any form of flooding.

### Local Planning Policy:

4.3.5 Section 19 of the Local Plan focuses on Flood Risk Management. The relevant policy is :

#### Policy FR1: Flood Risk

The Local Plan will ensure that new development is not subject to flood risk and is designed and constructed in such a way that it mitigates against current and future flood events, taking into account flood risk considerations in the NPPF and the Technical Guidance.

In determining planning applications, a balanced, flexible approach that allows all material planning factors to be considered, will be taken. More specifically, in considering flood risk the Council will assess the nature of the development proposed and its flood risk vulnerability against, firstly, the 'Flood Risk Vulnerability Classification' table and, once this has been determined, the 'Flood Risk Vulnerability and Flood Zone Compatibility Classification' table from the *Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2013)* (SFRA) and any subsequent updates. The outputs from these tables specify whether development is appropriate and whether an Exception Test (as detailed in the SFRA) is subsequently required. The current versions of these tables (SFRA Table 4.1 and Table 4.2) are replicated as Table 19.1 and Table 19.2 respectively below<sup>9</sup>.

**Table 19.1: Flood Risk Vulnerability Classification**

Essential Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essential transport infrastructure (including mass evacuation routes), which have to cross the area at risk.</li> <li>• Essential utility infrastructure which has to be located in a flood risk area for operational reasons, including electricity generating power stations; and water treatment works that need to remain operational in times of flood.</li> <li>• Wind turbines.</li> </ul>
Highly Vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police stations, Ambulance stations, Fire stations, Command Centres and telecommunications installations required to be operational during flooding.</li> <li>• Emergency dispersal points.</li> <li>• Basement dwellings</li> <li>• Caravans, mobile homes and park homes intended for permanent residential use.</li> <li>• Installations requiring hazardous substances consent. (Where there is a demonstrable need to locate such installations for bulk storage of materials with port or other similar facilities, or such installations with energy infrastructure or carbon capture and storage installations, that require coastal or water-side locations, or need to be located in other high flood risk areas, in these instances the facilities should be classified as "Essential Infrastructure")</li> </ul>

<sup>9</sup> Revised versions of these tables may be included within subsequent updates of the SFRA (2013) or successor documents.

More Vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitals.</li> <li>• Residential institutions such as residential care homes, children's homes, social services homes, prisons and hostels.</li> <li>• Buildings used for: dwelling houses; student halls of residence; drinking establishments; nightclubs; and hotels.</li> <li>• Non-residential uses for health services, nurseries and educational establishments.</li> <li>• Landfill and sites used for waste management facilities for hazardous waste.</li> <li>• Sites used for holiday or short-let caravans and camping, <b>subject to a specific warning and evacuation plan.</b></li> </ul>
Less Vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police, ambulance and fire stations, which are <b>not</b> required to be operational during flooding.</li> <li>• Buildings used for: shops; financial, professional and other services; restaurants and cafes; hot food takeaways; offices; general industry; storage and distribution; non-residential institutions not included in 'more vulnerable'; and assembly and leisure.</li> <li>• Land and buildings used for agriculture and forestry.</li> <li>• Waste treatment (except landfill and hazardous waste facilities).</li> <li>• Minerals working and processing (except for sand and gravel working).</li> <li>• Water treatment plants which do <b>not</b> need to remain operational during times of flood.</li> <li>• Sewage treatment works (if adequate measures to control pollution and manage sewage during flooding events are in place).</li> </ul>
Water-compatible Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood control infrastructure.</li> <li>• Water transmission infrastructure and pumping stations.</li> <li>• Sewage transmission infrastructure and pumping stations.</li> <li>• Sand and gravel workings.</li> <li>• Docks, marinas and wharves.</li> <li>• Navigation facilities.</li> <li>• Ministry of Defence defence installations.</li> <li>• Ship building, repairing and dismantling, dockside fish processing and refrigeration and compatible activities requiring a waterside location.</li> <li>• Water-based recreation (excluding sleeping accommodation).</li> <li>• Lifeguard and coastguard stations.</li> <li>• Amenity open space, nature conservation and biodiversity, outdoor sports and recreation and essential facilities such as changing rooms.</li> <li>• Essential ancillary sleeping or residential accommodation for staff required by uses in this category, <b>subject to a specific warning and evacuation plan.</b></li> </ul>

**Notes to table 19.1:**

This classification is based partly on Defra/Environment Agency research on Flood Risks to People (FD2321/TR2) and also on the need of some uses to keep functioning during flooding.

- a) Buildings that combine a mixture of uses should be placed into the higher of the relevant classes of flood risk sensitivity. Developments that allow uses to be distributed over the site may fall within several classes of flood risk sensitivity.
- b) The impact of a flood on the particular uses identified within this flood risk vulnerability classification will vary within each vulnerability class. Therefore, the flood risk

management infrastructure and other risk mitigation measures needed to ensure the development is safe may differ between uses within a particular vulnerability classification.

- c) The impact of the flood on the particular uses identified within this flood risk vulnerability classification will vary within each vulnerability class. Therefore the flood risk management infrastructure and other risk mitigation measures needed to ensure the development is safe may differ within users within a particular vulnerability classification.

**Table 19.2 Flood Risk Vulnerability and Flood Zone ‘Compatibility’**

Flood Risk Vulnerability Classification		Essential Infrastructure	Water Compatible	Highly Vulnerable	More Vulnerable	Less Vulnerable
Flood Zone	<b>Zone 1</b> Flood risk probability less than 1 in 1000-year (<0.1%).	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	<b>Zone 2</b> Flood risk probability between 1 in 100-year (1%) and 1 in 1000-year (0.1%)	✓	✓	Exception Test required	✓	✓

Flood Risk Vulnerability Classification		Essential Infrastructure	Water Compatible	Highly Vulnerable	More Vulnerable	Less Vulnerable
Flood Zone	<b>Zone 3a</b> Flood risk probability between 1 in 100-year (1%) and 1 in 25-year (4%).	Exception Test required	✓	x	Exception Test required	✓
	<b>Zone 3a(i)</b> Annual probability of flooding up to 1 in 25-year (4%) or greater. Existing development	Exception Test required	✓	x	x	Exception Test required
	<b>Zone 3b ‘Functional Floodplain’</b> Annual flood risk probability up to 1 in 25-year (4% or greater)	Exception Test required	✓	x	x	x

**Notes to table 19.2:**

- ☒ Development **is appropriate**
- ☒ Development **should not be permitted**

This table does not show:

- a) The application of the Sequential Test, which guides development to Flood Zone 1 first, then Zone 2 and then Zone 3;
- b) flood risk assessment requirements; or
- c) the policy aims for each flood zone.

Depending on the outputs from Table 4.2 of the SFRA (replicated at Table 19.2 above) the detailed policies for the resultant flood zone classification, as stated in the SFRA will apply.

In addition, a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment that takes account of future climate change must be carried out for all planning applications of 1 hectare or greater in Flood Zone 1 and for all applications in Flood Zones 2, 3a, 3a(i) and 3b.

Developers must assess whether any proposed development is likely to be affected by flooding and whether it will increase flood risk elsewhere in the catchment. Where flood risk is present, development will only be permitted when the developer has satisfied the local planning authority that any flood risk will be successfully managed and provided details of proposed mitigation measures.

A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) must be submitted with any planning application where flood risk is an issue, regardless of its location within the Flood Zones. Additionally, all proposed development within Flood Zones 2 and 3 will require a FRA, regardless of size. The level of detail provided within a FRA will depend on the scale of the development and flood risks posed. The Environment Agency's Flood Risk Matrix gives Standing Advice on the scope and extent of Flood Risk Assessments. More detailed policies for determining a planning application within the resultant flood zone classification are contained in the SFRA.

**Flood Risk Baseline**

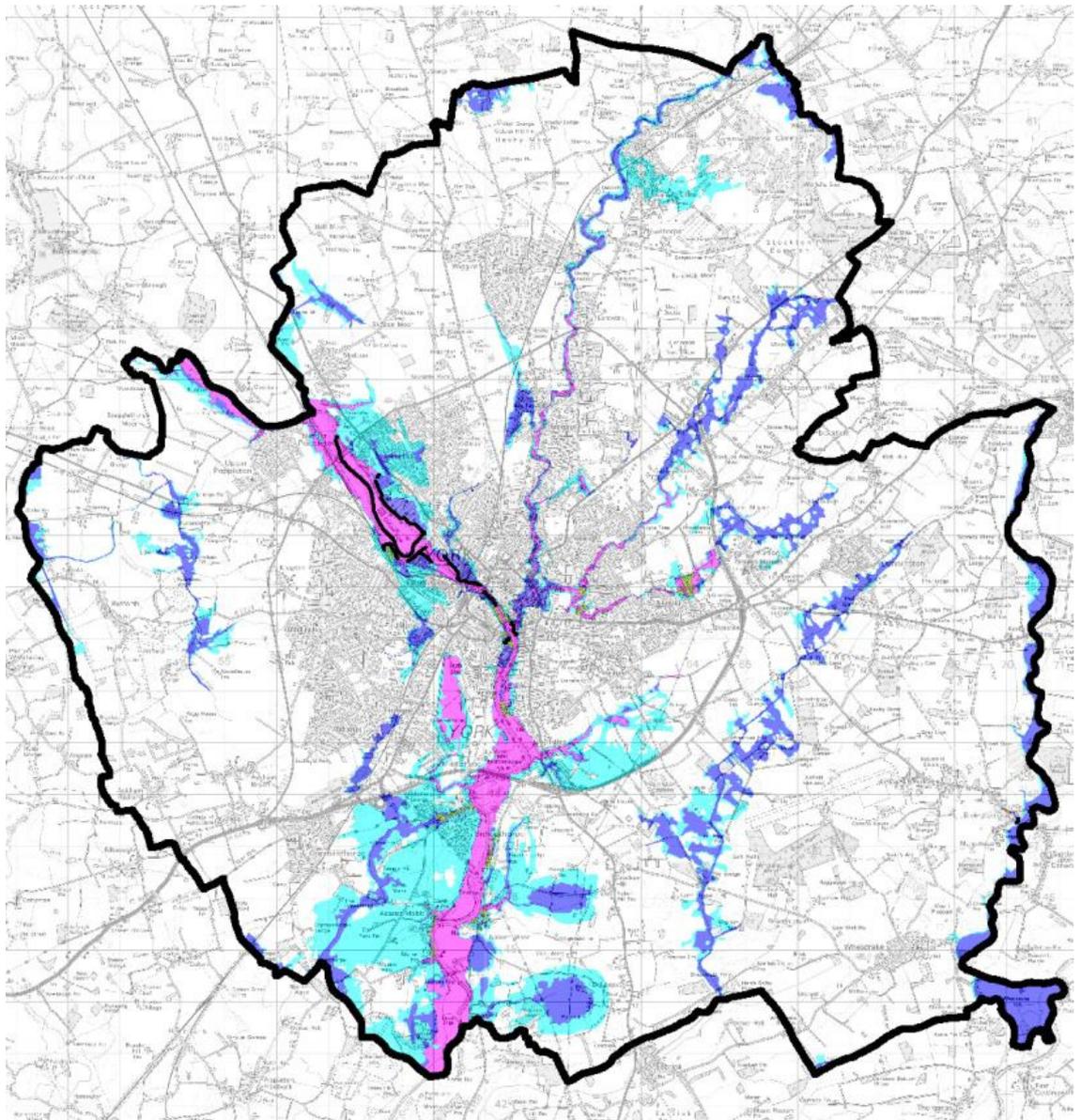
4.3.6 Following the enactment of the *Flood Risk Regulations (2009)* and the *Flood and Water Management Act (2010)*, the Council became a Lead Local Flood Authority. It has a duty to lead the co-ordination of flood risk management and to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area.

4.3.7 The Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was first published in 2011 and revised in 2013. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) assesses the different levels of flood risk in the York Unitary Authority area and maps these to assist with statutory land use planning. It provides concise information on flood risk issues, which will assist planners in the preparation of their Local Development Framework (LDF) and in the assessment of future planning applications. It is also intended that this document may be used by

the general public and those wishing to propose developments as a guide to the approach that Local Planning Authorities will follow in order to take flood risk issues into account in a sustainable manner.

- 4.3.8 The City of York Council Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) was approved at cabinet in December 2012. This report presents a Surface Water Management Plan covering the whole of the Council's area. It has been prepared following flooding experienced nationally in 2007 which resulted in the publication of the Pitt Review which included a key recommendation for Lead Local Flood Authorities to prepare Local Surface Water Management Plans. The Council has also published a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA).
- 4.3.9 The Environment Agency's *Ouse Catchment Flood Management Plan (2010)* provides high-level comment on future flood defence strategies. For the River Ouse Catchment within York, Policy Option 5 'take further action to reduce flood risk' has been selected. Actions to implement the policy include:
- Work in partnership to identify the requirements for improving the standard of protection at key locations.
  - Work in partnership with City of York Council to reduce the risk of flooding from surface water.
  - Ensure that the reviews/updates undertaken by the City of York Council of their internal and multiagency flood emergency plans take adequate account of changes in flood risk.
  - Work with landowners and other organisations to change the way land is managed on the River Foss and slow the rate at which floods are generated.
- 4.3.10 Certain types of development are more vulnerable than others to the potential impacts of flooding, and as such the type of acceptable development varies with the degree of flood risk. There are two aspects of flood risk that need to be assessed:
- is the site itself at risk of flooding, and
  - will development of the site cause flooding to adjacent sites and elsewhere in the catchment.
- It is likely that, apart from those sites within flood zones 2 and 3 (which are at risk of flooding themselves), the second factor will be the most important to consider
- 4.3.11 Figure ?? shows the areas within York that are categorised as being in Flood Risk zones 2 and 3 with the York's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. The implications on Strensall Common are likely to be minimal given it is not with a high risk flood zone. The River Derwent and Lower Derwent Valley are acknowledged to be of high risk of flooding given they are river based nature conservation sites.

**Figure 11: Flood risk**



**SFRA 2011 Flood Risk Zones Legend:**

<p>All Uncoloured Areas</p>	<p>Zone 1: Less than 1 in 1000 annual probability of flooding in any year (&lt;0.1Percent)</p>
	<p>Zone 2: Between 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000 annual probability of flooding in any year (1Percent to 0.1Percent)</p>
	<p>Zone 3a: Areas between 1 in a 100 and 1 in 25 annual probability of flooding in any year (1 to 4 Percent)</p>
	<p>3a - Defended up to 1 in 50, Flood Risk between 1 in 50 and 1 in 100 (2 to 1 Percent)</p>
	<p>3a - Defended up to 1 in 100 (1Percent)</p>
	<p>Zone 3a(i): Developed areas with up to a 1 in 25 or greater annual probability of flooding in any year (4 Percent or greater)</p>
	<p>Zone 3b: Areas with up to a 1 in 25 or greater annual probability of flooding in any year (4 Percent or greater)</p>
	<p>Flood Defences</p>

4.3.12 Flooding at the Lower Derwent Valley is accepted to occur annually and attracts migratory birds as a result of the flooding as well as leaving a rich deposit of silts in the spring which supports the grassland.. The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust state that:

*“Animals stay on the Ings until grass growth slows and river levels start to rise in **LATE AUTUMN** causing the meadows to flood. In **WINTER**, the floods attract a spectacle of thousands of ducks, geese and waders. The most obvious species are teal and wigeon, plus lots of pintail, mallard and shoveler. Icelandic whooper swans sometimes use the site for roosting and large numbers of greylag geese should be checked for pink-footed, white-fronted or tundra bean geese that occasionally drop in. On the deeper water overlooked by pool hide, tufted duck, pochard and goldeneye can be seen. Large groups of lapwing and golden plover gather, with smaller numbers of ruff, dunlin and curlew. The hordes of wintering birds attract predators including peregrines.*

*Hay cutting and grazing takes place annually and regular maintenance and cleaning of the ditches and pools is required, which each winter receive deposits of silt as the River Derwent bursts its banks and spreads across its floodplain.”*

### **Assessment of Flood Risk and Management Issues**

4.3.12 The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) carried out as evidence base to support the emerging Local Plan recognises the importance of the internationally designated sites on the River Derwent and the river itself. The SFRA acknowledges city of York’s role in identifying flood risk and planning for the future. It has been recognised that to prevent future flooding problems, all flows from new development should be restricted to the existing flow from the site identified or agricultural runoff rate. It has also been recognised that a large proportion of the catchment upstream of York is forested. The management of felling and planting schemes will have a noticeable effect on the runoff and sedimentation of the River Derwent but this is said to be dealt with in the Derwent Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP).

4.3.13 The Derwent CFMP take into account future of flood risk until 2100 and took consideration of climate change (increase in flood flows, rainfall intensity and rising sea levels), land use (changes to woodland, land drainage and farming practices) and urban development (increasing industry and housing demands). The CFMP recognises that activities will be constrained due to the Habitat regulations / consideration of the ecologically important sites and co-working with others is needed to adequately and appropriately manage the catchment. The flood management schemes set out for the River Derwent and Lower Derwent Valley state that flood defence is likely to affect those N2K sites. They have however improved flood defences in Elvington to lower the risk of flooding in the village, which will be maintained by the Environment Agency and Ouse/Derwent Internal Drainage Boards. The Environment Agency continues to investigate a location for creating a lowland hay meadow and flood storage with an aim to improve/maintain the biodiversity of the catchment.

- 4.3.14 The Local Plan uses the outcomes of the SFRA and location of nature conservation sites to inform the spatial strategy for development. Environmental assets are set out in policy SS2: delivering sustainable growth for York, which sets principals to help determine the most sustainable locations for development. The factors include Flood Zone 3b and Nature conservation designations such as SACs, Ramsars, SPAs and SSSI's. The Site Selection Process used these characteristics as part of its initial criteria to sieve out locations in high flood risk zones or high nature conservation value. Sites which were greenfield and in Flood zone 3a were also eliminated.
- 4.3.15 In addition to the flood risk policy, the Plan aims to progress sustainable design and construction (Policy CC2) and sustainable travel, both of which aim to minimise effects leading to climate change. In the long-term climate change is acknowledged to have an increasing influence on increasing flood risk and therefore, measures applicable in the plan will help to offset adverse effects arising from this in the future, including on flood risk.

## Conclusions

- 4.3.16 The functioning of the River Derwent and Lower Derwent Valley play an important role in the hydrological and ecological functioning of the Humber basin.
- 4.3.17 The policies set out in the Local Plan will help to reduce the impact of flooding on York from development as it is central the principals for delivering sustainable locations for growth. It is not the role of the Local Plan to set out specific flood defence techniques but it does aim to minimise flood risk to both residents and vulnerable parts of the natural environment. It is acknowledged that the location of development may have an effect on flood risk or hydrological change, which could have an impact on the Humber estuary in terms of flow rate and water level but this is minimised through applying sustainable location criteria, including flood risk and nature conservation designations, in determining the location of development.
- 4.3.18 Overall, it is considered that the policies set out within the plan help to effectively reduce flood risk both in the short and long-term. The effects of flooding on Nature conservation and biodiversity is acknowledged and, in conjunction with the evidence base, the plan aims to reduce the impacts of direct and indirect flood risk. Whilst it is recognised that there will be an impact from flooding and associated management in the future, these effects are not considered significantly adverse on the European sites River Derwent, Lower Derwent Valley or the Humber Estuary. Management at the Lower Derwent Valley accepts flooding and this actually helps to maintain the sites biodiversity and value for its nature conservation designation.
- 4.3.19 For issues connected with water abstraction, see section 4.2.

#### 4.4 Issue 4: Biological disturbance from Renewable Energy Solutions at Lower Derwent Valley

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- 4.4.1 This appropriate assessment will determine whether or not Renewable energy solutions are likely to have significantly adverse impacts on the European Sites.

##### Planning Policy

###### National Planning Policy

- 4.4.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) supports the generation of renewable energy technologies to contribute towards a low carbon energy future and minimising the overall effects on climate change whilst also being sensitive to the natural environment. The following paragraphs summarise this approach.

###### Para 97

To help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy, local planning authorities should recognise the responsibility on all communities to contribute to energy generation from renewable or low carbon sources

###### Para 110

In preparing plans to meet developments needs, the aim should be to minimise pollution and other adverse effects on the local and natural environment. Plans should allocate land with the least environmental amenity value, where consistent with other policies in the Framework.

###### Para 113

Local planning authorities should set criteria based policies against which proposals for any development on or affecting protected wildlife or geodiversity sites or landscape areas will be judged. Distinctions should be made between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites so that protection is commensurate with their status and gives appropriate weight to their importance and the contribution that they make to wide ecological networks.

##### Local Planning Policy

- 4.4.3 Policy SD 1 sets out the overarching sustainability principles for the Local Plan. Policy CC1 sets out the renewable energy solutions for York as follows:

**Policy CC1: Supporting Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation**

The Local Plan will support and encourage the generation of renewable and low carbon energy through proposals that meet all of the following requirements:

- i. respond positively to the opportunities identified in The Renewable Energy Strategic Viability Study for York (2010) and as shown as potential areas of search for renewable electricity generation on the proposals map; and
- ii. are in accordance with the Plan's Spatial Strategy; and
- iii. demonstrate that there will be no significant adverse impacts on landscape character, setting, views, heritage assets and Green Belt objectives; and
- iv. demonstrate benefits for local communities.

**Baseline**

4.4.4 The *Renewable Energy Strategic Viability Study for York (2010)* by AEA identified that it would be challenging for York to achieve the national targets locally of 30% electricity and 12% heat from renewable resources by 2020 but highlighted that the City of York does have the potential to make a significant contribution with up to 182,995 MWh/yr electricity (24% of demand by 2020).

4.4.5 The table below is taken from the AEA study and highlights York's current and future renewable energy potential taking account York's unique natural and historic environment.

**Figure 12: Current and Future Renewable Energy Potential**

	Installed capacity pre 2020 (Mega Watts)		Installed capacity post 2020 (to 2031) (Mega Watts)	
	Electricity	Heat	Electricity	Heat
Installed, planned and prospective	5.0	4.0	5.0	4.0
Mega Watts Targets	38.7	15.1	39.8	18.0

4.4.6 The *Renewable Energy Strategic Viability Study for York (2010)* indicates that this could be achieved by the following diverse range of technologies and provides guidance on the spatial locations factoring in York's constraints. The range of technologies could include: Large, medium and small scale wind; Hydro; CHP; Biomass for district heating and single building heating; Solar Photovoltaic; Solar thermal; and Ground/air source heat pumps.

4.4.7 The *Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Capacity in Yorkshire and Humber Study (2011)* provides a technical appraisal of the potential resources that could theoretically generate renewable and low carbon energy in the region and including York. It highlights that whilst York has significant potential opportunities for commercial scale wind energy, local issues such as the historic setting of Yorkshire Minster may limit the opportunities available to

the city. In particular this study highlighted the significant potential for district heating networks in the City Centre and that whilst the urban nature of the City Centre presents opportunities for further microgeneration deployment this must be balanced with the need to protect the city's heritage environment.

4.4.8 The development of renewable sources of energy can make a valuable contribution to tackling the rate of climate change and the Local plan supports this. The proposals map identifies potential areas of search for renewable electricity generation which includes commercial wind and hydro. It is based on the potential capacity for renewable electricity identified in the *Renewable Energy Strategic Viability Study (2010)*. This study identified the areas of greatest potential taking into account an assessment of natural resources and constraints.

4.4.9 The RSPB<sup>10</sup> state that available evidence suggests that wind farms can harm birds in three possible ways – disturbance, habitat loss (both direct and/or indirect) and collision. They recognise that:

*“thorough environmental assessment is vital to ensure that all ecological impacts are fully identified prior to consent of any development. If wind farms are located away from major migration routes and important feeding, breeding and roosting areas of those bird species known or suspected to be at risk, it is likely that they will have minimal impacts.”*

4.4.10 The designation of the Lower Derwent Valley as a Special Protection Area is in recognition of its wild bird populations<sup>11</sup>. This is a key aspect of Wheldrake Ings, a key component of the Lower Derwent Valley, and promoted through the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's information Leaflet:

*“In WINTER, the floods attract a spectacle of thousands of ducks, geese and waders. The most obvious species are teal and wigeon, plus lots of pintail, mallard and shoveler. Icelandic whooper swans sometimes use the site for roosting and large numbers of greylag geese should be checked for pink-footed, white-fronted or tundra bean geese that occasionally drop in. On the deeper water overlooked by pool hide, tufted duck, pochard and goldeneye can be seen. Large groups of lapwing and golden plover gather, with smaller numbers of ruff, dunlin and curlew. The hordes of wintering birds attract predators including peregrines.”*

### Assessment of Impacts

4.4.11 The Local Plan policy and associated Proposals Map indicate areas of search for renewable energy generation, including for commercial wind and hydro. The solutions that will have the most impact on the Lower Derwent Valley will be wind generation schemes due to its potential impact on migratory birds.

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/policy/windfarms/>

<sup>11</sup> Designated under Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds

This can have adverse impacts, as suggested by the RSPB, should the location of these be in the path of migratory birds for example.

4.4.12 Whilst the evidence base has considered the location of the nature conservation designation, currently the policy does not explicitly list nature conservation objectives as a key determinant in the location of new renewable energy similarly to landscape impacts. This approach would risk adverse impacts to the European site. Changes to the policy should be made in order to mitigate this and ensure that no significant impacts on the integrity of the Lower Derwent Valley are experienced.

### Mitigation

4.4.13 The policy and justification for Policy CC1 should explicitly require demonstration that no significant adverse impacts on nature conservation designations would be permitted in connection to new wind turbines.

4.4.14 For clarity, the following policy wording should be included in relation to permitting the development covered by the Local Plan Policy CC1: *“No development will be permitted which may have an adverse effect on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site alone, or in-combination, with other plans or projects”*.

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## 5 Conclusions

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5.1.1 The appropriate assessments concluded that there are **no significant (adverse) impacts** arising from the Local Plan Preferred Options should mitigation recommendations be adopted.

5.1.2 Based upon the Appropriate Assessments, the following recommendation should be adopted in relation to Recreational pressure/disturbance at Strensall Common, River Derwent and Lower Derwent Valley and Biological disturbance at Lower Derwent Valley:

For clarity, the following policy wording should be included in relation to permitting the development covered by the Local Plan Policies CC1 and GI5: *“No development will be permitted which may have an adverse effect on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site alone, or in-combination, with other plans or projects”*.

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## 6 What Happens Next?

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### 6.1 Consultation

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- 6.1.1 This consultation on the Preferred Options Local Plan, Sustainability Appraisal, Habitat Regulation Assessment and accompanying evidence base aims to gain comments and feedback on the approach to development in York for the next 15-20 years.
- 6.1.2 The consultation on the Local Plan runs for 8 weeks from the **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2013 until 5pm Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013.**

#### **How to comment on this report**

- 6.1.3 This report has been issued alongside the Preferred Options document. In particular we would like to hear your views as to whether the effects which are predicted are likely and whether there are any significant effects which have not been considered.
- 6.1.4 Comments should be submitted to City of York Council by **5pm Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013.**
- 6.1.5 A consultation response form can be downloaded from the City of York Council Website  
[www.york.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.york.gov.uk/localplan)

Please submit any comments you may have to:

By post to:

York Local Plan  
City Of York Council  
FREEPOST (Y0239)  
Y01 7ZZ

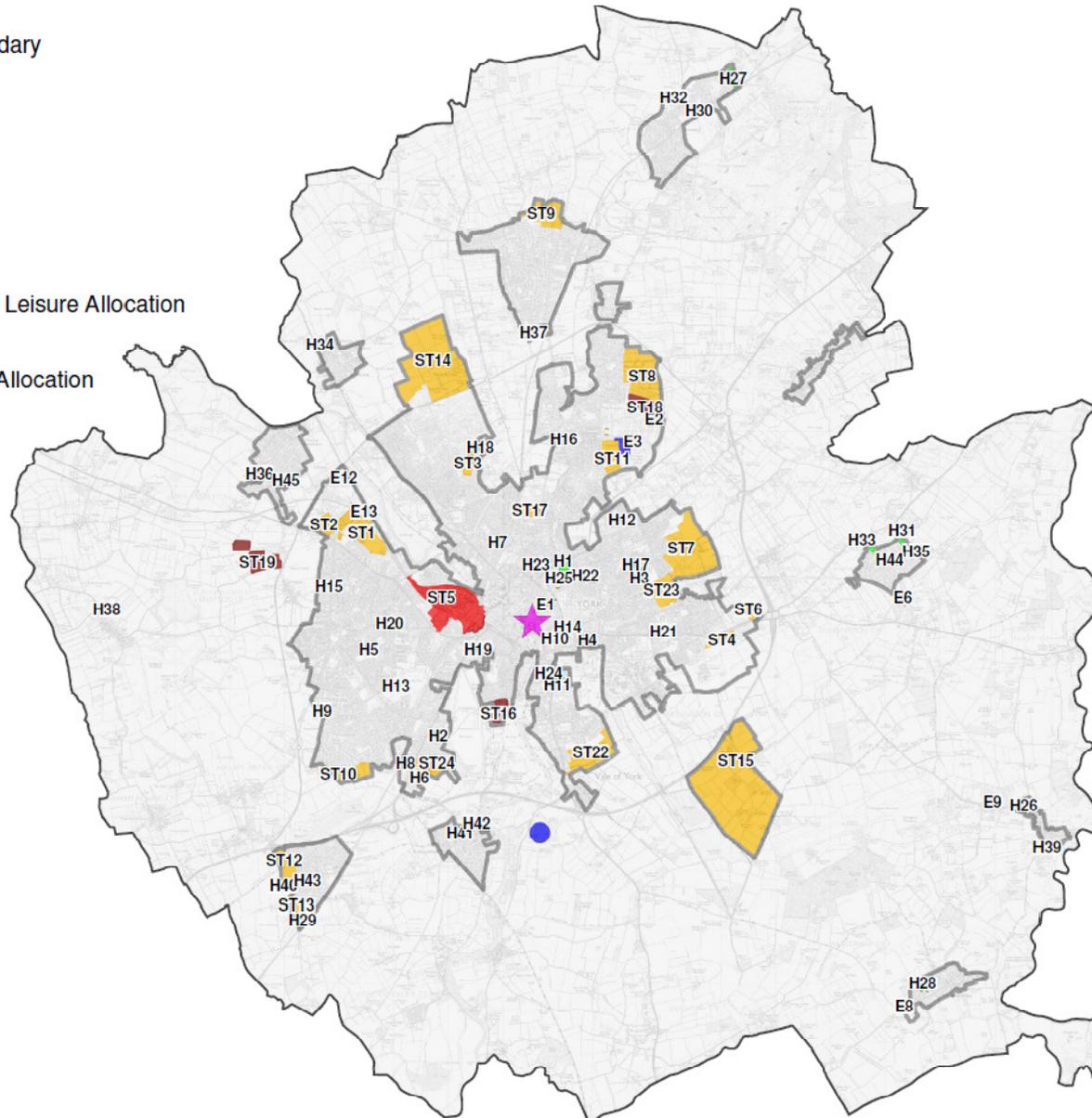
By email to:

[localplan@york.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@york.gov.uk)

- 6.1.6 Following consultation this report will be revised to take account of any relevant changes to the plan or emerging evidence base.

## Appendix 1: Location of Strategic Sites and Allocations

-  City of York Local Authority Boundary
-  Settlement Boundaries
-  Strategic Housing Sites
-  Strategic Employment Sites
-  York Central Strategic Site
-  Naburn Designer Outlet Strategic Leisure Allocation
-  Committed Leisure Permission
-  Castle Piccadilly Strategic Retail Allocation
-  Housing Allocations
-  Employment Allocations



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**Results of sites and their proximities to the sites.**

Local Plan Ref	SiteName	Number of Houses Allocated	Strensall Common (SAC) (metres)	Lower Derwent Valley (SAC, SPA, RAMSAR) / River Derwent (SAC) (metres)	Skipwith Common (SAC)	Kirk Deighton (SAC)	Comments
H1	Former Gas Site 24 Heworth Green	240	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H2	Sites by Racecourse, Tadcaster Road	115	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H3	Burnholme School	108	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H4	St Joseph's Monastery	141	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H5	Lowfields former school (existing building footprint)	72	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H6	Amalgomated sites RO Wilberforce Home/York College	65	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H7	Bootham Crescent Football Stadium	69	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H8	Askham Bar Park and Ride Site	50	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H9	Land off Askham Lane	42	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H10	Barbican Centre	56	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H11	Land at Frederick House, Fulford	33	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H12	Land RO Stockton lane off Greenfield Park Drive	33	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H13	Our Lady's RC Primary School	29	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H14	Former Citroen Garage 32 Lawrence Street	42	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H15	Beckfield Lane former HWS	18	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H17	Burnholme WMC, Burnholme Drive	19	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H18	Land off Woodland Chase, Clifton	14	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.

Local Plan Ref	SiteName	Number of Houses Allocated	Strensall Common (SAC) (metres)	Lower Derwent Valley (SAC, SPA, RAMSAR) / River Derwent (SAC) (metres)	Skipwith Common (SAC)	Kirk Deighton (SAC)	Comments
	Moor						
H19	Land at Mill Mount	16	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H20	Oakhaven EPH	15	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H21	Woolnough House EPH	11	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H22	Heworth Lighthouse	13	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H23	Grove House EPH	11	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H24	Bristows Garage	10	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H25	Heworth Green North (Forum Site)	20	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H29	Land at Moor Lane	64	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H34	Land North of Church Lane	42	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H36	Land at Blairgowerie House, Main Street	36	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H38	Land RO Rufforth Primary School	24	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H40	West Fields Copmanthorpe	22	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H41	Land adj. 26 & 38 Church lane	15	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H42	Builders Yard, Church Lane	9	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H43	Manor Farm Yard	7	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H45	Land adj. 131 Long Ridge Lane	5	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
ST1	British Sugar	998.208	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
ST2	Former Civil Service Sports Ground	308	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
ST3	Grain Stores	216.359	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
ST4	Land Adj Hull Road - Grimston Bar	211.12	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.

Local Plan Ref	SiteName	Number of Houses Allocated	Strensall Common (SAC) (metres)	Lower Derwent Valley (SAC, SPA, RAMSAR) / River Derwent (SAC) (metres)	Skipwith Common (SAC)	Kirk Deighton (SAC)	Comments
ST5	York Central	438	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
ST6	Land East of Grimston Bar	154	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
ST10	Land at Moor Lane, Woodthorpe	511	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
ST12	Land at Manor Heath Road, Copmanthorpe	354	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
ST13	Land at Moor Lane, Copmanthorpe	115	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
St16	Terrys	0	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
ST17	Nestle South	130	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
ST22	Germany Beck	0	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
ST23	Metcalf Lane Remaining	0	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
ST24	York College	0	0	0	0	0	Site is over 5km from the sites. No potential issues.
H39	North of Church lane Elvington	25	0	500	0	0	Site is within 500m of the Lower Derwent Valley /River Derwent. There could be proximity issues but this is a small site and unlikely to generate significant harm.
H27	Land at Brecks Lane, Strensall	82	1000	0	0	0	Site is within 1km of Strensall Common. There could be proximity issues and in-combination issues given there are 3 sites within Strensall within 1000m.
H30	Amalgomated sites South of Strensall	61	1000	0	0	0	Site is within 1km of Strensall Common. There could be proximity issues and in-combination issues given there are 3 sites within Strensall within 1000m.
H32	The Tannery, Strensall	53	1000	0	0	0	Site is within 1km of Strensall Common. There could be proximity issues and in-combination issues given there are 3 sites within Strensall within 1000m.
H26	Land at Dauby Lane, Elvington, York	97	0	1000	0	0	Site is within 1km of the Lower Derwent Valley/River Derwent. There could be proximity issues due to the size of the development.
H28	Land to north of North Lane, Wheldrake	75	0	2000	0	0	Site is within 2km of the Lower Derwent Valley/River Derwent. There could be proximity issues due to the size of the

Local Plan Ref	SiteName	Number of Houses Allocated	Strensall Common (SAC) (metres)	Lower Derwent Valley (SAC, SPA, RAMSAR) / River Derwent (SAC) (metres)	Skipwith Common (SAC)	Kirk Deighton (SAC)	Comments
							development but the distance may be a factor in reducing significant impact.
H31	Amalgomated sites Eastfield Lane, Dunnington	60	0	5000	0	0	Site is within 5km of the Lower Derwent Valley/River Derwent. There could be proximity issues due to the size of the development but the distance may be a factor in reducing significant impact.
H33	Water Tower Land Dunnington	43	0	5000	0	0	Site is within 5km of the Lower Derwent Valley/River Derwent. There could be proximity issues due to the size of the development but the distance may be a factor in reducing significant impact.
H35	Land at Intake Lane, Dunnington, York	38	0	5000	0	0	Site is within 5km of the Lower Derwent Valley/River Derwent. There could be proximity issues due to the size of the development but the distance may be a factor in reducing significant impact.
H44	Land RO Surgery & 2a/2b Petercroft Lane	6	0	5000	0	0	Site is within 5km of the Lower Derwent Valley/River Derwent. There could be proximity issues due to the size of the development but the distance may be a factor in reducing significant impact.
H16	Sessions, Huntington Road	17	5000	0	0	0	Site is within 5km of Strensall Common. There could be proximity issues but this is a small site. There may be an in-combination effect from other sites but the distance may be a factor in reducing significant impact.
H37	Land adjacent to Greystone Court, Haxby, York	34	5000	0	0	0	Site is within 5km of Strensall Common. There could be proximity issues but this is a small site. There may be an in-combination effect from other sites but the distance may be a factor in reducing significant impact.
ST8	Land North of Monks Cross	1569	5000	0	0	0	Site is within 5km of Strensall Common. There could be proximity issues due to the size of the site. There may also be an in-combination effect from other sites but the distance may be a factor in reducing significant impact.
ST9	Land North of Haxby	747	5000	0	0	0	Site is within 5km of Strensall Common. There could be proximity issues due to the size of the site. There may also be

Local Plan Ref	SiteName	Number of Houses Allocated	Strensall Common (SAC) (metres)	Lower Derwent Valley (SAC, SPA, RAMSAR) / River Derwent (SAC) (metres)	Skipwith Common (SAC)	Kirk Deighton (SAC)	Comments
							an in-combination effect from other sites but the distance may be a factor in reducing significant impact given access to the site is likely to be by car.
ST11	New Lane, Huntington	411	5000	0	0	0	Site is within 5km of Strensall Common. There could be proximity issues due to the size of the site. There may also be an in-combination effect from other sites but the distance may be a factor in reducing significant impact given access to the site is likely to be by car.
ST7	Land East of Metcalfe Lane	1800	Intersects at ~5000	0	0	0	The edge of this site is within 5km of Strensall Common. There could be proximity issues due to the size of the site. There may also be an in-combination effect from other sites but the distance may be a factor in reducing significant impact.
ST14	Land North of Clifton Moor	4020	Intersects at ~5000	0	0	0	The edge of this site is within 5km of Strensall Common. There could be proximity issues due to the size of the site. There may also be an in-combination effect from other sites but the distance may be a factor in reducing significant impact.
ST15	Whinthorpe	5580	0	Intersects at ~5000	0	0	The edge of this site is within 5km of the Lower Derwent Valley/River Derwent. There could be proximity issues due to the size of the development but the distance may be a factor in reducing significant impact.

## Appendix 2: Openspace in Strensall, Wheldrake and Elvington (from PPG17 study)

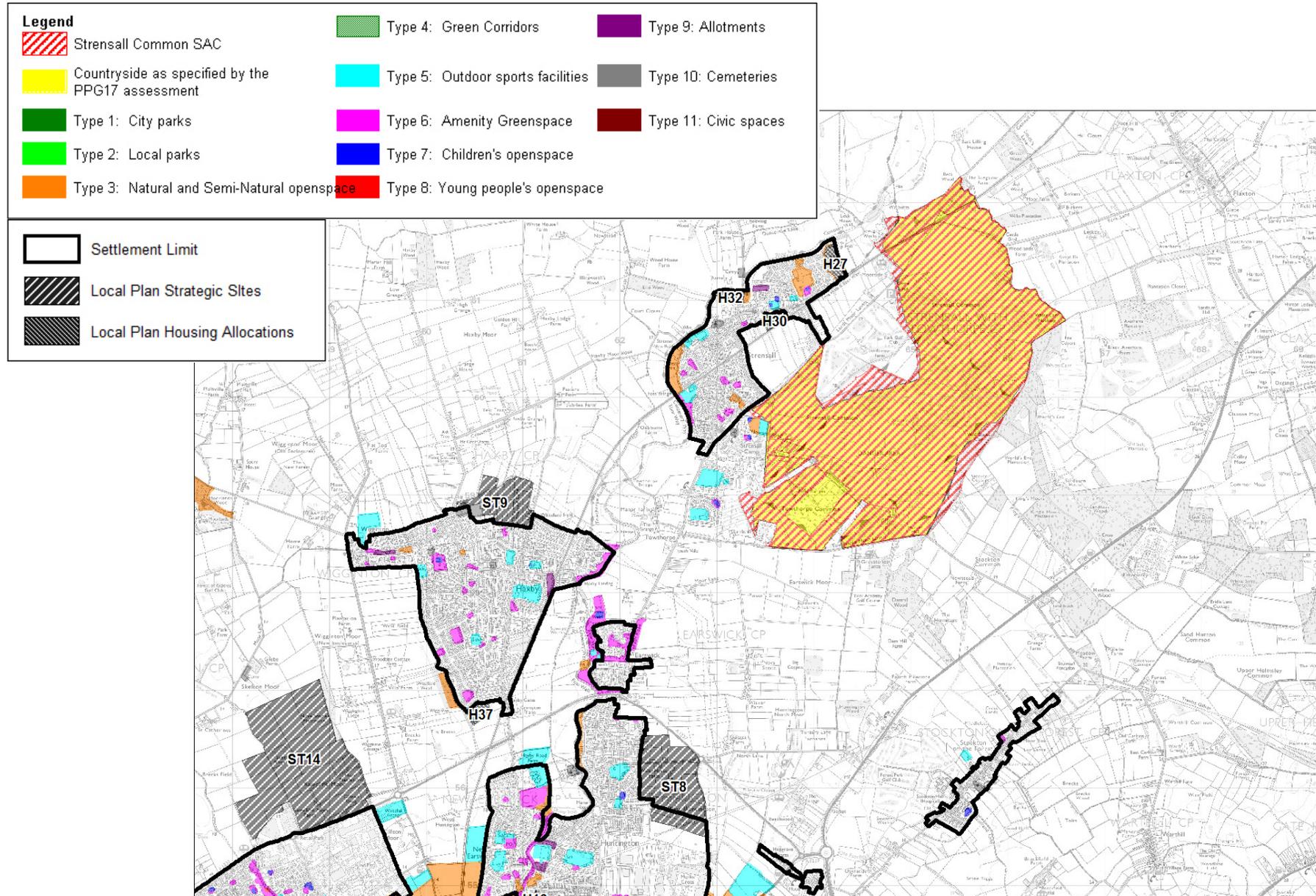
Figure A2.1: Openspace Accessibility in Strensall Ward and Implications for AA

Type of Openspace	Current Provision	Total requirement	Total surplus or deficit	Accessibility Standard <sup>12</sup>	Primary purpose of openspace	Implications for Appropriate Assessment
City Parks and Local Parks	0	1.51	-1.51 Deficit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City parks: 20 mins walk (960 metres)</li> <li>Local Parks: 15 mins walk (720 metres)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informal recreation</li> <li>Community events</li> </ul>	The majority of parks are situated within the Urban area. The PPG17 study suggests that opportunities for small local parks should be made in Strensall which may be progressed through the GI Strategy, planning applications or through the Local Plan. Further provision would be positive in helping to reduce recreational pressures should there be an increase population within Strensall.
Natural and semi natural	15.12	17.90	-2.79 Deficit	15 mins walk (720 metres)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wildlife conservation</li> <li>Biodiversity</li> <li>Environmental education and awareness</li> </ul>	The provision of natural and semi natural space in Strensall is skewed given that Strensall Common is outside of the settlement boundary and would perform this function. The PPG17 assessment designates Strensall Common as 'accessible countryside' and therefore any additional space allocated for the openspace type, would be positive in taking pressure off Strensall Common.
Amenity Greenspace	13.53	12.02	1.51 Surplus	5 mins walk (240 metres)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informal activities close to home or work</li> <li>Children's play</li> <li>Enhancement of the appearance if</li> </ul>	The surplus of Amenity Green Space indicates that there is accessible space for informal activities and children's play. This is positive in deterring people using Strensall Common for recreational activities given the close proximity of alternative amenity green

<sup>12</sup> The Accessibility Standards are set out in each relevant chapter of the PP17 Openspace Assessment which is available from the CYC website at: [http://www.york.gov.uk/environment/Planning/Local\\_development\\_framework/LDF\\_Evidence\\_base/2007OpenSpaceStudy/](http://www.york.gov.uk/environment/Planning/Local_development_framework/LDF_Evidence_base/2007OpenSpaceStudy/)

Type of Openspace	Current Provision	Total requirement	Total surplus or deficit	Accessibility Standard <sup>12</sup>	Primary purpose of openspace	Implications for Appropriate Assessment
					residential or other areas	spaces.
Children's provision	9	4.03	4.97 Surplus	10 mins walk (480m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children's play</li> </ul>	Strensall Common does not contain an equipped children's playspace. The PPG17 study shows that there is a surplus of children's openspace within Strensall and therefore is positive in helping to limit recreational pressure on the SAC.
Young people	0	1.77	-1.77 Deficit	15 mins walk (720 metres)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities or meeting places for young people</li> </ul>	Whilst there is a deficit of young peoples openspace in Strensall, the type of openspace this refers to are equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters with a primary purpose of providing opportunities for play and social interaction involving both children and teenagers. Given the nature of the Common it is anticipated that there will be very limited additional pressure due to this deficiency due to the nature of the required openspace for teenagers.
Outdoor Sports facilities	10.32	14.96	-4.64 Deficit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15 mins walk (720 metres – local facilities: pitches/ tennis / bowls)</li> <li>20 mins public transport time (synthetic pitches and gold courses)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilities for formal sports participation</li> </ul>	Strensall has a large relative deficiency in outdoor sports facilities but this would have limited effect on the Common given that these uses are not located on within the SAC.
Allotments	0.4913	2.44	-1.95 Deficit	15 mins walk (720 metres)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growing vegetables, fruit and flowers</li> </ul>	This would not have an impact on the SAC given the use primary use of allotment space.

**Figure A2.2: Map of Openspace in Strensall in relation to Strategic Sites and Allocations**



**Figure A2.3: Openspace Accessibility in Wheldrake/ Derwent Wards and Implications for AA**

Type of Openspace	Current Provision	Total requirement	Total surplus or deficit	Accessibility Standard <sup>13</sup>	Primary purpose of openspace	Implications for Appropriate Assessment
<b>City Parks and Local Parks</b>						
Wheldrake	0	0.75	-0.75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City parks: 20 mins walk (960 metres)</li> <li>Local Parks: 15 mins walk (720 metres)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informal recreation</li> <li>Community events</li> </ul>	The majority of parks are situated within the Urban area. The PPG17 study suggests that opportunities for small local parks should be made in Wheldrake and Derwent Wards which may be progressed through the GI Strategy, planning applications or through the Local Plan. Further provision would be positive in helping to reduce recreational pressures should there be an increase population within this area.
Derwent	0	0.68	-0.68			
<b>Natural and semi natural</b>						
Wheldrake	0	8.88	-8.88	15 mins walk (720 metres)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wildlife conservation</li> <li>Biodiversity</li> <li>Environmental education and awareness</li> </ul>	The provision of natural and semi natural space in this area is high given that the provision within Dunnington at Intake Lane/Hagg Lane. The PPG17 assessment designates. This is deemed positive in ensuring local access to this openspace type, helping to reduce any impact on the Lower Derwent Valley and River Derwent. Whilst Wheldrake lacks this land type, it is surrounded by countryside with provision of other types of openspace.
Derwent	44.65	8.06	+36.59			
<b>Amenity Greenspace</b>						
Wheldrake	0.61	5.96	-5.35	5 mins walk (240 metres)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informal activities close to home or work</li> <li>Children's play</li> </ul>	There is a deficit of amenity space within both Wards. This is a particular types of openspace that could perform multifunctional roles, different to that offered

<sup>13</sup> The Accessibility Standards are set out in each relevant chapter of the PP17 Openspace Assessment which is available from the CYC website at: [http://www.york.gov.uk/environment/Planning/Local\\_development\\_framework/LDF\\_Evidence\\_base/2007OpenSpaceStudy/](http://www.york.gov.uk/environment/Planning/Local_development_framework/LDF_Evidence_base/2007OpenSpaceStudy/)

Type of Openspace	Current Provision	Total requirement	Total surplus or deficit	Accessibility Standard <sup>13</sup>	Primary purpose of openspace	Implications for Appropriate Assessment
Derwent	1.27	5.41	-4.14		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhancement of the appearance if residential or other areas</li> </ul>	by the River Derwent and Lower Derwent Valley. The impacts of this would depend upon the location of sites.
<b>Children's provision</b>						
Wheldrake	3	2.00	+1	10 mins walk (480m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children's play</li> </ul>	Both of these wards have playspace provision although Derwent Ward has a deficit. The PPG17 states that children's playspaces should be in close proximity and offer particular equipment/space for children's play. This is a different offer to that at the River Derwent and Lower Derwent Valley. However, any impact would need to be considered in relation to different sites.
Derwent	1	1.82	-0.82			
<b>Young people</b>						
Wheldrake	0	0.88	-0.88	15 mins walk (720 metres)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities or meeting places for young people</li> </ul>	Whilst there is a deficit of young peoples openspace in, the type of openspace this refers to are equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters with a primary purpose of providing opportunities for play and social interaction involving both children and teenagers. Given the nature of the Lower Derwent Valley and River Derwent it is anticipated that there will be very limited additional pressure due to this deficiency due to the nature of the required openspace for teenagers.
Derwent	0	0.79	-0.79			
<b>Outdoor Sports facilities</b>						
Wheldrake	6.41	7.42	-1.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15 mins walk (720 metres – local</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilities for formal sports participation</li> </ul>	These areas have supply of outdoor sports facilities, although there is a deficit shown. This use however is

Type of Openspace	Current Provision	Total requirement	Total surplus or deficit	Accessibility Standard <sup>13</sup>	Primary purpose of openspace	Implications for Appropriate Assessment
Derwent	5.56	6.74	-1.18	facilities: pitches/ tennis / bowls) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 mins public transport time (synthetic pitches and gold courses)</li> </ul>		specific and would not have an impact on the River Derwent or Lower Derwent Valley SAC given the equipments and facilities required.
<b>Allotments</b>						
Wheldrake	2.11	1.21	+0.90	15 mins walk (720 metres)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing vegetables, fruit and flowers</li> </ul>	This would not have an impact on the SAC given the use primary use of allotment space being different to the nature of the Lower Derwent Valley and River Derwent.
Derwent	2.21	1.11	+1.11			

**Figure A2.4: Map of Openspace in Wheldrake/Dunnington in relation to Strategic Sites and Allocations**

