

Applying the Habitats Directive

to the Harrogate District Sites and Policies DPD

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Executive Summary:

This report is an Assessment of the Harrogate District Local Development Framework Sites and Policies Development Plan Document (DPD), to meet the requirements of the Habitats Directive. It has been prepared by Harrogate Borough Council, as the relevant competent authority.

The Assessment provides a screening to examine whether the Sites and Policies DPD is likely to have any significant impacts on a Natura 2000 site, either alone or in combination with other projects and plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives.

The Assessment:

- Provides details of the plan and its proposals;
- Identifies Natura 2000 sites (in accordance with PPS9, para 6) within and outside the plan area that could potentially be affected by the Development Control Policies DPD;
- Identifies the characteristics of these sites and their conservation objectives; and;
- Screens the plan, in combination with other relevant plans or projects, to identify any likely significant effects on the sites.

The Assessment has been undertaken following a precautionary approach in accordance with the Habitats Directive.

Outcome Of Assessment

It can be objectively concluded that the Sites and Policies DPD is not likely to have any significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites. There is therefore no requirement to proceed to the next stage of an Appropriate Assessment.

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1.0: Introduction.

- 1.1 The Council adopted the Harrogate District Core Strategy in February 2009. It sets out the direction and strategy for development and conservation of the District up to the year 2021 and beyond.
- 1.2 The Sites and Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) will make allocations of land and set out development management policies to deliver the Core Strategy.
- 1.3 Once adopted the Sites and Policies DPD together with the Core Strategy will replace the Harrogate District Local Plan and be used to make decisions on planning applications up to at least 2021.
- 1.4 This report sets out an assessment of the Sites and Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Flora and Fauna. In order to comply with the Habitats Directive, the sites and policies in the Sites and Policies DPD will be assessed against the conservation objectives of the following Natura 2000 sites:
 - Craven Limestone Complex Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
 - Kirk Deighton SAC.
 - North Pennine Moors SAC and Special Protection Area (SPA).
 - Humber Estuary SPA.
- 1.5 To find out more about the Sites and Policies DPD please visit www.harrogate.gov.uk/pages/harrogate-6424 . If you would like to view information about consultation on the Sites and Policies DPD please view one of the following web pages:
 - Rural Areas Consultation: www.harrogate.gov.uk/pages/harrogate-6695
 - District Wide Development Management Policies and Urban Areas Consultation: www.harrogate.gov.uk/ldfconsult

2.0: The requirement to carry out an assessment under the Habitats Directive.

- 2.1 The purpose of this assessment is to determine whether the Sites and Policies DPD is likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of the conservation objectives of the international sites identified in Figure 1. If it is considered that a significant effect is likely to occur as a result of implementing the Sites and Policies DPD, an Appropriate Assessment (AA) will be necessary.
- 2.2 An Appropriate Assessment identifies any adverse effect on the integrity of a SPA or SAC and, if they are necessary, identifies mitigation measures that will reduce (ideally eliminate) those effects. If effects cannot be reduced sufficiently then the AA will conclude that an adverse effect on the integrity will occur. If the proposer of a plan or project wishes it to go ahead, then a case for imperative reasons for overriding public interest has to be made to the Secretary of State, and compensatory measures determined.
- 2.3 The relevant extracts from the Habitats Directive are set out below for information:

Article 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 and projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In 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 Waste Plan or project only after 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.'

Article 6(4)

'If in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the member states shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, of beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.'

- 2.4 Figure 1 shows the stages that are necessary when applying the Habitats Directive to Local Development Documents (LDDs). Note that the Appropriate Assessment stage is only required where there is likely to be a significant effect on international sites.

Figure 1:

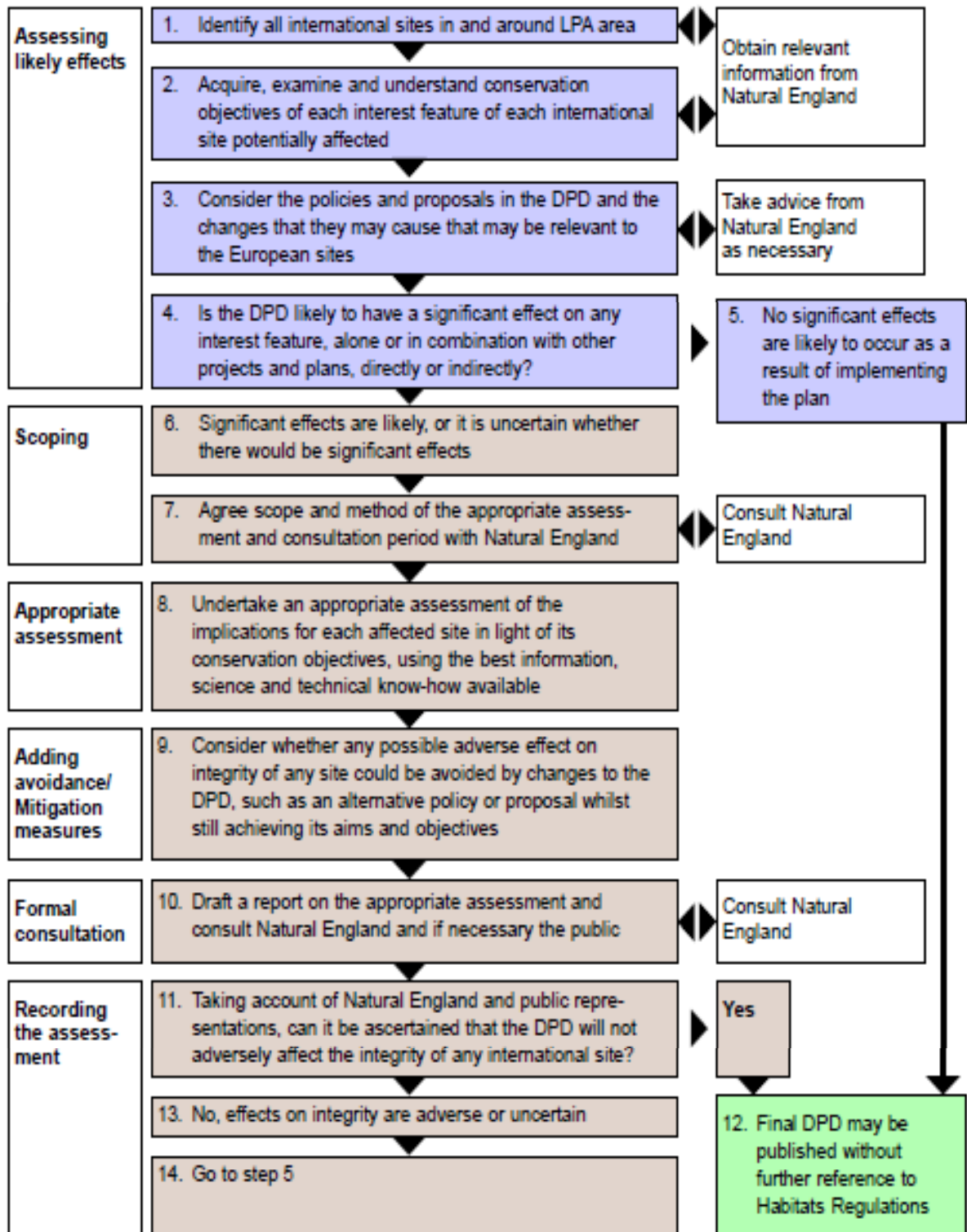
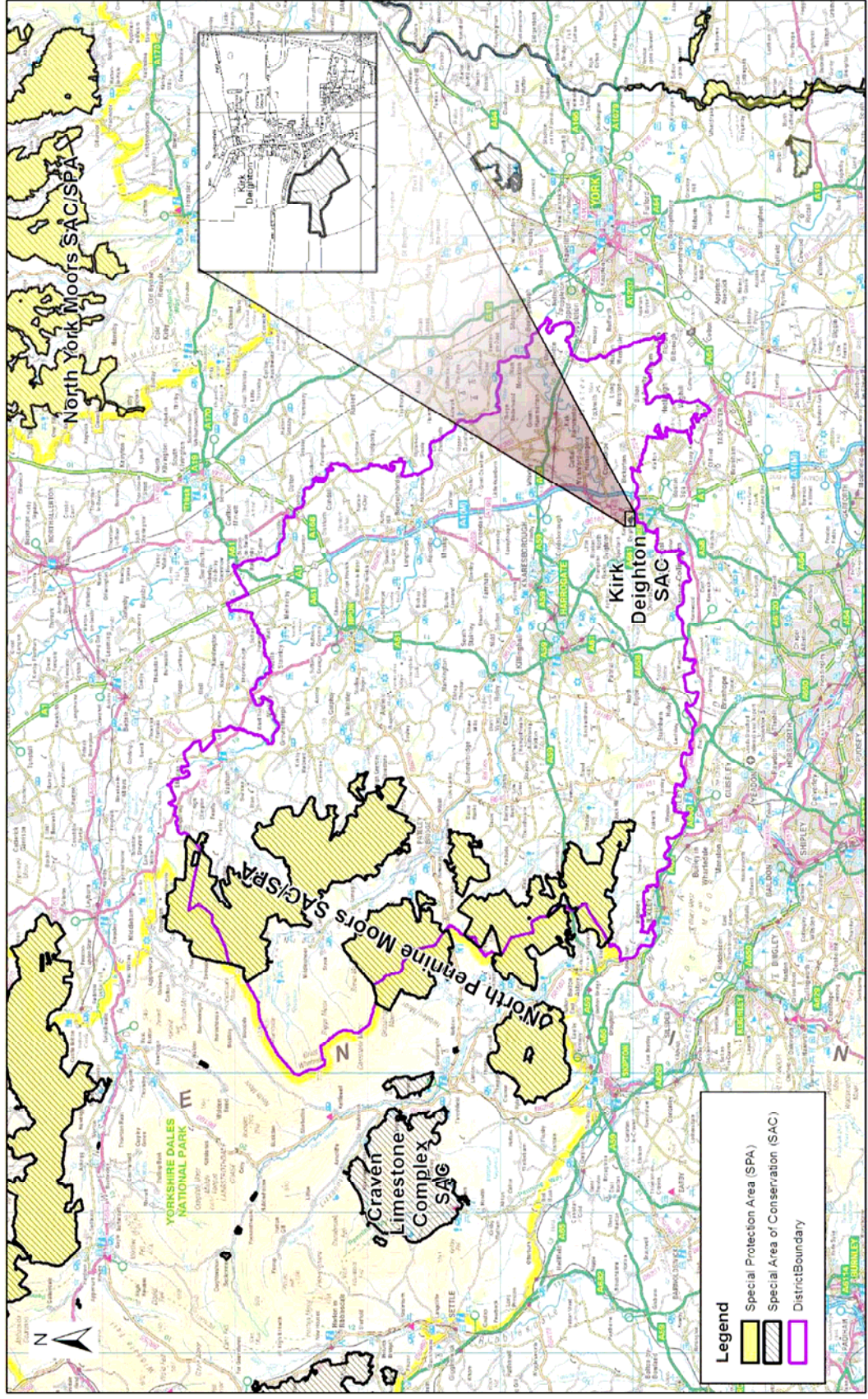


Figure 2: Location of SPAs and SACs in and around Harrogate District



3.0: Characteristics of SAC and SPA Designations Outside of the District.

Craven Limestone Complex SAC. Area: 5328.25 (ha)

Features of Interest:

- 3.1 The Craven Limestone Complex is of great geological and biological interest, and has been selected as a site for an SAC for a large variety of habitats and species that are on an Annex I and Annex II qualifying feature. A key feature of this site is the complex mosaic of habitats that occur here.
- 3.2 Malham-Tarn is a large lake formed by glaciation in the last ice age and is rich in calcium but poor in other nutrients. Lakes like this are extremely rare and unusual because limestone substrates are free draining. The lake is particularly important for its submerged beds of stoneworts *Chara*, and is considered the best example of an upland stonewort *Chara*-dominated lake in England. Malham-Tarn lake, and the streams feeding it, support strong populations of the Annex II white-clawed crayfish *Austropotambius pallipes*.
- 3.3 Centred around Malham-Tarn lies an outstanding range of wetland habitats and species. This includes a large active raised bog that displays a classic raised dome shape and is a priority feature. Malham-Tarn also supports what is believed to be the largest expanse of *Molinia caerulea* – *Crepis paludosa* mire in the UK, although smaller fragments of this habitat are found elsewhere at the Craven Complex site.
- 3.4 At Great Close and Ha Mire there are large fen systems, principally of the *Carex dioica* – *Pinguicula vulgaris* mire, *Briza media* – *Primula farinose* sub community. A characteristic species of the Craven limestone, bird's-eye primrose *Primula farinose* is widespread in this area, alongside other rarer species such as broad-leaved cottongrass *Eriophorum latifolium*, hair sedge *Carex capillaries*, alpine bartsia *alpina* and dwarf milkwort *Polygala amarelle*.
- 3.5 The dissolved limestone and low nutrient status in the soil at the Craven Complex also allow the UK's second most extensive area of calcereous grassland to thrive, including *Sesleria albicans* – *Galium sternerii* grassland. The site exhibits an important example of grassland scrub transitions.
- 3.6 The Craven Complex also contains extensive areas of limestone pavements that are an Annex I priority feature and provide a habitat for species, including the downy currant *Ribes spicantum*. The site also contains upwellings of petrifying springs with tufa formation *Cratoneurion* at a wide range of habitat areas across the Complex. These petrifying springs support an extremely rich flora; particularly lime loving species such as bird's-eye primrose *Primula farinose* and alpine bartsia *Bartsia alpina*.
- 3.7 Other important habitats found at the Complex, but which are not a primary reason for selection of this site as an SAC, are Calaminarian grasslands of the *Violetalie calaminariae* and *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines. Craven Limestone Complex also supports the single remaining native site for Lady's-slipper orchid *Cypripedium calceolus*. Formerly reduced to a single plant, careful habitat

management, together with hand-pollination of the few flowers that appear, and more recently re-establishment of plants from *ex-situ* propagation, has led to a steady increase in the size of the colony. Also present is a good population of bullhead *Cottus gobio*, which live in the clean calcareous waters of the complex.

Vulnerabilities:

- 3.8 The base rich wetlands, calcareous grassland and limestone pavements at the Craven Complex are best managed through light grazing with cattle, and can be easily damaged or destroyed if intensive grazing with sheep is allowed to take place. Increasing rabbit numbers could also significantly reduce species numbers.
- 3.9 Much of the habitat at the complex is also extremely vulnerable to quarrying, which as well as removing limestone can have a significantly detrimental effect upon the remainder of the site by contaminating the water quality and altering water levels and turbidity. Drainage for agriculture and industrial runoff also has the potential for similar detrimental ecological impacts. In addition to the issues above, increased use of the area for recreation could also be ecologically damaging to this site. The main effects are likely to be caused by disturbance to wildlife, particularly during the breeding season.

Conservation Objectives:

- 3.10 The conservation objectives for the site are, in accordance of the reasons for which the SAC designation was designated, to maintain*, in favourable condition, the:
- Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp
 - Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco Brometialia*)
 - *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laded soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)
 - Active raised bogs (priority feature)
 - Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) (priority feature)
 - Alkaline fens
 - Limestone pavements (priority features)

In favourable condition, the habitats of the population of:

- White-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*)
- Bullhead (*Cottus gobio*)
- Lady's Slipper orchid (*Cypripedium calceolus*)

* maintain implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

Humber Estuary SPA / SAC Area: 15202.53 (ha)

Features of Interest:

- 3.11 Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast SAC is located on the east coast of England, and comprises extensive wetland and coastal habitats within the Humber Estuary. It has the second-highest tidal range in Britain (7.2 m) and approximately one-third of the estuary is exposed as mud or sand-flats at low tide. The inner estuary supports extensive areas of reedbed and mature saltmarsh backed by grazing marsh in the middle and outer estuary. The site has been designated as an SAC as it supports breeding and migratory populations of a number of species listed on the Annex I Birds Directive.

- 3.12 During the breeding season these include around 63 pairs of Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, (representing at least 2.6% of the breeding population in Great Britain), who utilise the sand and shingle beaches and spits to nest upon. Elsewhere in the more brackish waters around 11 pairs of Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* nest here (representing at least 6.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain), primarily in the dense tall areas of vegetation. Over winter, the population of birds include around 1,593 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* individuals (representing at least 3.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain), who feed on the worms found on the sandy and muddy shores. Also found are 2 individuals of Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* (representing at least 2.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain) and nearly 29,235 individuals of Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, (representing at least 11.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain) who feed in this important intertidal zone. At night, around 20 individuals of Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* (representing at least 2.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain) gather at communal nest sites in this area.
- 3.13 The estuarine habitats of the Humber also support around 5,212 individuals of Redshank *Tringa totanus* (representing at least 2.9% of the Eastern Atlantic - wintering population) on passage, and 1,767 Sanderling *Calidris alba* individuals (representing at least 1.8% of the Eastern Atlantic/Western & Southern Africa - wintering population). Over wintering birds include around 23,605 Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina* (representing at least 1.7% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population), 33,848 Knot *Calidris canutus* individuals (representing at least 9.7% of the wintering Northeastern Canada /Greenland/ Iceland/Northwestern Europe population), 4,452 Redshank *Tringa tetanus* individuals (representing at least 3.0% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population) and 4,083 Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* individuals (representing at least 1.4% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population). This site also qualifies for designation as an SPA as it regularly supports over the required 20,000 waterfowl. In total, the Humber Estuary has been estimated as supporting over 187,000 individual waterfowl.
- Vulnerabilities:**
- 3.14 The qualifying bird species in the Humber Estuary and their habitats are vulnerable to a large number of threats. On an estuary wide scale, changes to sea level from flood defence management probably represent the greatest threat, with the potential to lose further significant areas of intertidal habitats, including large areas of mudflats and saltmarshes.
- 3.15 Indirectly, coastal management schemes can also markedly reduce the trapping of nutrients within the estuary, leading to a loss of feeding areas for birds. Further development of industrial activity, such as power station cooling systems, gas and chemical pipelines and electricity cables can also have significant detrimental impact, especially if it takes places in intertidal locations. Although water quality has recently been improving within the estuary, pollution from agriculture, industry and urban areas is also a major threat to the habitats and birds in this area. Probably the other major threat to bird species in this area is from increased recreational disturbance of species.
- 3.16 In the most sensitive areas, such as high-tide wader roosts, even normally harmless activities such as dog walking, can force birds to leave traditional sites. Changes in

agricultural practices can also reduce the amount of breeding and feeding sites in the area.

Conservation objectives:

- 3.17 The Conservation objectives for the site are, in accordance of the reasons for which the SPA designation was designated, to maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the breeding Annex I bird species, with particular reference to:
- Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*
 - Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*
- 3.18 The habitats for the populations of the migratory Annex I bird species, with particular reference to:
- Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*
 - Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*
 - Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*
 - Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*
- 3.19 The habitats for the populations of the migratory bird species of European importance, with particular reference to:
- Redshank *Tringa totanus*
 - Sanderling *Calidris alba*
 - Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*
 - Knot *Calidris canutus*
 - Redshank *Tringa totanus*
 - Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

- 3.20 And to maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of birds that contribute to the breeding and migratory wetland bird assemblage of European importance.

* maintain implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition

4.0: Characteristics of SAC and SPA Designations Within the District.

Kirk Deighton SAC Area: 4.03 ha

Features of Interest:

- 4.1 This habitat contains shallow ponds surrounded by sheep grazed pasture and hedgerows and supports one of the largest known breeding populations of Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) in the UK. The main breeding pond, which is set in a depression, has a widely fluctuating water level, and this sometimes leads to pond desiccation. As a result, there is relatively little aquatic vegetation but egg-laying occurs and recruitment is successful intermittently; however, a large population is present, demonstrating this species' ability to thrive in temporary pond sites. *Triturus cristatus* are the largest native British newt and are an Annex II species. Populations are thought to have declined dramatically throughout the species' European range, and the aim is to protect the wide range of habitat types used by the species.

Vulnerabilities:

- 4.2 The temporary nature of the ponds makes this habitat vulnerable to physical damage. The shallow ponds may also be susceptible to hydrological changes in the water level and flow rate as a result of water abstraction. These effects may threaten the connectivity of the landscape, which is important to *Triturus cristatus* as the species often occur in metapopulations that encompass a cluster of several or many ponds. *Triturus cristatus* are also vulnerable at this site to biological disturbance, for example through the introduction of predatory fish. Although *Triturus cristatus* newts do not require very high water quality, increases in toxic and non-toxic contamination from agriculture, transport and industrial sources may also have a detrimental effect upon ecology of the site.

Conservation Objectives:

- 4.3 The conservation objectives for the site are, in accordance of the reasons for which the SAC designation was designated, to maintain*, in favourable condition, the:
- Habitats for the population of Great Crested Newts (*Triturus cristatus*)

* maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

North Pennine Moors SAC Area: 103109.42 (ha)

Features of Interest

- 4.4 This series of upland moorland sites, straddling the Cumbrian, Durham, North Yorkshire and Northumberland borders, have been designated as SAC due to diverse range of Annex I habitats found here.
- 4.5 The North Pennine Moors holds the major area of blanket bog in England. This habitat is a priority feature as it is not commonly found elsewhere outside the UK. A significant proportion of this vast bog remains peat forming, although these areas are often bounded by sizeable zones of currently non-active bog. The main

vegetation type is *Calluna vulgaris* – *Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket mire, but there is also representation of *Erica tetralix* – *Sphagnum papillosum* blanket mire.

- 4.6 The Moors are also one of the best areas in the UK for petrifying springs with tufa formation *Cratoneurion*. This habitat is considered to be rare as its total extent in the United Kingdom is estimated to be less than 100 hectares and is therefore a priority feature. Although very localised in occurrence on the Moors, where these springs do occur they are species rich with abundant bryophytes, sedges and herbs including bird's-eye primrose *Primula farinose* and marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica*.
- 4.7 Another primary reason for the selection of the Moors as an SAC is the presence of the European dry heaths. The North Pennine Moors hold much of the upland heathland of northern England, and these areas exhibit exceptional diversity in comparison with examples found elsewhere in the EU. The most abundant heath communities are *Calluna vulgaris* – *Deschampsia flexuosa* heath and *Calluna vulgaris* – *Vaccinium myrtillus* heath.
- 4.8 The North Pennine Moors also include one major stand of juniper scrub in Swaledale as well as a number of small and isolated localities. The Swaledale site grades into heathland and bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* but the core area of juniper is *Juniperus communis* – *Oxalis acetosella* woodland with scattered rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* and birch *Betula spp.*
- 4.9 Acidic rock outcrops and screes are well-scattered across the North Pennine Moors and support vegetation typical of Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation in England, including a range of lichens and bryophytes.
- 4.10 Another habitat for which the North Pennine Moors is considered one of the best habitats in the UK is for Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum*. This habitat occurs far to the east of the habitats main distribution in the UK at an area known as Birk Gill Wood. This reflects the characteristic base poor soils and high rainfall of this area.
- 4.11 Although not a primary reason for selection of this as an SAC, the North Pennine Moors also supports a range of other Annex I habitats. These include Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*, Calaminarian grasslands of the *Violetalia calaminariae*, Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands, semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates *Festuco-Brometalia*, Alkine fens, Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels *ndrosacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani* and Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation. The Annex II species Marsh saxifrage *saxifrage hirculus* is also found here.

Vulnerabilities:

- 4.12 All of the habitats found on the North Pennine Moors are sensitive to or dependent upon the management of grazing. As well as resulting in a direct loss to habitat, intensive grazing on heathland can lead to limited structural diversity and can prevent regeneration by native woodland and scrub, notably along upland heathland margins and streamsides where such habitat additions would be likely to enhance biodiversity value. On other habitats intensive grazing can also lead to loss of lower plant assemblages and erosion, particularly of peat. Conversely, reduced grazing levels can lead to encroachment by bracken and loss of biodiversity.

- 4.13 The heathland and blanket bog habitats are also sensitive to moorland burning practices. Burning is carried out to modify the moorland for the benefit of livestock and grouse and in particular, but poorly managed and accidental fires can be damaging as they lead to simplification of structure. Wet areas of the Moors are also vulnerable to changes to the drainage patterns, which lower the water table and initiate increased erosion. Many of these drains have been cut in the past to improve the quality of the grazing land.
- 4.14 Other habitat threats to the North Pennine Moors are from forestry, which impacts on the hydrology and species composition of areas of blanket bog, notably as the trees mature. Aerial application of fertilisers and pesticides can also result in drift on to adjacent bog. In addition acidification, tropospheric ozone and nitrogen enrichment caused by atmospheric deposition from forestry, farming and other processes such as waste management and industrial activity can also increase the likelihood of insect defoliation of upland heathland.
- 4.15 Increases in recreational use of the Moors can also be detrimental to the ecology of the area, with many existing routes used by cyclists and horse-riders, traversing habitats, which are very sensitive to such pressure. Increased use of all-terrain vehicles for recreational, agricultural and sporting activities could also result in local erosion.
- 4.16 A number of areas of heathland and blanket bog at high altitudes may also be threatened by wind farms and communication masts, together with their associated infrastructure. These could result in direct physical loss and damage to habitats, as well as indirect effects upon the surrounding area, such as impacts on hydrology.

Conservation Objectives:

- 4.17 The conservation objectives for the site are, in accordance of the reasons for which the SAC designation was designated, to maintain* in favourable condition, the:
- European dry heaths
 - *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands
 - Blanket bogs (priority feature)
 - Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) (priority feature)
 - Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation
 - Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum*
 - North Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*
 - Calaminarian grasslands of the *Violetalia calaminariae*
 - Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands
 - Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*)
 - Alkaline fens
 - Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*)
 - Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation.

* maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

North Pennine Moors SPA Area: 147246.41 (ha)

Features of Interest:

- 4.18 The North Pennine Moors SPA is composed of large areas of bog, semi natural heather moorland and upland grasslands, and stretches from Haltwhistle and Hexham in the north to Skipton and Harrogate in the south. The site encompasses the North Pennine Moors SAC and Moor House SPA, which are both subject to separate classifications, and lies 10km north of the South Pennine Moors SPA. This site has been designated as SPA as it supports important breeding populations of birds listed on the Annex I EU Birds Directive.
- 4.19 These include around 1,400 pairs of Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, representing at least 6.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain. These medium sized plovers prefer shorter vegetation and commonly breed away from the moorland edge on high, flat or gently sloping plateaux. Elsewhere on the moorland and other rough grazing areas are around 3,930 pairs of Curlew *Numenius arquata* (representing at least 3.3% of the breeding Europe – breeding population) and 330 pairs of Dunlin *Calidris alpina shinzili* (representing at least 3.0% of the breeding Baltic/UK/ Ireland population).
- 4.20 The Moors also provide a habitat for a number of birds of prey, many of which have been persecuted in the past for reducing grouse populations. These include around 11 pairs of Hen Harriers, (representing at least 2.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain) which favour areas of moorland with a high percentage of heather cover. Also found are around 136 pairs of the UK's smallest bird of prey, the Merlin *Falco columbarius* (representing at least 10.5% of the breeding population of Great Britain), and around 15 pairs of the large and powerful Peregrine *Falco Peregrinus* (representing at least 1.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain).

Vulnerabilities:

- 4.21 These qualifying breeding bird species found in the SPA are vulnerable to any of the sensitivities identified for the North Pennine Moors SAC that lead to habitat loss or deterioration. These primarily include poor moorland management and overgrazing that can result in a loss of structural diversity of the vegetation, and damage to wetland habitats caused by changes to drainage patterns.
- 4.22 In addition to the sensitivities identified for the North Pennine Moors SAC, a number of other factors may directly lead to a loss or decline in the birds species at this SPA. Agricultural intensification around the moorland edges can reduce habitat range and feeding areas for birds, whilst increased livestock on the moors can lead to destruction of nests by trampling and greater disturbance to breeding bird population. This may also result from increased recreation use, and can lead to less chicks being born and surviving to adulthood. All of the bird species on the SPA also remain vulnerable to the impacts of environmental pollutants and contaminated by toxic chemicals. Additionally many of the birds of prey are also threatened by illegal killing and persecution, primarily by game keepers on grouse moors.

Conservation Objectives:

4.23 The conservation objectives for the site are, in accordance of the reasons for which the SPA designation was designated, to maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the breeding populations of Annex I species of:

- Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*
- Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*
- Merlin *Falco columbarius*
- Peregrine Falco peregrinus
- Curlew *Numenius arquata*
- Dunlin *Calidris alpina achinzi*

With particular reference to:

- Upland Moorland
- Upland Pasture

** maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.*

5.0: The Harrogate District LDF Core Strategy DPD.

- 5.1 The Core Strategy was adopted by the Council on 11 February 2009, and was assessed against the Habitats Directive. It sets out the direction and strategy for development and conservation in the Harrogate District up to the year 2021 and beyond. To enable a continuous delivery, housing provision will cover the period to 2023. It provides a vision of what the District should be like in 2021, with objectives and policies formulated to achieve it.
- 5.2 The Core Strategy addresses its strategic objectives through the following policy areas:
- Settlement Growth
 - Homes for Local People
 - Jobs and Business
 - Travel
 - Environment and Quality of Life
 - Communities
- 5.3 The Site and Policies DPD must be in conformity with the adopted Core Strategy. The Core Strategy is to be read in conjunction with the proposed Sites and Policies DPD. They cannot be viewed in isolation. The Core Strategy sets out, amongst other things, the numbers of new homes that will need to be built over the plan period in Policy SG1, as well as setting out their broad distribution. This equates to 390 per annum to 2023.
- 5.4 The Core Strategy was assessed under Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Flora and Fauna. It was not found that any of the policies within it required an Appropriate Assessment to be done. Some policies however raised issues that needed to be addressed.
- 5.5 The following Core Strategy Policies were found to have no significant impact:
- Policy HLP1: Affordable Housing Provision: Single Dwelling Developments
 - Policy HLP2: Affordable Housing Provision: Development of Two or More Dwellings
 - Policy HLP5: Replacement Of Restricted Occupancy Conditions
 - Policy JB2: Conference and Business Tourism
 - Policy JB3: Land for Jobs and Business
 - Policy JB4: Retail and Town Centre Development
 - Policy TRA1: Accessibility
 - Policy TRA2: Transport Infrastructure
 - Policy TRA3: Travel Management
 - Policy C1: Inclusive Communities
 - Policy C3: Community Sports Regeneration Area

5.6 The above policies were not considered to have a significant impact for the following reasons:

- The policy focuses on areas of the District such as Harrogate Town rather than settlements or countryside close to or within Natura 2000 sites.
- The policy does not have spatial implications.

5.7 For the following policies, Natural England requested that some amendments were made to the policy and justification wording:

- Policy SG1: Housing Distribution and Urban Extensions.
- Policy SG2: Hierarchy and Limits.
- Policy SG3: Conservation of the Countryside, including Green Belt.
- Policy SG4: Design and Impact.
- Policy SG5: Managed Release of Housing.
- Policy HLP3: Rural Exception Sites.
- Policy HLP4: New Build Associated with Rural Conversion Schemes.
- Policy JB1: Supporting the Harrogate District Economy.
- Policy EQ1: Reducing Risks to the Environment.
- Policy EQ2: The Natural and Built Environment and Green Belt.
- Policy C2: Gypsies and Travellers.

5.8 For the responses and actions following the consultation Natural England, please refer to Appendices B and C of “Applying the Habitats Directive to the Submission Core Strategy DPD”. This can be found here:

<http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/Documents/DS-P-LDF-HD%20to%20CoreStrategy.pdf>

**6.0: The Sites and Policies DPD, and issues raised during Scoping and Consultation with Natural England:
Draft Policies to Manage Development**

- 6.1 This section draws together any potential issues raised during the initial consultation with Natural England. It also highlights any changes to policy wording since the Council’s meeting with Natural England.
- 6.2 The following table gives a summary of the policies that are not considered to have any significant impact on any of the Natura 2000 sites in the Harrogate District, and the reasons why.

Draft Policy	Reason
SG6 – Sites for settlement growth.	The number of new homes required and their broad distribution are given in the adopted Core Strategy (Policy SG1). Policy SG6 seeks to identify the sites on which they would be built for developments for a mix of market and affordable housing. None of the ‘preferred option’ sites are within a Natura 2000 site. Those in close proximity to an SPA or SAC are small sites that will not have any significant effects. Fuller assessments of the impacts of each site are given in the tables in Appendix 1.
SG7 – Type and mix of new market homes	No spatial implications. This policy sets out the mix between affordable and Market homes on each site.
SG8 – Development limits and replacement dwellings.	No spatial implications. The ‘development limits’ will be drawn tightly around settlements, and will include the proposed ‘preferred option’ sites adjacent to Group A and B settlements. None of these are within an SPA or SAC.
SG9 – Flood risk and sustainable drainage.	No spatial implications. The policy identifies flood zones 2, 3a and 3b, and sets out requirements for developing within them. The policy also requires all development to ensure that there will be no net increase in surface water run-off from the site, and prioritises the use of sustainable drainage systems (SUDS).
SG10 – Unstable land.	No spatial implications. The policy identifies the areas of lands in and around Ripon where gypsum dissolution may be an issue, and sets out the requirements of developing in these areas.

Draft Policy	Reason
HLP6 – Rural exception sites.	The number of new homes required and their broad distribution are given in the adopted Core Strategy (Policies SG1 and HLP3). Policy HLP6 identifies the sites for 100% affordable housing developments, mainly adjacent to Group C settlements. None of the ‘preferred option’ sites are within a Natura 2000 site. The nearest sites are RL3046 in Lofthouse and
	RL3042 in Kirk Deighton. However these will not have any significant effect on an SPA or SAC due to their small size and relationship with the sites.
HLP7 – Affordable housing.	No spatial implications. The policy sets out the proportion of affordable housing that will be required for various development scenarios.
JB5 – Sites for new jobs.	Policy JB3 of the Core Strategy sets out the requirements for the provision of 8ha of employment land to meet the short-term demand identified in the Employment Land Review. Policy JB5 identifies 10.16ha of employment land to meet this and longer term needs. None of the ‘preferred option’ sites are within or near to a Natura 2000 site, and they will not have any significant impacts on an SPA or SAC.
JB6 – Protection and enhancement of existing employment areas.	This policy seeks to protect existing employment sites from being developed for other purposes. It focuses on land in parts of the district away from any Natura 2000 sites.
JB7 – Town and local centres.	This policy relates solely to development within the town centres of Harrogate, Ripon, Knaresborough, Boroughbridge, Pateley Bridge and Masham. It sets out which uses and development would be appropriate in these areas/ This will not have any significant impact on an SAC or SPA. The impacts of the policy will be confined to the town centres listed.
JB8 – Protection of tourist facilities.	The policy seeks to ensure that hotels and tourist attractions in the District are retained, and protected from being developed for other purposes. This will not impact on any SAC or SPA.
TRA4 – Air quality.	This policy seeks to ensure that air quality within the built up areas of the Harrogate District is protected and improved. Given the areas that the policy is aimed at, there will be no significant impact on an SAC or SPA.
TRA5 – Parking provision.	The policy relates to provision of car parking in new developments and will not result in any significant impacts on an SPA or SAC.

Draft Policy	Reason
EQ3 – Development within the Green Belt.	This policy identifies the extent of the York and West Yorkshire Green Belt within the Harrogate District, and identifies one major developed site within this area. This policy will have no significant effect on an SPA or SAC.
EQ4 – Designated heritage assets.	The policy identifies various designated heritage assets in the Harrogate District, and sets out requirements for developments that may affect them. This policy relates to existing designations and features, and will not have any significant effect on any SPA or SAC.
EQ5 – Local distinctiveness.	This policy seeks to ensure that new development respects the locally distinctive character of the districts rural and urban environments. It will not have any impact on an SPA or SAC.
EQ7 – Landscape protection.	This policy seeks to preserve the existing character throughout the district. The Nidderdale AONB and Special Landscape Areas are identified as areas of high landscape value. Much of the North Pennine Moors SPA / SAC within the District lies within the Nidderdale AONB, however the policy seeks to protect the character of the landscape, and is a constraint on development. It is considered that this policy will have any significant impacts on an SPA or SAC.
C4 – New sports, open space and recreation development.	This policy seeks to identify new areas for sport, recreation and open space. As yet, no areas have been identified.
C5 - Protection of existing sport, open space and recreation facilities	This policy relates to the protection of existing areas of sport, open space and recreation against their used for other purposes. Almost all of the sites are within or immediately adjacent to settlements and are not within either an SPA or SAC. This policy will have no significant effects on an SPA or SAC.
C6 - Protection of and enhancement of community facilities	This policy seeks to protect community facilities from being lost to other uses. The policy is solely related to existing uses and will not have any significant impacts on an SAC or SPA.
C7 – Provision of new community facilities.	This policy relates to applications where a new community facility is being proposed. No land is being identified for this use. Given the remote upland nature of the North Pennine Moors SPA /SAC and the small size of the Kirk Deighton SAC, this policy will not have any significant impact on them.
C8 – Sites for gypsies and travellers accommodation.	This policy seeks to identify sites for gypsies and travellers. No allocations have been made.

Draft Policy	Reason
Policy IN1 – Infrastructure delivery.	Much of the infrastructure likely to come forward will not be in locations within or near to any Natura 2000 sites. Infrastructure projects such as major highway improvements or utility supply network improvements are regulated through other statutory process, and are not directly promoted through the Sites and Policies DPD.
IN2 - Protection and enhancement of green infrastructure	This policy requires development proposals to incorporate new green infrastructure opportunities. No areas for new / improved green infrastructure are identified by the policy. This policy is intended to be of benefit to the natural environment, and will focus on green infrastructure opportunities within the site of development proposals. There will be no significant impacts on any SAC or SPA.
IN3 - Protection of sites and routes for transport infrastructure	The policy seeks to protect existing transport infrastructure, and identifies various routes and sites that will be protected. None of these are within or close to an SPA or SAC and the policy is not considered to have any significant effects on them.
IN4 – Central Areas	This policy relates solely to the central area of Harrogate, Ripon and Knaresborough. It will not have any impacts on an SPA or SAC.

6.3 For full draft policy wording visit www.harrogate.gov.uk/ldfconsult to view the ‘Draft Policies for Managing New Development’ report.

6.4 Following the Council’s meeting with Natural England, various comments were received. These, and comments received in subsequent emails have suggested changes in wording to the following policies.

Policy EQ6 – Area based natural assets:

6.5 This policy is concerned with protecting the special sites of biodiversity and geodiversity in the Harrogate District.

6.6 Natural England considered that the wording of this should include a reference to the Habitat Regulations. They have suggested the following wording:

“International and National Sites:

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) form part of a network of protected wildlife sites across the European Union called ‘Natura 2000’. The Local Development Framework does not afford specific protection for International and National sites of biodiversity or geodiversity interest, instead these sites receive existing statutory protection under the following European or National legislation. SPAs are protected under the EC Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), SACs are protected under the EC Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), (SSSIs) are protected under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981”.

6.7 Action: The justification for Draft Policy EQ6 now contains the following wording:

“International and National Sites

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) form part of a network of protected wildlife sites across the European Union called ‘Natura 2000’. The Local Development Framework does not afford specific protection for International and National sites of biodiversity or geodiversity interest, instead these sites receive existing statutory protection under the following European or National legislation.

- *SPAs are protected under the EC Birds Directive (79/409/EEC),*
- *SACs are protected under the EC Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC),*
- *(SSSIs) are protected under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.*
- *RAMSAR sites are wetlands of international importance, however there are currently no sites within Harrogate District.*

In accordance with Policy EQ2, proposals for development likely to have a negative impact on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site will need to carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment, and if required, an Appropriate Assessment (AA).”

Policy JB9 – Sustainable Holiday Tourism:

- 6.8 This policy relates to the development of new, or the extension of existing, tourist and leisure attractions or visitor accommodation in the countryside away from the development limits of Group A and B settlements.
- 6.9 Natural England raised the issue about the potential effects of increased tourism and recreational activity on designated sites over the lifetime of the plan, e.g. a cumulative increase in the numbers of campsites near to the North Pennine Moors SAC. Whilst no specific areas have been allocated for tourism related development, Natural England considered that the policy wording should ensure compliance with the Habitats Regulations. They have requested that the draft policy should the policy wording should be more robust, and that the Habitats Regulations should be specifically mentioned with additional wording in the justification.
- 6.10 Action: Draft Policy JB9 states:
“Proposals involving the development of new, or extension of existing, tourist and leisure attractions or visitor accommodation in the countryside away from the development limits of Group A and B settlements will be permitted provided that: ...
... *they maintain or enhance the high quality of the districts built and natural environment (in line with Policies EQ4 and EQ6);...*”
- 6.11 Policy EQ2 of the adopted Core Strategy and Draft Policy EQ6 of the Sites and Policies DPD make clear that proposals likely to have a significant effect on any Natura 2000 site shall be subject to the Habitats Regulations. The policy wording of JB9 refers specifically to the need for proposals to meet with Policy EQ6. As with the Core Strategy the plan should be read as a whole, and this approach is consistent across all policy issues. It is considered that it is not necessary to repeat wording under Policy JB9 because the changes made to the justification for Draft Policy EQ6 provide adequate protection.

- 6.12 Any proposals for tourism development that may have an effect on Natura 2000 sites will also need to be assessed against Policy EQ2 of The Harrogate District Core Strategy, which states “The District’s exceptionally high quality natural and built environment will be given a level of protection appropriate to its international, national and local importance.”

**7.0: Sites: The Sites and Policies DPD, and issues raised during Scoping and Consultation with Natural England:
Preferred Site Options**

- 7.1 The number of new houses required per year has been set in the adopted Core Strategy at 390 per year between 2004 and 2023. The Sites and Policies DPD will identify sites that will be allocated for housing development. The large majority of these sites will be located adjacent to or within the towns of Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon, again in line with the Core Strategy. A summary of the assessment of sites is given in Appendix 1.
- 7.2 The Sites and Policies DPD also seeks to identify sites to be allocated for employment uses. Again, these are mainly in the larger settlements of Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon.
- 7.3 None of the sites identified, either individually or cumulatively, will have any significant effects on any SPA or SAC. None of the sites identified as ‘preferred options’ are within or adjacent to a Natura 2000 site. 12 of the smaller sites are within 5 km of North Pennine Moors SPA / SAC, and 1 is within 5km of the Kirk Deighton SAC. However, those sites within 5km of the North Pennine Moors are confined to valley floor and lower valley side locations, whereas the SAC / SPA are confined to upland areas. Thus even though some sites are in relatively close proximity, given the difference in altitude and the relationship between the sites and the SAC / SPA there will be no significant effects.
- 7.4 The one site within 5km of the Kirk Deighton SAC is a small site that is separated from the SAC by the built form of the village itself. The conservation objective of the SAC is to preserve the habitat for Great Crested Newts, and its main vulnerability is related to the ephemeral nature of the ponds. It is not considered that the development of the site will result in any significant effects due to the relationship with the SAC and the presence of the village.
- 7.5 The majority of the sites are adjacent to the urban areas that are a significant distance from any SPA or SAC. None of these sites will have any significant effect on an SPA or SAC due to their distance from them.

8.0: Summary of Findings:

- 8.1 It is considered that the Harrogate District LDF Sites and Policies DPD will be unlikely to have a significant effect on the integrity of the relevant Natura 2000 sites, because:
- All proposals in the plan will be subject to Policy EQ2 of the Core Strategy and therefore, where it is likely that a proposal will have a significant impact on a Natura 2000 site, an Appropriate Assessment will be required in accordance with the Habitats Directive. The Core Strategy and the Sites and Policies DPD make it clear that the plan should be read as whole.
 - Similarly, any proposal that is likely to have an adverse effect on any Natura 2000 site will be assessed under Policy EQ6 of the Sites and Policies DPD.
 - None of the land allocations for either housing or employment sites are within a Natura 2000 site. The 'Preferred Option' sites in Kirk Deighton and Lofthouse are the nearest to a Natura 2000 site, but neither are within the immediate vicinity, and neither are considered to have any adverse effects.
 - Policy JB9 specifically refers to the need to comply with the requirements of draft Policy EQ6, which contains clear guidance on the need to meet the Habitats Regulations. Any possible significant impact on the North Pennine Moors SPA/SAC as a result of increased tourism activity as a result of Policy JB9 will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment under Core Strategy Policy EQ2 and Sites and Policies DPD Policy EQ6.
 - The numbers of new houses and the amount of employment land allocation have been identified in the adopted Harrogate District Core Strategy Policy SG1. The Policy SG1 also identifies the broad distribution of housing across the District, with 48% to go in Harrogate, 14 % in Knaresborough, 8% in Ripon, and the rest in market towns of Boroughbridge, Pateley Bridge and Masham, and the smaller rural villages. The Core Strategy was found not to require an Appropriate Assessment. The Harrogate District Sites and Policies DPD seeks to add detail and identify the sites that will be developed for housing and employment. It is considered that the allocations for homes and jobs over the plan period will not be of a scale nor will be located where they could cause a significant impact on an SPA or SAC either within or outside of the Harrogate District.

APPENDIX 1

Summary of assessment for each preferred site options.

The rural allocations are all for relatively small sites, with the vast majority being for housing. The largest site is for 113 houses. The cumulative total of all of the rural preferred option sites is 1341 dwellings, to be delivered across the plan period. These are distributed across the District, and are within or directly adjacent to Group B or C settlements, as defined by Policy SG2 of the adopted Harrogate District LDF Core Strategy. It should be noted that these sites are still at the consultation stage, and not all of them may be developed. None of the preferred option site are within an SAC or SPA, however 13 sites are within 5km. Given the small number of houses proposed by these sites, the distance from any SPA / SAC, and the characteristics and vulnerabilities of them, it is not considered that any of the allocations, either singularly or cumulatively would result in any harm to an SAC or SPA either within or outside of the District.

The table below summarises the rural preferred option sites and the reasons why they are not considered to have any significant effects on any SAC or SPA.

Rural Sites			
Site Reference	Location	No. of Houses	Reason for no significant effect on SAC / SPA
RL1063a	Land adjacent to Richmond Garth, Kirkby Malzeard	5	The site is located approximately 3.1km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 29 km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
M3001	Ibbetson Close, Masham	41	The site is located approximately 4.8km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 35 km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves. The North Pennine Moors is a remote, largely upland area with few formalised recreation opportunities. It is not considered that an additional 41 dwellings (or 99 in combination with M3002) will result in any significant impacts or pressure on the SPA/SAC. Although much of the SAC and SPA is designated as 'access land' under the CROW Act 2000, there is a network of footpaths and tracks across the moors where the limited visitors are concentrated.
M3002	Land west of The Oaks, Masham	58	The site is located approximately 5km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 35km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves. The North Pennine Moors is a remote, largely upland area with few formalised recreation opportunities. It is not considered that an additional 58 dwellings (or 99 in combination with

			M3001) will result in any significant impacts or pressure on the SPA/SAC. Although much of the SAC and SPA is designated as 'access land' under the CROW Act 2000, there is a network of footpaths and tracks across the moors where the limited visitors are concentrated.
RL1010b	Land East of Woebeck Lane, Melmerby	9	The site is located approximately 13.5km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 27.5 km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL2016	Land adjacent to Crowgarth, Skelton on Ure	11	The site is located approximately 14.5km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 18.5 km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL553	Willow Garth, Skelton on Ure	5	The site is located approximately 14.7km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 19 km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL3c	West House Farm, Birstwith	39	The site is located approximately 7.6km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 18 km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL1084a	Land south of Wreaks Road, Birstwith	35	The site is located approximately 7.7km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 18 km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL113	Land at Darley	9	The site is located approximately 4.9km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 20.7 km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL99a	Land east of Stumps	10	The site is located approximately 4.9km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and

	Lane, Darley		20.7km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL3036	Land south of Brookfield, Hampsthwaite	100	The site is located approximately 9.6km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 15.9km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves. The North Pennine Moors is a remote, largely upland area with few formalised recreation opportunities. It is not considered that an additional 100 dwellings will result in any significant impacts or pressure on the SPA/SAC. Although much of the SAC and SPA is designated as 'access land' under the CROW Act 2000, there is a network of footpaths and tracks across the moors where the limited visitors are concentrated.
RL1015a	Land adjacent to cricket ground, Killinghall	50	The site is located approximately 11.3km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 14km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL1009	Land North of Grainbeck Manor, Killinghall	40	The site is located approximately 11.7km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 13.6 km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL3019	Land north of Picking Croft Lane, Killinghall	67	The site is located approximately 11.6km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 13.8 km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
P5a	Land opposite Nidderdale High School, Pateley Bridge	60	The site is located approximately 1km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 29 km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is in the base of the Nidd valley, and is approximately 250m below the boundary of the North Pennine Moors SPA / SAC. The limited population increase (and the combined total of 163 dwellings in combination with P3a and P3001) will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves. The North Pennine Moors is a remote, largely upland area with few formalised recreation

			opportunities. It is not considered that an additional 100 dwellings will result in any significant impacts or pressure on the SPA/SAC. Although much of the SAC and SPA is designated as 'access land' under the CROW Act 2000, there is a network of footpaths and tracks across the moors where the limited visitors are concentrated.
P3a	Land at Ashfield Court Road, Pateley Bridge	75	The site is located approximately 1.2km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 29 km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is in the base of the Nidd valley, and is approximately 250m below the boundary of the North Pennine Moors SPA / SAC. The limited population increase (and the combined total of 163 dwellings in combination with P5a and P3001) will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves. The North Pennine Moors is a remote, largely upland area with few formalised recreation opportunities. It is not considered that an additional 100 dwellings will result in any significant impacts or pressure on the SPA/SAC. Although much of the SAC and SPA is designated as 'access land' under the CROW Act 2000, there is a network of footpaths and tracks across the moors where the limited visitors are concentrated.
P3001	Coal yard and highways depot, Pateley Bridge	28 + employment (0.4ha)	The site is located approximately 1.1km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 28.5 km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is in the base of the Nidd valley, and is approximately 250m below the boundary of the North Pennine Moors SPA / SAC. The limited population increase (and the combined total of 163 dwellings in combination with P3a and P3001) will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves. The North Pennine Moors is a remote, largely upland area with few formalised recreation opportunities. It is not considered that an additional 100 dwellings will result in any significant impacts or pressure on the SPA/SAC. Although much of the SAC and SPA is designated as 'access land' under the CROW Act 2000, there is a network of footpaths and tracks across the moors where the limited visitors are concentrated.
RL1107a	Land south of Whinbush Lane, Summerbridge	49	The site is located approximately 3.5km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 22.5km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL3008	Land east of Oakwell Cottage, Dacre	8	The site is located approximately 2.4km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 23.1km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within

			the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL1131(1)	Cabin Lane, Dacre Banks	9	The site is located approximately 2.4km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 23.4km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL3046	Land to the rear of Crown Hotel, Lofthouse	7	The site is located approximately 0.9km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 37.4km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves. This is the closest site to the North Pennines Moors SAC / SPA. It is however approximately 190m below the boundary of the SAC / SPA as the site is located in the valley floor.
RL3040	Land at Kayes Farm and Hawbers Farm, Burton Leonard	44 + employment (1.02ha)	The site is located approximately 12.5km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 14.9km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL1093(1)	Land between Park Side and Oak Cottage, Follifoot	5	The site is located approximately 19.4km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 14.9km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL1101	Land east of Manor Fold, Follifoot	12	The site is located approximately 20km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 15.6km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL2073b	Land opposite Fieldhurst, Leeds Road, Pannal	80	The site is located approximately 17.3km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 9km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
H74a	Dunlopillo Site, Pannal	20 + employment	The site is located approximately 17.3km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 9.1km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or

		(5.5ha)	SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL117	Land at Knaresborough Road, Bishop Monkton	9	The site is located approximately 11.5km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 17.8km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL3041	Land south of West Grove, Bishop Thornton	8	The site is located approximately 6.6km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 18.6km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL1046	Low Farm, Goldsborough	9	The site is located approximately 21.7km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 5.9km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL3042	Land adjacent A168, Kirk Deighton	11	The site is located approximately 22.1km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 0.37km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from the North Pennine Moor SPA / SAC, but it is 370m from the Kirk Deighton SAC. It is however directly on the other side of the village, which would act as an effective buffer. Should this site be developed it is not considered that it affects the SAC or the Great Crested Newts. The limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL3025	Land west of Pennymead Cottage, Scotton	10	The site is located approximately 13.9km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 11.5km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL3026	Land east of Pennymead Cottage, Scotton	5	The site is located approximately 13.9km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 11.5km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.

RL3035	Land north of Manor Drive, Scotton	12	The site is located approximately 13.9km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 11.7km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL1145	Land adjacent to primary school, Sicklinghall	6	The site is located approximately 17.7km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 4.7km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL2017a	Land at Longlands Lane, Sicklinghall	9	The site is located approximately 18.3km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 4km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL1113(1)	Land between Minskip Road and Low Field Lane, Staveley	9	The site is located approximately 16.4km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 13km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
B11(1)	Riverside Sawmills, Boroughbridge	83	The site is located approximately 18.1km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 16.7km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
B18a	Land east of railway, Brickyard Lane, Boroughbridge	Employment	The site is located approximately 17.6km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 15.8km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC. The development of the site as employment land will not affect any SPA or SAC.
RL1064b	Land south of Branton Lane, Great Ouseburn	56	The site is located approximately 23.8km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 12.7km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL3039	Land at West Field and	113	The site is located approximately 27km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and

	Bernard Lane, Green Hammerton		8.8km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL14a	Land north of Southfield Lane, Tockwith	96	The site is located approximately 28.5km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 7.2km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL3043	Land to south of Wath Bungalows and The Bungalow, Cundall	5	The site is located approximately 21.2km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 22.5km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL1153	Land to south of Topcliffe Road, Dishforth	9	The site is located approximately 17.8km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 20.8km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL3045	Land north of The Grange, Kirby Hill	8	The site is located approximately 17.3km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 18.3km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL29a	Land at Long Marston	10	The site is located approximately 32km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 10.2km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.
RL3044	Land opposite Prospect Terrace, Minskip	8	The site is located approximately 17.6km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 14.9km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and the limited population increase from the site will not lead to any undue increase in people visiting the SAC / SPAs, or have any direct effect on the habitats within the SAC / SPAs themselves.

Urban Sites

The sites within and adjacent to the Group A settlements of Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon include sites of varying scale from small sites, to 1000+ house urban extensions. The sites in Harrogate and Knaresborough have been put forward in various option packages. These are:

- Option 1 – Harrogate. All sites except H32(2), H3021 and H3(1).
- Option 2 – Harrogate. All sites except H3008.
- Option 1 -Knaresborough. All sites except K2b(2).
- Option 2 – Knaresborough. All sites except K2b.

As such, not all of the sites currently identified as ‘preferred options’ for urban extensions will be put forward for inclusion in the final part. It should also be noted that all of the ‘preferred option’ sites are still at the consultation stage, at it is likely that not all will be included in the final plan.

None of the urban preferred option sites are within or immediately adjacent to an SPA or SAC, and none are within 5km. It is not considered that the development of sites, either individually or cumulatively, will result in any significant effects on any Natura 2000 site.

Urban Sites Harrogate			
Site Reference	Location	No. of Houses	Reason for no significant effect on SAC / SPA
H4a(1)	Bilton Triangle, N of Granby Farm	49	The site is located approximately 14.3km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 10km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.
H29(1)	Land at Kingsley Road	27	The site is located approximately 14.3km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 10km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.
H102(1)	Kingsley Farm, Bilton Triangle	103	The site is located approximately 14.7km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 9.6km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.

H107a	Station Parade & Copthall Bridge House, Harrogate	Mixed Use	The site is located approximately 13.3km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 10.4km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.
H400	Land S of Bogs Lane	74	The site is located approximately 15.7km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 9.3km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.
H1012a	Knapping Mount, Harrogate	52	The site is located approximately 13.1km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 10.9km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.
H2002	Harrogate Police Station, Harrogate	24	The site is located approximately 13.5km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 10.1km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.
H18	Land N of Eastville Cottage, Ripon Road	14	The site is located approximately 12.6km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 12.3km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is a small site immediately adjacent to the built up area.
H25	Land at Harlow Hill, E of Crag Lane	122	The site is located approximately 10.9km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 11.7km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is immediately adjacent to the built up area.
H104	Land at Cornwall Road	38	The site is located approximately 11.6km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 11.4km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.
H105(1)	Land West of Harlow Moor Road	51	The site is located approximately 11.3km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 11.4km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.
H1023	Spa Tennis Club, Kent	13	The site is located approximately 12.4km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC,

	Drive, Harrogate		and 11km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.
H1004	Harrogate College, Hornbeam Park	Employment	The site is located approximately 13.3km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 9km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.
H27a	Land to South of Cardale Park	Employment	The site is located approximately 10.5km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 11.6km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.
H39	B.T. Training Centre St. George's Walk	90	The site is located approximately 12.6km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 10.1km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.
H1022	Harrogate Racquets Club, Firs Rd	17	The site is located approximately 12.7km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 9.5km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.
H3003	Land at Firs Grove, Harrogate	47	The site is located approximately 12.6km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 9.4km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.
H3005	Land at Castle Hill Farm, Harrogate	41	The site is located approximately 10.9km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 11km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.
H3008	Extension at Cardale Park	1898	The site is located approximately 10.2km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 12km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. This is one of the options for a large urban extension to Harrogate, and is the largest individual site proposed. Given its distance from any SAC and SPA, and its siting on the edge of the built up area of Harrogate, the development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them.
H3021	Land North of Skipton Road, Harrogate	432	The site is located approximately 11.8km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 13km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. This is one of the options for a large urban extension to Harrogate, and is the largest individual site proposed. Given its distance from any SAC and SPA, and its siting on the

			edge of the built up area of Harrogate, the development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them.
H3(1)	Land North of Penny Pot Lane	500	The site is located approximately 10.4km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 13.2km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. This is one of the options for a large urban extension to Harrogate, and is the largest individual site proposed. Given its distance from any SAC and SPA, and its siting on the edge of the built up area of Harrogate, the development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them.
Knaresborough			
Site Reference	Location	No. of Houses	Reason for no significant effect on SAC / SPA
K2b or K2b(2)	Manse Farm	700 or 900	The site is located approximately 18.7km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 7.3km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. This is one of the options for a large urban extension to Harrogate, and is the largest individual site proposed. Given its distance from any SAC and SPA, and its siting on the edge of the built up area of Harrogate, the development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them.
K9(1)	South of Bar Lane & north of Hazelheads Lane	23	The site is located approximately 17km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 9km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.
K16	Former Cattle Market, Stockwell Road	Mixed use	The site is located approximately 18km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 8km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.
K18	Former Timber Yard, Hambleton Road	10	The site is located approximately 18km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 8km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.

Ripon			
Site Reference	Location	No. of Houses	Reason for no significant effect on SAC / SPA
R7	Springfield Close Farm	20	The site is located approximately 9km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 24km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.
R10	Land at Ripon Auction Mart, North Road	79	The site is located approximately 10km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 23km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.
R17	Old Goods Yard, Hutton Bank, Ripon	44	The site is located approximately 10km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 24km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.
R23	Red House, Palace Road	20	The site is located approximately 10 km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 23km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.
R42a	Land off Tower Road	30	The site is located approximately 10km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 23km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.
R3005	The Cathedral Choir School	107	The site is located approximately 9km from the nearest part of North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and 22km from the Kirk Deighton SAC. The development of the site will not lead to any significant impacts on the SAC / SPAs or the reasons for designating them. The site is a considerable distance from any SPA or SAC and is confined within a built up area.

Appendix 2:

Screening Matrix for North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA.

<p>Name, location and summary of conservation objectives of Natura 2000 site</p>	<p>North Pennine Moors SPA</p> <p>The North Pennine Moors SPA is composed of large areas of bog, semi natural heather moorland and upland grasslands, and stretches from Haltwhistle and Hexham in the north to Skipton and Harrogate in the south. The site encompasses the North Pennine Moors SAC and Moor House SPA, which are both subject to separate classifications, and lies 10km north of the South Pennine Moors SPA. This site has been designated as SPA as it supports important breeding populations of birds listed on the Annex I EU Birds Directive.</p> <p>Conservation Objectives:</p> <p>The conservation objectives for the site are, in accordance of the reasons for which the SPA designation was designated, to maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the breeding populations of Annex I species of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>• Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>• Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>• Peregrine Falco peregrinus• Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>• Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina achinzip</i> <p>With particular reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upland Moorland• Upland Pasture <p>North Pennine Moors SAC</p> <p>This series of upland moorland sites, straddling the Cumbrian, Durham, North Yorkshire and Northumberland borders, have been designated as SAC due to diverse range of Annex I habitats found here. These include blanket bog, petrifying springs with tufa formations, European dry heath, juniper scrub, sessile oak woods, and acidic rock</p>
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formations.

Although not a primary reason for selection of this as an SAC, the North Pennine Moors also supports a range of other Annex I habitats. These include Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*, Calaminarian grasslands of the *Violetalia calaminariae*, Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands, semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates *Festuco-Brometalia*, Alkine fens, Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels *Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani* and Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation. The Annex II species Marsh saxifrage *saxifrage hirculus* is also found here.

Conservation Objectives:

The conservation objectives for the site are, in accordance of the reasons for which the SAC designation was designated, to maintain* in favourable condition, the:

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

* maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

The assessment of potential significant effects

Nature of Potential Impact.	How the Development Control Policies DPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the European site.	Why these effects are not considered significant.
Land taken by development	<p>The Sites and Policies DPD does not seek to allocate any land with the SPA / SAC.</p> <p>No other plans that proposed development would take land from this site.</p>	<p>There are no policies or allocations in the proposed DPD that would directly affect the site.</p>
Impact on protected species outside of the site.	<p>The North Pennine Moors SPA / SAC is home to a large and varied array of species. Many of these are birds that have the potential to migrate from the site, both seasonally and when searching for food.</p> <p>However, Policy EQ2 of the adopted Core Strategy gives significant protection to wildlife protection in the District, as well as the statutory protection afforded to the SPA / SAC. This policy, in conjunction with the Districts Biodiversity Action Plan seeks to increase wildlife habitats and species.</p> <p>Proposed Policy EQ6: Area Based Natural Assets on the proposed Sites and Policies DPD states “Proposals for development likely to have an adverse effect on sites of biodiversity or geodiversity interest will not be permitted”.</p>	<p>Only 12 land allocations are within 5km of the site, and these are all relatively small. The largest of these is site P3a for 75 houses in Pateley Bridge. Given the relatively small number of houses, it is not considered that these would result in any significant effects to SPA / SAC or the species within it.</p> <p>Given the remoteness of the North Pennine Moors and the settlement hierarchy set out in the Core Strategy, it is very unlikely that any other ‘windfall’ sites will come forward closer to the SPA / SAC.</p> <p>All of the major ‘urban extension’ sites for Harrogate and Knaresborough where the majority of new housing will be located are over 10km from the site.</p>

<p>Recreational pressure and disturbance</p> <p>Recreational pressure is recognised as one of the vulnerabilities of the site, especially from cyclists and horse riders.</p>	<p>Proposed Policy JB9: Sustainable Holiday Tourism of the Sites and Policies DPD sets a number of criteria how applications involving the development of tourism and leisure facilities will be dealt with. Amongst these, the policy states development must “ maintain or enhance the high quality of the District’s built and natural environment in line with Policies EQ4 and EQ6”.</p> <p>Natural England has suggested adding some wording to the justification of this policy to increase its robustness in relation to SACs and SPAs.</p> <p>Policy EQ2 of the adopted Core Strategy gives significant protection to wildlife protection in the District, as well as the statutory protection afforded to the SPA / SAC. This policy reiterates the requirement for an ‘appropriate assessment’ under the European Habitats Directive for any development that would have a significant negative impact on an SAC or SPA.</p> <p>Proposed Policy EQ6: Area Based Natural Assets on the proposed Sites and Policies DPD states “Proposals for development likely to have an adverse effect on sites of biodiversity or geodiversity interest will not be permitted”.</p>	<p>It is unlikely that any of the proposed allocation sites will lead to significant pressure on the North Pennine Moors SPA / SAC. The numbers of houses proposed and these outline distribution is given in Policy SG1 of the adopted Core Strategy.</p> <p>The sites identified in proposed Policies SG6, HLP6 and JB5 of the Sites and Policies DPD are a considerable distance away from the North Pennine Moors, and are unlikely to significantly increase visitor numbers.</p>
<p>Water quantity and quality</p>	<p>In the last updates to the The Swale, Ure, Nidd and Ouse Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS), and the Wharfe and Lower Ouse Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy in 2008, the Environment Agency have not identified any issues with water availability, with new abstractions capable of being considered. The original CAMS from 2004 and</p>	<p>The CAMS by the Environment Agency suggests that water abstraction should not have a significant effect on the site, however there is uncertainty about whether the Environment Agency has predicted for the increased housing numbers proposed in the area by the various local</p>

	<p>2005 respectively stated that the site was not suffering from over abstraction.</p> <p>Adopted Core Strategy Policy EQ1 states all new development “should seek to minimise.... energy and water consumption”. The policy also requires all new houses built between 2011 and 2016 to meet Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4, those after 2016 Code Level 6, and all new build non-residential development to meet the BREEAM ‘very good’ standard. These requirements result in significant savings in water usage, as well as water quality as surface run off is reduced.</p> <p>Proposed Policy SG9: Flood Risk and Sustainable Drainage requires new development to ensure that there is no net increase in surface run off from a site, and gives priority to the incorporation of SUDS.</p>	<p>authorities (Leeds, Bradford, York, Craven, Hambleton, Yorkshire Dales NP, Richnomdshire).</p> <p>In terms of water quality, the Environment Agency has not identified any problems with water quality. Given that the site is an upland area, and the whole of the Harrogate District is ‘downstream’ of it, the water quality in upland areas is unlikely to be affected.</p>
<p>Changes in pollution levels.</p>	<p>Adopted Core Strategy Policy EQ1 states all new development “should seek to minimise.... energy and water consumption, and car use”. The policy also requires all new houses built between 2011 and 2016 to meet Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4, those after 2016 Code Level 6, and all new build non-residential development to meet the BREEAM ‘very good’ standard. These requirements will reduce pollutants from new buildings.</p>	<p>Unlikely, as the effects of air pollution on vegetation (such as nitrogen deposition) tend to occur within 200m of the pollution source.</p>
<p>Overall Conclusions</p>		
<p>The Development Control Policies DPD, alone and in combination with other DPDs in the LDF and other relevant plans, was assessed for its impact on North Pennine Moors SPA / SAC and it was concluded that there are no likely significant effects on the conservation objectives of the site.</p>		

Appendix 3

Screening Matrix for Kirk Deighton SAC

Name, location and summary of conservation objectives of Natura 2000 site	<p>Kirk Deighton SAC</p> <p>This habitat contains shallow ponds surrounded by sheep grazed pasture and hedgerows and supports one of the largest known breeding populations of Great Crested Newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>) in the UK. The main breeding pond, which is set in a depression, has a widely fluctuating water level, and this sometimes leads to pond desiccation. As a result, there is relatively little aquatic vegetation but egg-laying occurs and recruitment is successful intermittently; however, a large population is present, demonstrating this species' ability to thrive in temporary pond sites. <i>Triturus cristatus</i> are the largest native British newt and are an Annex II species. Populations are thought to have declined dramatically throughout the species' European range, and the aim is to protect the wide range of habitat types used by the species.</p> <p>Conservation Objectives: The conservation objectives for the site are, in accordance of the reasons for which the SAC designation was designated, to maintain*, in favourable condition, the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Habitats for the population of Great Crested Newts (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>) <p><i>* maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.</i></p>
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The assessment of potential significant effects

Nature of Potential Impact.	How the Development Control Policies DPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the European site.	Why these effects are not considered significant.
Land taken by development	<p>The Sites and Policies DPD does not seek to allocate any land with the SPA / SAC.</p> <p>No other plans that proposed development would take land from this site.</p>	<p>There are no policies or allocations in the proposed DPD that would directly affect the site.</p>
Impact on protected species outside of the site.	<p>Great Crested Newts can migrate up to 1km from a breeding site, however man made structures such as roads and buildings can act as barriers.</p> <p>Natural England (then English Nature) have identified the outside of the SAC and this land is unaffected by any proposed land allocation or policy.</p>	<p>Only one site is in closer proximity to the site. This site RL3042 for 11 houses. Despite being within 370m of the SAC, the proposed housing site is outside the identified key terrestrial habitats, and the many built form of the village lies between the site and the SAC.</p>
Recreational pressure and disturbance	<p>This is a small SAC that is not pressured by recreation. The site is in private ownership, and there is no public access.</p> <p>Policy EQ2 of the adopted Core Strategy gives significant protection to wildlife protection in the District, as well as the statutory protection afforded to the SPA / SAC. This policy reiterates the requirement for an 'appropriate assessment' under the European Habitats Direction for any development that would have a significant negative impact on an SAC or SPA.</p> <p>Proposed Policy EQ6: Area Based Natural Assets on the</p>	<p>This is a small SAC that is not pressured by recreation. The site is in private ownership, and there is no public access.</p>

	<p>proposed Sites and Policies DPD states “Proposals for development likely to have an adverse effect on sites of biodiversity or geodiversity interest will not be permitted”.</p>	
<p>Water quantity and quality</p>	<p>The ponds at the Kirk Deighton SAC are ephemera, and this is identified as a vulnerability.</p> <p>SACs are afforded protection from the impacts of abstraction through the licence determination procedure where local impacts and potential abstractions are assessed. Where abstraction is already deemed by the Agency to be having a detrimental impact on the environment, this will be investigated through the Restoring Sustainable Abstraction programme.</p> <p>In the last updates to the The Swale, Ure, Nidd and Ouse Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS), and the Wharfe and Lower Ouse Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy in 2008, the Environment Agency have not identified any issues with water availability, with new abstractions capable of being considered. The original CAMS from 2004 and 2005 respectively stated that the site was not suffering from over abstraction.</p> <p>Adopted Core Strategy Policy EQ1 states all new development “should seek to minimise.... energy and water consumption”. The policy also requires all new houses built between 2011 and</p>	<p>The CAMS by the Environment Agency suggests that water abstraction should not have a significant effect on the site, however there is uncertainty about whether the Environment Agency has predicted for the increased housing numbers proposed in the area by the various local authorities (Leeds, Bradford, York, Craven, Hambleton, Yorkshire Dales NP, Richnomdshire).</p> <p>In terms of water quality, the Environment Agency has not identified any problems with water quality.</p>

	<p>2016 to meet Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4, those after 2016 Code Level 6, and all new build non-residential development to meet the BREEAM 'very good' standard. These requirements result in significant savings in water usage, as well as water quality as surface run off is reduced.</p> <p>Proposed Policy SG9: Flood Risk and Sustainable Drainage requires new development to ensure that there is no net increase in surface run off from a site, and gives priority to the incorporation of SUDS.</p>	
<p>Changes in pollution levels.</p>	<p>Adopted Core Strategy Policy EQ1 states all new development "should seek to minimise.... energy and water consumption, and car use". The policy also requires all new houses built between 2011 and 2016 to meet Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4, those after 2016 Code Level 6, and all new build non-residential development to meet the BREEAM 'very good' standard. These requirements will reduce pollutants from new buildings.</p>	<p>Unlikely, as the effects of air pollution on vegetation (such as nitrogen deposition) tend to occur within 200m of the pollution source.</p>
<p>Overall Conclusions</p>		
<p>The Development Control Policies DPD, alone and in combination with other DPDs in the LDF and other relevant plans, was assessed for its impact on the Kirk Deighton SAC and it was concluded that there are no likely significant effects on the conservation objectives of the site.</p>		

Appendix 4:

Screening Matrix for Craven Limestone Complex SAC.

<p>Name, location and summary of conservation objectives of Natura 2000 site</p>	<p>Craven Limestone Complex SAC</p> <p>The Craven Limestone Complex is of great geological and biological interest, and has been selected as a site for an SAC for a large variety of habitats and species that are on an Annex I and Annex II qualifying feature. A key feature of this site is the complex mosaic of habitats that occur here. These include Malham Tarn, raised bog, fens, calcareous grassland and limestone pavement.</p> <p>Conservation Objectives:</p> <p>The conservation objectives for the site are, in accordance of the reasons for which the SAC designation was designated, to maintain*, in favourable condition, the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp• Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometialia</i>)• <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laded soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)• Active raised bogs (priority feature)• Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) (priority feature)• Alkaline fens• Limestone pavements (priority features) <p>In favourable condition, the habitats of the population of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>)• Bullhead (<i>Cottus gobio</i>)• Lady's Slipper orchid (<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>) <p>* <i>maintain implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.</i></p>
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The assessment of potential significant effects

Nature of Potential Impact.	How the Development Control Policies DPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the European site.	Why these effects are not considered significant.
Land taken by development	<p>The site lies wholly outside of the Harrogate District, and the proposed Sites and Policies DPD does not seek to allocate any land with the SAC.</p> <p>No other plans that proposed development would take land from this site.</p>	<p>There are no policies or allocations in the proposed DPD that would directly affect the site.</p>
Impact on protected species outside of the site.	<p>The Craven Limestone Complex SAC is home to a large and varied array of species. Many of these are birds that have the potential to migrate from the site, both seasonally and when searching for food.</p> <p>However, Policy EQ2 of the adopted Core Strategy gives significant protection to wildlife protection in the District, as well as the statutory protection afforded to the SAC. This policy, in conjunction with the Districts Biodiversity Action Plan seeks to increase wildlife habitats and species.</p> <p>Proposed Policy EQ6: Area Based Natural Assets on the proposed Sites and Policies DPD states “Proposals for development likely to have an adverse effect on sites of biodiversity or geodiversity interest will not be permitted”.</p>	<p>The site lies wholly outside of the Harrogate District and there are no development sites close to it.</p>
Recreational pressure and disturbance	<p>Recreational pressure is recognised as one of the vulnerabilities of the site, especially from cyclists and horse riders.</p>	<p>It is unlikely that any of the proposed allocation sites will lead to significant pressure on the Craven Limestone Complex SAC. The numbers of</p>

	<p>Policy EQ2 of the adopted Core Strategy gives significant protection to wildlife protection in the District, as well as the statutory protection afforded to the SPA / SAC. This policy reiterates the requirement for an ‘appropriate assessment’ under the European Habitats Directive for any development that would have a significant negative impact on an SAC or SPA.</p> <p>Proposed Policy EQ6: Area Based Natural Assets on the proposed Sites and Policies DPD states “Proposals for development likely to have an adverse effect on sites of biodiversity or geodiversity interest will not be permitted”.</p>	<p>houses proposed and the outline distribution is given in Policy SG1 of the adopted Core Strategy.</p> <p>The sites identified in proposed Policies SG6, HLP6 and JB5 of the Sites and Policies DPD are a considerable distance away from the Craven Limestone Complex SAC and are unlikely to significantly increase visitor numbers.</p>
<p>Water quantity and quality</p>	<p>In the last updates to the The Swale, Ure, Nidd and Ouse Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS), and the Wharfe and Lower Ouse Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy in 2008, the Environment Agency have not identified any issues with water availability, with new abstractions capable of being considered. The original CAMS from 2004 and 2005 respectively stated that the site was not suffering from over abstraction.</p> <p>Adopted Core Strategy Policy EQ1 states all new development “should seek to minimise.... energy and water consumption”. The policy also requires all new houses built between 2011 and 2016 to meet Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4, those after 2016 Code Level 6, and all new build non-residential development to meet the BREEAM ‘very good’ standard. These requirements result in significant savings in water usage, as well as water quality as surface run off is reduced.</p>	<p>The CAMS by the Environment Agency suggests that water abstraction should not have a significant effect on the site, however there is uncertainty about whether the Environment Agency has predicted for the increased housing numbers proposed in the area by the various local authorities (Leeds, Bradford, York, Craven, Hambleton, Yorkshire Dales NP, Richmondshire).</p> <p>In terms of water quality, the Environment Agency has not identified any problems with water quality. Given that the site is an upland area, and the whole of the Harrogate District is ‘downstream’ of it, the water quality in upland areas is unlikely to be affected.</p>

	Proposed Policy SG9: Flood Risk and Sustainable Drainage requires new development to ensure that there is no net increase in surface run off from a site, and gives priority to the incorporation of SUDS.	
Changes in pollution levels.	Adopted Core Strategy Policy EQ1 states all new development “should seek to minimise.... energy and water consumption, and car use”. The policy also requires all new houses built between 2011 and 2016 to meet Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4, those after 2016 Code Level 6, and all new build non-residential development to meet the BREEAM ‘very good’ standard. These requirements will reduce pollutants from new buildings.	Unlikely, as the effects of air pollution on vegetation (such as nitrogen deposition) tend to occur within 200m of the pollution source.
Overall Conclusions		
The Development Control Policies DPD, alone and in combination with other DPDs in the LDF and other relevant plans, was assessed for its impact on the Craven Limestone Complex SAC and it was concluded that there are no likely significant effects on the conservation objectives of the site.		

Appendix 5:

Screening Matrix for the Humber Estuary SPA / SAC.

<p>Name, location and summary of conservation objectives of Natura 2000 site</p>	<p>Humber Estuary SPA</p> <p>Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast SPA is located on the east coast of England, and comprises extensive wetland and coastal habitats within the Humber Estuary. It has the second-highest tidal range in Britain (7.2 m) and approximately one-third of the estuary is exposed as mudor sand-flats at low tide. The inner estuary supports extensive areas of reedbed and mature saltmarsh backed by grazing marsh in the middle and outer estuary. The site has been designated as an SAC as it supports breeding and migratory populations of a number of species listed on the Annex I Birds Directive.</p> <p>Conservation Objectives:</p> <p>The Conservation objectives for the site are, in accordance of the reasons for which the SPA designation was designated, to maintain*, in favourable condition:</p> <p>the habitats for the populations of the breeding Annex I bird species, with particular reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>• Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> <p>the habitats for the populations of the migratory Annex I bird species, with particular reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>• Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>• Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>• Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> <p>the habitats for the populations of the migratory bird species of European importance, with particular reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>• Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>• Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>• Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>• Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> <p>And to maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of birds that contribute to the breeding and migratory wetland bird assemblage of European importance.</p> <p>* maintain implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition</p>
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The assessment of potential significant effects
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Nature of Potential Impact.	How the Development Control Policies DPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the European site.	Why these effects are not considered significant.
Land taken by development	<p>The SPA lies wholly outside of the Harrogate District and the proposed Sites and Policies DPD does not seek to allocate any land with the SPA.</p> <p>No other plans that proposed development would take land from this site.</p>	There are no policies or allocations in the proposed DPD that would directly affect the site.
Impact on protected species outside of the site.	<p>The Humber Estuary SPA is home to a large and varied array of species. Many of these are birds that have the potential to migrate from the site, both seasonally and when searching for food.</p> <p>However, Policy EQ2 of the adopted Core Strategy gives significant protection to wildlife protection in the District, as well as the statutory protection afforded to the SPA. This policy, in conjunction with the Districts Biodiversity Action Plan seeks to increase wildlife habitats and species.</p> <p>Proposed Policy EQ6: Area Based Natural Assets on the</p>	<p>The SPA is wholly outside of the Harrogate District, and is a considerable distance from it. None of the sites or policies proposed will affect the SPA or any of its species.</p>

	<p>proposed Sites and Policies DPD states “Proposals for development likely to have an adverse effect on sites of biodiversity or geodiversity interest will not be permitted”.</p>	
<p>Recreational pressure and disturbance</p>	<p>Recreational pressure is not recognised as one of the vulnerabilities of the site. Given the tidal nature of the site, recreation opportunities are limited.</p> <p>Policy EQ2 of the adopted Core Strategy gives significant protection to wildlife protection in the District, as well as the statutory protection afforded to the SPA / SAC. This policy reiterates the requirement for an ‘appropriate assessment’ under the European Habitats Directive for any development that would have a significant negative impact on an SAC or SPA.</p> <p>Proposed Policy EQ6: Area Based Natural Assets on the proposed Sites and Policies DPD states “Proposals for development likely to have an adverse effect on sites of biodiversity or geodiversity interest will not be permitted”.</p>	<p>It is unlikely that any of the proposed allocation sites will lead to significant pressure on the Humber Estuary SPA. The numbers of houses proposed and the outline distribution is given in Policy SG1 of the adopted Core Strategy.</p> <p>The sites identified in proposed Policies SG6, HLP6 and JB5 of the Sites and Policies DPD are a considerable distance away from Humber Estuary SPA, and are unlikely to significantly increase visitor numbers.</p>
<p>Water quantity and quality</p>	<p>As the Humber Estuary is tidal, water quantity is not a significant issue.</p> <p>It does however lie downstream of the Harrogate District, and all of the rivers in the District eventually lead to the Humber.</p> <p>Adopted Core Strategy Policy EQ1 states all new development “should seek to minimise.... energy and water consumption”.</p>	<p>In terms of water quality, the Environment Agency has not identified any problems with water quality in the Harrogate District. Given the planning policies in place, it is not considered that any of the proposed allocations or policies will lead to any impacts in water quality of the Humber Estuary SPA.</p>

	<p>The policy also requires all new houses built between 2011 and 2016 to meet Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4, those after 2016 Code Level 6, and all new build non-residential development to meet the BREEAM 'very good' standard. These requirements result in significant savings in water usage, as well as water quality as surface run off is reduced.</p> <p>Proposed Policy SG9: Flood Risk and Sustainable Drainage requires new development to ensure that there is no net increase in surface run off from a site, and gives priority to the incorporation of SUDS.</p>	
<p>Changes in pollution levels.</p>	<p>Adopted Core Strategy Policy EQ1 states all new development "should seek to minimise.... energy and water consumption, and car use". The policy also requires all new houses built between 2011 and 2016 to meet Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4, those after 2016 Code Level 6, and all new build non-residential development to meet the BREEAM 'very good' standard. These requirements will reduce pollutants from new buildings.</p>	<p>Unlikely, as the effects of air pollution on vegetation (such as nitrogen deposition) tend to occur within 200m of the pollution source.</p>
<p>Overall Conclusions</p>		
<p>The Development Control Policies DPD, alone and in combination with other DPDs in the LDF and other relevant plans, was assessed for its impact on the Humber Estuary SPA and it was concluded that there are no likely significant effects on the conservation objectives of the site.</p>		

MINTUES OF MEETING WITH NATURAL ENGLAND REGARDING HABITATS REGULATIONS

Date:	18 May 2011 (1.00 – 2.00pm)	
Venue:	Interview Room One, Knapping Mount	
Attendees:	Zoë Buddle – Natural England (ZB) Andrew Darby (AD) Emma Seldon (ES)	Circulation: Planning Policy
1.0	<i>Habitats Regulations in relation to Preferred Option Sites</i>	
1.1	AD outlined the Council’s proposals in relation to preferred option sites and brought to ZB attention two sites that are situated close to Natura 2000 sites; site RL3046 at Lofthouse is close to the North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA, and site RL3042 is close to the Kirk Deighton SAC. AD advised both sites were proposed for small-scale 100% affordable homes, but also advised that larger sites were being proposed at Pateley Bridge.	
1.2	Site RL3042 at Kirk Deighton is situated close to a SAC for newts, but the village proper sits between the SAC and the site. ZB thought there would be no specific issues where the SAC is concerned, but thought that the methodology for site selection should make reference to the SAC.	
1.3	Site RL3046 at Lofthouse; again ZB had no major concerns with the site on its own, but the in-combination factors with other sites in the area may create problems, particularly in regards to the recreational impact on the North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA.	
2.0	<i>Habitats Regulations in relation Settlement Growth Policies</i>	
2.1	AD gave a broad overview of the Council’s position in relation to the drafting of policy wording for the Sites and Policies DPD. AD and ZB went through each policy in turn to flag up any concerns Natural England may have.	
2.2	Policy SG6 Sites for Settlement Growth: AD advised there were no specific references to Nature Conservation in the wording of the policy, or reference to ‘greenfield’ due to the fact that most sites in the District are greenfield. ZB advised that they would like to see reference to protected species in the policy and how they would be managed within any development.	
2.3	Policies SG7 Type and Mix of New Market Homes, SG8 Development Limits and Replacement Dwellings, SG9 Flood Risk and Sustainable Drainage, SG10 Unstable Land: ZB had no issues with the wording of any of these policies.	
3.0	<i>Habitats Regulations in relation Homes for Local People Policies</i>	

3.1	Policy HLP6 Rural Exception Sites: Again ZB thought that reference should be made to Protected Species in a similar way to that proposed for SG6.
3.2	Policy HLP7 Affordable Housing: ZB had nothing to add to the policy wording.
4.0	<i>Habitats Regulations in relation Jobs and Businesses Policies</i>
4.1	Policy JB5 Sites for New Jobs: AD advised that the only allocated site near a SPA/SAC is mixed use site P3001 at Pateley Bridge, and that the site is a small-scale brownfield site in the centre of the town. ZB advised that again reference to Protected Species is the only amendment they would like to see made.
4.2	Policies JB6 Existing Employment Sites, JB7 Town and Local Centres, JB8 Hotel Protection; ZB had nothing to add to the policy wording.
4.3	Policy JB9 Sustainable Holiday Tourism: AD advised that the policy wording cross refers to policies EQ4 and EQ6 that in turn refer to SPAs and SACs, but asked if Natural England would like something more specific. ZB thought more specific wording to Habitat Regulations was needed, and she will provide some text. AD flagged up the potential issue of camping, but ZB said there were no concerns from Natural England.
5.0	<i>Habitats Regulations in relation Travel Policies</i>
5.1	Policies TRA4 Air Quality Management, TRA5 Parking Provision; ZB had nothing to add to policy wording.
6.0	<i>Habitats Regulations in relation Environment and Quality of Life Policies</i>
6.1	Policies EQ3 The Green Belt, EQ4 Designated Heritage Assets, EQ5 Local Distinctiveness; ZB had nothing to add to the policy wording.
6.2	Policy EQ6 Area Based Natural Assets: ZB said Natural England would like to see wording added regarding Habitat Regulations to link with the process that has to take place.
6.3	Policy EQ7 Landscape Protection: ZB had nothing to add to policy wording.
7.0	<i>Habitats Regulations in relation Communities Policies</i>
7.1	Policy C4 New Sports and Open Space: AD advised that most of this provision will come within the allocated sites. ZB thought that the wording needs to cover SACs and SPAs and should cross-refer to relevant EQ policies.
7.2	Policy C5 Existing Sports and Open Spaces, C6 Protection of Community Facilities, C7 New Community Facilities: ZB had nothing to add to policy wording.

7.3	Policy C8 Gypsies and Travellers: At the moment ZB had nothing to add to the policy, but asked that any changes to the wording be passed on to Natural England if it is deemed to be significant.
8.0	<i>Habitats Regulations in relation to Infrastructure Policies</i>
8.1	Policy IN1 Infrastructure Delivery: Policy wording doesn't currently mention SAC and SPA, as much of what the policy deals with is outside of planning controls. ZB will look at in more detail and come back to us if there is a need for Habitat Regulations to be referenced.
8.2	Policy IN2 Green Infrastructure: ZB suggested that a definition of Green Infrastructure might be worthwhile within the pretext of the policy.
8.3	Policy IN3 Protection of Sites and Routes for Transport Infrastructure: Similar situation to Policy IN1 and ZB to come back to us if there is a need for Habitats Regulations to be referenced.
8.4	Policy IN4 Central Areas: Natural England had no specific issues with the policy, but suggested it might be worthwhile mentioning Green Infrastructure within the policy.
9.0	<i>Low Carbon & Renewable Energy SPD</i>
9.1	AD advised that work is progressing on the Low Carbon & Renewable Energy SPD and that it will make reference to Habitat Regulations in the introduction. ZB agreed with this approach and suggested there should also be additional wording to cover protected species. Natural England could provide some standard wording.
10.0	<i>AOB</i>
10.1	ZB asked when the Habitat Regulations would be going out to consultation. AD advised he thought it would be September 2011. ZB can provide greater and more up to date guidance on how consult.
10.2	ZB advised that all sites and policies to be screened singularly and in combination. AD to create a spreadsheet of sites and policies to flag up where there might be 'in-combination' issues. ZB advised that mitigation measures and caveats might be used to address some of those issues.
10.3	ZB enquired as to the progress on the Council's Sustainability Appraisal, AD advised that most had now been completed, or were in the latter stages of being completed. ZB advised on the links between the Sustainability Appraisal and the Habitat Regulations and to make sure they correspond.