



Sustainability Appraisal

Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD

September 2011

PLANNING DIVISION
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Harrogate
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Working for you

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Appendix 4: Appraisal of the Draft SPD		
SA Objective	Performance	Commentary
1. Quality housing available to everyone		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it make housing available to people in need? 	N/A	Site size would allow the council to negotiate an element of affordable housing under current policy
	N/A	Site size will be capable of delivering a significant amount of affordable housing (30+)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve energy efficiency in housing? Will it increase the use of sustainable building practices? 	✓✓	The SPD actively encourages the uptake of renewable and low carbon energy technologies in individual homes, and outlines how they can be incorporated, whilst minimising any negative effects. The SPD also emphasises the importance of energy efficiency measures.
2. Conditions and services to engender good health		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it promote positive health and prevent ill health? Will it encourage healthy lifestyles? Will it address health inequalities 	N/A	The increased uptake of renewable and low carbon energy technologies has the potential to reduce pollution levels, but any direct effects on health are difficult to quantify.
3. Safety and security for people and property		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it reduce crime and disorder through design measures? Will it reduce fear of crime? 	N/A	The SPD will not impact on crime levels or the fear of crime.
4. Vibrant communities which participate in decision making		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it reduce the potential for social isolation with particular regard to disadvantaged groups? 	N/A	The SPD will not have any effect on issues regarding social isolation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve and increase community facilities? 	✓	The incorporation of renewable and local carbon energy technologies in existing or future community facilities has the potential to lower running costs, and possibly become a revenue stream via the 'Feed In Tariff'.
5. Culture, leisure and recreation activities available to all		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it increase availability and accessibility of culture/leisure/recreation activities/venues? Will it preserve, promote and enhance culture in the District? 	N/A	The SPD will have no impact on availability and accessibility of culture/leisure/recreation activities/venues.
	N/A	The SPD will not have any impact in culture in the District.
6. Local needs met locally		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it ensure that everyone has access to essential services & resources within reasonable non car based travelling distance? 	N/A	The SPD will not affect the availability of local resources.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it provide appropriate housing for local needs? 	N/A	The SPD will not impact on local housing needs.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Harrogate District Core Strategy was adopted by the Council 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 Policy EQ1 of the Core Strategy sets out the Councils approach to reducing risks to the environment. This approach includes minimum standards for sustainable construction and design, and sets out the Councils approach for proposals for renewable energy projects.
- 1.3 The purpose of the Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD is to build on Policy EQ1 and provide guidance relating to renewable or low carbon energy installations, mainly at the 'micro' scale. The SPD does not suggest specific areas of land, but outlines the potential planning constraints and seeks to steer development to appropriate locations and minimise any negative effects.
- 1.4 The Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is one of suite of SPDs that provide guidance for specific types of development in the Harrogate District. Other SPDs include 'Equestrian Development in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' and the 'House Extensions and Garages Design Guide'.
- 1.5 The Draft Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD can be viewed at www.harrogate.gov.uk/ldfconsult
- 1.6 Contributing to sustainable development is a key requirement of the Harrogate District LDF. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a process that appraises the social, environmental and economic effects of the strategies and policies contained within an LDF, to ensure that decisions are made in accordance with the principles of sustainable development. SA is an iterative process that identifies and reports on the likely significant effects of the plan and the extent to which implementation of the plan will achieve the social, environmental and economic objectives by which sustainable development can be defined.
- 1.7 Whilst preparing an SA for SPDs is no longer mandatory, there is a requirement to comply with the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC. This requires that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) be undertaken for plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. In accordance with Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 the Council, as the responsible authority, needs to determine whether or not the implementation of the SPD will have any significant environmental effects.
- 1.8 The screening determination can be seen in Appendix 1.

Report Structure

- 1.9 This report provides an appraisal of the Draft Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD . The report is structured as follows:

- Section 2 details the appraisal methodology and arrangements for consultation.
- Section 3 summarises the baseline information and reviews other relevant plans, programmes and objectives. This provides the SA Framework.
- Section 4: Predicting Effects. This summarises the likely effects of the SPD.

2.0 Appraisal Methodology

2.1 Table 1: Stages in the Sustainability Appraisal Process

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope	
A1.	Identification of other relevant plans and programmes that will affect or influence the Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD – this identifies how the SPD is influenced by outside factors
A2.	Collection of baseline information – this provides the basis for predicting and monitoring effects and helps to identify sustainability issues
A3.	Identification of sustainability issues – this provides an opportunity to define key issues and develop sustainable plan objectives
A4.	Development of the SA Framework – this provides the mechanism to appraise the sustainability of the SPD
A5.	Consultation on the scope of the SA – this ensures that the SA will be comprehensive and robust enough to support the SPD during later stages
Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects	
B1.	Developing the Options– Options are developed in consultation
B2.	Predicting the effects of the SPD - this ensures that all significant effects of the options being considered have been predicted
B3.	Evaluating the effects of the SPD – this allows an assessment of the significance of the predicted effects to be made
B4.	Mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects – reduces adverse effects and improves positive effects
B5.	Developing proposals for monitoring – to show how the SPD is performing in terms of sustainability objectives
Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report	
C1.	Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report – this documents the SA process
Stage D: Consulting on the Draft Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD and the SA Report	
D1.	Consulting on the SA Report and the Draft SPD – provides an opportunity for statutory bodies and the public to comment
D2.	Appraising significant changes – to ensure that the sustainability implications are understood
D3.	Decision making and providing information – provides information on how the SA process has been taken into account in preparing the SPD
Stage E : Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD	
E1.	Monitoring the significant effects of the SPD – to measure the sustainability performance and identify unforeseen adverse effects
E2.	Responding to adverse effects – to consider how to react if monitoring reveals adverse effects

Consultation and Next Steps

- 2.2 This SA report is being published for consultation alongside the draft SPD, in accordance with Stage D1. Consultation on both documents will last for a period of 8 weeks, beginning on 9th September 2011. The Consultation Bodies (English Heritage, Natural England, Environment Agency) will be consulted as part of this.
- 2.3 The findings of the SA and the consultation responses will be taken into consideration in the preparation of the final SPD, which is planned to be adopted by adopted by Harrogate Borough Council in 2012. The Council will publish all responses that are received.
- 2.4 Once the SPD has been adopted, Harrogate Borough Council will monitor its implementation.

Setting the Scope

- 2.5 The SA for the Draft Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD assesses its sustainability.

The following activities have been carried out:

- A review of relevant plans, programmes and strategies
 - Collection of baseline information in order to be able to predict and monitor the effects of the Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD.
 - Identification of the key sustainability issues
 - Development of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework, including objectives and indicators.
- 2.6 The Local Planning Authority has chosen to produce the Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD to compliment Policy EQ1 of the adopted Core Strategy. The Draft SPD does not identify suitable sites, or recommend particular technologies. It is a review of the pros and cons of different technologies, and offers guidance on the factors that influence their suitability.
- 2.7 In terms of developing and refining options, the only two options are:
- Adopt the Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD
 - Don't adopt the Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD

3.0 Establishing The Baseline And Providing A Context

Links to other strategies, plans and programmes

- 3.1 A review has been carried out of other relevant plans, programmes and objectives set out in policies and legislation, which may influence the development of the Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD. The purpose of this exercise is to;
- identify any social, environmental or economic objectives that should be reflected in the SPD
 - identify any factors that might influence the preparation of the SPD
 - consider whether the policies in other plans or programmes might lead to cumulative effects when combined with strategies and proposals of the SPD.

3.2 The following strategies, plans and programmes have been reviewed.

International & European Context

- Ramsar Convention, Ramsar Bureau 1971
- Kyoto Protocol, United Nations 1992
- Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, United Nations 2002
- EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC as amended by 97/49/EC)
- EU Habitats Directive (93/43/EEC as amended by 97/62/EC)
- EU Air Quality Directive (96/62/EC)
- EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)
- European Spatial Development Perspective (Potsdam 1999)
- EU Groundwater Directive (80/68/EEC)
- European Sustainable Development Strategy 2001 (Renewed 2006, DOC 10917/06)

National Context

- Securing the Future – UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy, CM6467 2005)
- Rural White Paper: Our Countryside: The Future: A Fair Deal for Rural England (DETR 2000)
- White Paper - Heritage Protection for the 21st Century (DCMS 2007)
- Energy White Paper: Our Energy – Creating a Low Carbon Economy (DTI 2003)
- The Historic Environment: A Force for the Future (DCMS 2001)
- PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (ODPM 2005)
- PPG2: Green Belts (DETR 1999)
- PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment (DCLG 2010)
- PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (ODPM 2004)
- PPS9: Biodiversity & Geological Conservation (ODPM 2005)
- PPG16 Archaeology and Planning (DOE 1990)
- PPS22: Renewable Energy (ODPM, 2004)
- Draft National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2011)

Local Context

- North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (NYCC, 2000)
- North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 (NYCC, March 2006)
- North Yorkshire Waste Local Plan (NYCC 2006)
- North Yorkshire Minerals Local Plan (NYCC 1997)
- Harrogate District Tourism Strategy (Harrogate BC 2000)
- Harrogate District Community Safety Strategy (Harrogate BC 2002)
- Harrogate District Community Plan (Harrogate LSP 2003)
- Harrogate District Sustainable Community Strategy (Harrogate LSP, 2008)
- Action for the Environment : Harrogate District LA21 Plan (HBC 2003)
- Harrogate District Cultural Strategy : Looking to the Future (HBC 2003)
- Harrogate Corporate Vision (HBC 2003)
- AONB Management Plan (Nidderdale AONB Joint Advisory Committee 2004)
- Wharfe, Swale, Ure, Nidd and Upper Ouse Catchment Abstraction Strategies (EA)
- Harrogate District Biodiversity Action Plan, Draft (HBC 2008)

- A Strategic Plan for Harrogate Borough Council – Strategic Plan 2008-11 (HBC, 2008)

Appendix 3 sets out a full summary of the above documents. Many of the documents refer either directly or indirectly to renewable or low carbon energy generation, and encourage its uptake in order to reduce carbon emissions. Many however emphasise that a balance must be achieved between the associated benefits of renewable and low carbon energy sources and any negative impacts that could have on the area, especially to its landscape, species and habitats.

- 3.3 The SPD will support Core Strategy Policy EQ1. The Core Strategy was adopted in February 2009, and has been subject to a sustainability appraisal. The outcome of that has informed the sustainability appraisal of the SPD. It also sets out the SA framework that is used for the appraisal of all component DPDs and SPDs of the Local Development Framework. A summary of the sustainability appraisal for Policy EQ1 can be viewed in Appendix 2.
- 3.4 The baseline context is taken from the Harrogate District Core Strategy. Two of the four key aims of the Core Strategy are “effective protection of the environment” and “the prudent use of natural resources”. It identifies that the Harrogate District has relatively high levels of energy and water consumption per capita, which are factors that contribute to global climate change. The aim of the SPD is to provide guidance on how renewable and low carbon energy technologies can be installed, and to support Policy EQ1 of the Core Strategy.

4.0 Predicting Effects.

- 4.1 To date in the Harrogate District, there have been 35 ‘micro’ wind turbines approved, most of which have been installed and are operational. The number of wind turbines approved and installed in the future can be monitored. It is very difficult to assess how many solar panels have been installed across the District as these often fall outside of the planning system, and there is not a required system of registration. The same is true for many other renewable and low carbon technologies, and should more of them be taken outside of the planning system in the future, monitoring the effects of the SPD will become increasingly difficult.
- 4.2 Carbon emissions data can be used. However, the role of SPD in any future reductions will be almost impossible to quantify as the introduction of small scale renewable energy installations is only a very small part of a much larger package of measures. Improving building energy efficiency, changes in transport behaviour, and large scale renewable installations are likely to have a much larger effect. The uptake of renewable energy technologies is also much more likely to be affected by financial incentives such as the ‘Feed In Tariff’ or ‘Renewable Heat Incentive’.
- 4.3 The SPD will not allocate any land for development, but instead sets out the pros and cons of each technology, and gives advice on how to limit any of the associated negative impacts. Monitoring its exact impact on the future uptake of technologies will be impossible to quantify.
- 4.4 The Sustainability Appraisal of the SPD can be viewed in Appendix 4.

Appendix 1 – Screening Determination

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF PLANS AND PROGRAMMES REGULATIONS 2004: SCHEDULE 1

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment

Criteria	Assessment
1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular to:	
(a) degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	No significant effect. The SPD builds on Policy EQ1 of the adopted Core Strategy. This policy sets out the approach to renewable energy, and the SPD provides greater detail.
(b) degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	No significant effect. SPD's are at the bottom of the planning policy hierarchy. The influence on other plans and programmes is therefore limited.
(c) relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	The SPD promotes the adoption of renewable and low carbon energy technologies in appropriate locations for the benefit of the wider environment.
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan and programme.	The SPD seeks to encourage people to take a role in reducing carbon emissions into the atmosphere, and thus limiting potential climate change in the future.
(e) relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	The SPD is focussed at energy generation from renewable and low carbon sources, generally on a small scale. It will not effect the implementation of Community legislation.
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular to:	
(a) probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects.	The adoption of renewable and low carbon energy technologies has the potential to have a long-term beneficial effect on the wider environment. The individual effects of each installation on the local area are limited, and are negligible for some technologies. All renewable and low carbon energy technologies can be easily removed at the end of their lifespan.
(b) cumulative nature of the effects.	The cumulative effects of an increase in the uptake of renewable or low carbon energy will be beneficial to the environment.
(c) transboundary nature of the effects.	The increased uptake of renewable or low carbon energy has the potential to benefit the wider environment. The individual effects of each installation will be localised.
(d) risk to human health and the environment.	There will no risks to human health or the environment.
(e) magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of population to be effected).	The spatial effects will be across the District, and the SPD does not seek to allocate land for development, but rather outlines the pros, cons and planning constraints associated with each technology. The effects of an increased uptake of renewable and low carbon energy can potentially be beneficial for the whole environment.
(f) value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: - special characteristics or cultural	The SPD seeks to encourage the uptake of renewable and low carbon energy technologies, but to minimise any negative effects they may

<p>heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - exceeded environmental quality standards or limits - intensive land use 	<p>cause. The SPD will assist in meeting both Council and national targets for reducing carbon emissions.</p>
<p>(g) effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.</p>	<p>The SPD clearly lays out the potential effects on the landscape, and directs development away from areas of high sensitivity. It directs development away from internationally protected sites, and identifies other statutorily protected sites are being planning constraints that will materially impact on the acceptability of development.</p>

APPENDIX 2 – Extract of SA from Harrogate District Core Strategy for Policy EQ1					
Environmental Improvements: Preferred Option – Environmental Improvements					
SA Objective	Development and conservation scheme should make a positive contribution to the following:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy efficiency, renewable energy and recycling • Waste minimisation, minimisation of water consumption and the use of sustainable materials • Townscape, landscape, archaeological and conservation area character • Biodiversity • Visual, general and residential amenity • Good design 				
	Nature of effect	Assessment of effect			Commentary (Likelihood/certainty of effect occurring; geographical scale of effect; temporary or permanent; Assumptions made; include recommendations for mitigation/improvement)
	Short Term	Med Term	Long Term		
Social objectives					
SA1 Quality Housing...	Positive effect – Improve energy efficiency of residential dwellings and see increased use of sustainable building practices	✓	✓✓	✓✓	<i>Likelihood/Certainty</i> Med-high <i>Scale</i> District wide (New development) <i>Temp/Perm</i> Perm The effect will increase over time as more new residential properties are constructed. <i>Recommendation for mitigation</i> Consideration should be given to developing an SPD which comprehensively looks at sustainable construction and design.
SA2 Good Health...	Positive effect – The preferred approach seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions which will improve air quality. This will have a secondary effect of improving health.	✓	✓	✓	<i>Likelihood/Certainty</i> Med <i>Scale</i> District wide <i>Temp/Perm</i> Perm <i>Recommendation for mitigation</i> The implementation of this is largely related to reducing the need to travel (related to settlement growth) and improvements to walking, cycling and public transport facilities. However explicit reference should be made in the set of Preferred Option measures for Environmental Improvements to the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
SA3 Safety & security...	Positive effect – Reduces the risk of crime through design measures	✓	✓	✓	<i>Likelihood/Certainty</i> Med-High <i>Scale</i> District wide (New development) <i>Temp/Perm</i> Perm
SA4 Vibrant communities...	Neutral effect	○	○	○	
SA5 Culture, leisure...	Positive effect - The preferred approach offers the potential to preserve, promote and enhance cultural and heritage features in the District through seeking a positive contribution to Townscape, landscape, archaeological and conservation area character.	✓	✓	✓	<i>Likelihood/Certainty</i> Med <i>Scale</i> District wide <i>Temp/Perm</i> Perm <i>Recommendation for mitigation</i> The District contains a world heritage site, historic battlefields and parks and gardens which should also be referred to.
SA6 Local needs met locally...	Positive effect – Secondary effect as result of the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The achievement of which requires new development to well located to public transport	✓	✓	✓	<i>Likelihood/Certainty</i> Med-high <i>Scale</i> District wide <i>Temp/Perm</i> Perm

SA7 Education & training...	Neutral effect	o	o	o	
Environmental objectives					
SA8 natural environment...	Positive effect – conserving and enhancing the District’s biodiversity and landscape character	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	<p><i>Likelihood/Certainty</i> High <i>Scale</i> District wide <i>Temp/Perm</i> Perm (Potential for temporary negative impacts caused during development and prior to mitigation measure being in place) <i>Recommendation for mitigation</i> The true test of this approach will be in the implementation and there is only a limited amount of detail as to how this will happen.</p>
SA9 minimal pollution levels...	Neutral effect	o	o	o	<p>The preferred approach is missing an opportunity to have a positive impact on this SA objective. <i>Recommendation for mitigation</i> Consideration should be given to the need to make reference to minimising pollution including light and noise pollution. There extent to which air quality and contaminated land are issues that need to be addressed in the District should also be explored.</p>
SA10 Transport network...	Positive effect – Secondary effect likely to be the encouragement of more sustainable methods of travel. This will be required to help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	✓	✓	✓✓	<p><i>Likelihood/Certainty</i> Med <i>Scale</i> District wide <i>Temp/Perm</i> Perm The effect is likely to occur over the longer term as measures are put in place which will provide an opportunity for modes of travel other than the car.</p>
SA11 Greenhouse gas emissions...	Positive effect – Preferred approach looks to encourage energy efficiency and increased renewable energy use.	✓	✓✓	✓✓	<p><i>Likelihood/Certainty</i> Med-high <i>Scale</i> District wide (New development) <i>Temp/Perm</i> Perm The effect will increase over time as new development occurs <i>Recommendation for mitigation</i> Consideration should be given to developing an SPD which comprehensively looks at sustainable construction and design. This could include reference to energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy</p>
SA12 energy& natural resources..	Positive effect – Preferred approach looks to encourage minimising water consumption, waste minimisation and recycling. Secondary effect is use of brownfield land over Greenfield required to achieve settlement growth patterns that reduce the need to travel	✓	✓✓	✓✓	<p><i>Likelihood/Certainty</i> Med –high <i>Scale</i> District wide <i>Temp/Perm</i> Perm The effect will increase over time as new development occurs <i>Recommendation for mitigation</i> Consideration should be given to developing an SPD which comprehensively looks at sustainable construction and design. This could include reference to energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy, minimising water consumption, waste minimisation and recycling.</p>
SA13 Historic environment...	Positive effect - The preferred approach offers the potential to preserve, promote and enhance cultural and heritage features in the District through seeking a positive contribution to Townscape, landscape, archaeological and conservation area character.	✓	✓	✓	<p><i>Likelihood/Certainty</i> Med <i>Scale</i> District wide <i>Temp/Perm</i> Perm <i>Recommendation for mitigation</i> The District contains a world heritage site, historic battlefields and parks and gardens which should also be referred to.</p>

SA14 Quality built environment...	Positive effect – The Preferred Approach seeks to ensure that new development is of a high quality which supports local distinctiveness and has a positive impact on aspects of the environment, A secondary effect is efficient land use patterns and improved accessibility as a result of the measures required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	<i>Likelihood/Certainty</i> High <i>Scale</i> District wide <i>Temp/Perm</i> Perm Taken together this preferred approach offers a package of measure designed to create a quality built and natural environment. The exact effect of the approach will relate to how it is implemented
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Economic objectives					
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SA15 Employment opportunities...	Neutral effect	o	o	o	
SA16 Business success...	Neutral effect	o	o	o	

Appendix 3: Review Of Plans, Programmes And Objectives

Relevant objectives	Relevant targets or indicators	Implications for DPD
International & European Context		
Ramsar Convention (Ramsar Bureau 1971)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve and wisely use all wetlands Consider the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands as regulators of water regimes and as habitats supporting characteristic flora and fauna, especially waterfowl. Recognise that wetlands constitute a resource of great economic, cultural, scientific and recreational value, the loss of which would be irreparable. Stem the progressive encroachment on and loss of wetlands now and in the future. 	Requires designation of suitable wetlands of inclusion in List of wetlands of International Importance.	There are currently no sites within Harrogate District, however the impact of development on any future designations will need to be considered.
Kyoto Protocol (United Nations 1992)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere, at a level that would prevent dangerous interference with the climate system 	National targets set for industrialised nations to reduce emissions of 6 greenhouse gases during the period 2008-2012	The SPD encourages increase use of renewable and low carbon energy technologies.
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (United Nations 2002)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eradicate poverty; Change unsustainable patterns of production and consumption; and Protect and manage the natural resource base of economic and social development. 	Sets out 8 targets aimed at reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development. Identifies priority areas for action: Water and sanitation, Energy, Health, Agricultural, and biodiversity.	
EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC as amended by 97/49/EC)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, manage and regulate all bird species living in the wild Conserve, maintain or restore biotopes and habitats of these 	Requires special measures to be taken to protect species listed in Annex 1 of the directive and in particular to classify Special Protection Areas as areas most suitable for these species.	East and West Nidderdale, Barden and Blubbershouses Moor forms part of the North Pennine Moors SPA. This designation requires that measures are taken to promote conservation and prevent deterioration of the habitat and species for which the area has been designated.

EU Habitats Directive (93/43/EEC) (As amended by 97/62/EC)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain biodiversity by conserving natural habitats and wild flora and Encourage the management of features of the landscape that are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species. 	Requires the Designation of Special Areas of Conservation, selected for their importance as natural habitat types and as habitats for species listed in Annexes to the Directive	North Pennine Moors and Kirk Deighton SSSI are designated as SACs. The Directive requires that measures are taken to avoid significant deterioration of natural habitats as well as disturbance of the species for which the area has been designated.
EU Air Quality Directive (96/62/EC)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve ambient air quality in order to reduce the harmful effects on human health and the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lays down limit values and alert thresholds for a number of air pollutants Requires monitoring and reporting of air quality 	Ensure that proposals do not reduce air quality
EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prevent further deterioration and protect and enhance status of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands To promote the sustainable consumption of water; to reduce pollution of waters from priority substances To prevent the deterioration in the status and to progressively reduce pollution of groundwater To contribute to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve good ecological and good chemical status by 2015 unless there are grounds for derogation Reduction and ultimate elimination of priority hazardous substances 	
European Spatial Development Perspective (Potsdam 1999)		
<p>To work towards a balanced and sustainable development of the EU and to achieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic and social cohesion Conservation and management of natural resources and cultural heritage More balanced competitiveness of the European territory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
EU Groundwater Directive (80/68/EEC) (It will be repealed by the Water Framework Directive as of 21 December 2013.)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent polluting substances entering groundwater, primarily as a consequence of the disposal of waste substances. The directive specifies groups of substances that are considered to be particularly undesirable in groundwater. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Joint Agency Groundwater Directive Advisory Group (JAGDAG) has been established to consider whether substances fall into any of the groups of substances. 	

European Sustainable Development Strategy 2001 (Renewed 2006, DOC 10917/06)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively promote sustainable development Safeguarding the earth's capacity to support life in all its diversity and ensure a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU-15 target is for an 8% reduction in emissions compared to 1990 levels. Aiming for a global surface average temperature not to rise by more than 2°C compared to the pre-industrial level. 	Implementation of programmes that ultimately address the significant sustainability issues relating to, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> climate change, decreasing natural resources,
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent and reduce environmental pollution and promote sustainable consumption and production to break the link between economic growth and environmental degradation. Promote a democratic, socially inclusive, cohesive, healthy, safe and just society with respect for fundamental rights and cultural diversity that creates equal opportunities and combats discrimination in all its forms. Promote a prosperous, innovative, knowledge-rich, competitive and eco-efficient economy which provides high living standards and full and high-quality employment throughout the European Union. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2010 12% of energy consumption, on average, and 21% of electricity consumption, should be met by renewable sources, considering raising their share to 15% by 2015. Reducing pollutant emissions from transport to levels that minimise effects on human health and/or the environment. Halting the loss of biodiversity and contributing to a significant reduction in the worldwide rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. 	
National Context		
Securing the Future – The UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (CM6467, 2005)		
5 Guiding principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living within environmental limits Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society Achieving a sustainable economy Promoting good governance Using sound science responsibly 	4 shared priorities for action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable consumption and production Climate change and energy Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement Sustainable communities 	
Rural White Paper: Our Countryside: The Future: A fair deal for rural England. (DETR 2000)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total income from farming and off farm income, Agricultural employment (full-time, part-time and seasonal) Change in countryside quality including biodiversity, tranquillity, heritage, and landscape character Populations of farmland birds, Conditions of Sites of Special Scientific Interest Rivers of good or fair quality, Air quality (low level ozone) in rural areas 	

White Paper - Heritage Protection for the 21st Century (DCMS 2007)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a unified approach to the historic environment through creating a single system for national designation to replace listing, scheduling and registering. Maximising opportunities for inclusion and involvement Supporting sustainable communities by putting the historic environment at the heart of an effective planning system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target is to develop a new, unified approach to national designation by replacing the current regimes of listing, scheduling and registering with a single, unified system. 	
Energy White Paper : Our Energy – Creating A Low Carbon Economy (DTI 2003)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cut greenhouse gas emissions in the UK by 60% by 2050, with real progress by 2020. Maintain and increase the reliability of energy supplies. Ensure that every home is adequately heated. Promote competitive energy markets in the UK and beyond, helping to raise the rate of sustainable economic growth and to improve our productivity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nobody should be living in fuel poverty by 2016-2018 Requires a strategic approach to be developed for each region to include regional targets Develop an action plan showing how regional bodies and local authorities will deliver objectives 	
The Historic Environment : A Force for the Future (DCMS 2001)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make the historic environment accessible to everyone to ensure that it is seen as something with which the whole of society can identify and engage To protect and sustain the historic environment for the benefit of our own and future generations To ensure that the historic environment's importance as an economic asset is skillfully harnessed 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To respond to public interest in the historic environment with firm leadership, effective partnerships and a sound knowledge base from which to develop policies To realise the full potential of the historic environment as a learning resource 		

PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (ODPM, 2005)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote urban and rural regeneration • Promote regional, sub-regional and local economies • Promote communities which are inclusive, healthy, safe and crime free • Bring forward sufficient land of a suitable quality in the right locations • Give high priority to ensuring access to all to jobs, health, education, shops, leisure and community facilities • Focus developments that attract a large number of people in existing centres • Recognise the need to enhance as well as protect biodiversity • Promote the more efficient use of land • Reduce the need to travel 	No specific targets or indicators	The key objective of creating sustainable communities should underpin can be aided by increasing renewable energy development.
PPG2: Green Belts (DETR 1999)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide access to the open countryside for the urban population • Provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and sport near urban areas • To retain attractive landscapes and enhance landscapes • Improve damaged and derelict land around towns • Retain land in agricultural, forestry and related uses 	No specific targets or indicators	Guidance is given on developing in Green Belts.

PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (ODPM 2004)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote more sustainable patterns of development Raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas Promote sustainable, diverse and adaptable agricultural sectors 	No specific targets or indicators	Provide a policy framework that sustains, enhances and where appropriate revitalises country towns and villages and creates a diverse rural economy whilst maintaining local character/high quality environment
PPS9: Biodiversity & Geological Conservation (ODPM 2005)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure policies are based upon up to date information about environmental characteristics of the area Seek to maintain, enhance or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests Take a strategic approach to conservation and enhancement of biodiversity Promote opportunities to incorporate beneficial biodiversity and geological features with a development Consider whether development can be accommodated without causing harm to biodiversity/geological interests 	No specific targets or indicators	Need to ensure that plan policies and land allocations have due regard to the need to protect and where possible enhance biodiversity. Need to ensure that biodiversity is integrated with other considerations when making decisions on land uses.
PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment (DCLG, 2010)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide effective protection for all aspects of the historic environment Reconcile the need for economic growth with need to protect historic and natural environment 	No specific targets or indicators	Develop a policy framework to facilitate the protection of the historic environment and seek to increase its contribution to local amenity through for example policies to encourage the re-use of neglected historical buildings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the capacity of the historic environment to accommodate change Recognise that the historic environment is not necessarily a barrier to renewable energy development. 		Balance the need to protect the historic environment, with the need to reduce carbon emissions.
PPG16 Archaeology and Planning (DOE, 1990)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeological remains should be seen as a finite non-renewable resource Provide effective protection, enhancement and preservation of sites of archaeological interest and of their settings 	No specific targets or indicators	Need to provide policies for the protection, enhancement and preservation of sites of archaeological interest and of their settings. The areas and sites to which the polices apply should be defined on the proposals map.

PPS22 Renewable Energy (ODPM, 2004)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewable energy developments should be capable of being accommodated in locations where the technology is viable and environmental, economic, and social impacts can be addressed satisfactorily. Promote and encourage the development of renewable energy resources. Assumptions about the technical and commercial feasibility of renewable energy projects should be resisted Foster community involvement in renewable energy projects and seek to promote knowledge of and greater acceptance by the public of prospective renewable energy developments that are appropriately located. 	<p>Contains the following two nation-wide targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cut UK carbon dioxide emissions by 60% by 2020, with real progress by 2010. Generate 10% of the UK electricity from renewable resources by 2010 and 20% by 2020. 	<p>Need to consider the extent to which the District can contribute to energy generation from renewable sources.</p>
PPG24 Planning and Noise (DOE, 1994)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide for the separation of noise-sensitive developments from major sources of noise (existing or programmed) 	<p>Contains a large number of noise level recommendations but no specific targets or indicators</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher national targets than in 2000 have been set for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recycling and composting of household waste – at least 40% by 2010, 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020; and recovery of municipal waste – 53% by 2010, 67% by 2015 and 75% by 2020 On the basis of the policies, commercial and industrial waste landfill is expected to fall by 20% by 2010 compared to 2004. Removing the ban on Local Authorities for introducing financial incentives for household recycling would bring England in line with most other European countries and could reduce the amount of annual residual waste landfill by up to 15% – equivalent to 1.5 million tones or 130kg per household 	

UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP 2007)		
<p>Overall Goal, To conserve and enhance biological diversity within the UK and to contribute to the conservation of global biodiversity through all appropriate mechanisms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government is formally committed under the wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to review every five years the status of wild plants and animals (other than birds) and to determine what protective status is appropriate. 	
<p>Objectives,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conserve and where practicable to enhance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall populations and natural ranges of native species and the quality and range of wildlife habitats and ecosystems. Internationally important and threatened species, habitats and ecosystems. Species, habitats and natural and managed ecosystems that are characteristic of local areas. The biodiversity of natural and semi-natural habitats where this has been diminished over recent past decades. To increase public awareness of, and involvement in, conserving biodiversity. To contribute to the conservation of biodiversity on a European and global scale. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program of monitoring birds directed by the British Trust for Ornithology, and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust have been in progress for more than 30 years The Biological Records Centre, part of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, also has a long history extending back over 30 years. The coordinating Commission for Biological Recording brought together all the key recording groups. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee continues to develop further co-ordination. 	<p>Ensure that renewable energy development does not adversely impact on biodiversity.</p>
Action for the Environment : Harrogate District LA21 Plan (Harrogate BC 2003)		
<p>Identifies key environmental action areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy efficiency Water conservation Transport Waste & recycling Local surroundings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve energy efficiency in homes by 30% by 2011 Increase household waste recycling rate to 14% by 2004 and 21% by 2006 Encourage greater use of public transport, walking & cycling 	<p>Develop design related policies (or SPD) to encourage greater home energy efficiency</p>

AONB Management Plan (Nidderdale AONB Joint Advisory Committee 2004)		
<p>Conserving the AONBs special qualities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining landscape character • Maintaining biodiversity • Maintaining the Historic Environment <p>Living & working in the AONB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture and forestry • Rural economy and community life • Planning and development • Transport <p>Understanding & enjoyment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access • Tourism • Promoting the designation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length of boundary features covered by agri-environment schemes • Farm size, structure, type • Extent of woodland covered by woodland Grant Scheme • Extent of upland heath, blanket bog covered by agri-environment schemes • Extent of SSSI, rough grazing • Populations of breeding birds • Quality of rivers and wetlands • No. of listed buildings at risk • Scheduled Monuments at risk • No. of registered Historic Parks and Gardens • % of rights of way network easy to use • % of land in AONB open to public access 	<p>The AONB's special qualities can be conserved, and are</p>
<p>Wharfe, Swale, Ure, Nidd and Upper Ouse Catchment Abstraction Strategies</p>		<p>www.environment-agency.gov.uk</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure a sustainable level of abstraction is achieved that meets the needs of the environment, economy and water users both now and in the future. • The Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS) assesses the water recourse availability within the catchments and processes strategies by which the environment agency will manage water resources both now and in the future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAMS is a rolling process and will be reviewed every six years. • In order to measure, manage and regulate efficiency, the Agency needs to subdivide the catchments into smaller areas, recognising similarities in characteristics. 	

Harrogate District Biodiversity Action Plan. Draft 2008		www.harrogate.gov.uk/harrogate-5522
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan is developed to foster action for UK priority species and habitats at a local level. • To determine and take action for wildlife of local importance. • Translate national guidance within the UK BAP to action at local level. • Identify locally important habitats and species. • Develop local partnerships and help maintain and improve biodiversity and provide guidance on how to do this. • Raise local awareness of biodiversity and its importance; set up an effective monitoring system. • Help influence planning decisions, to avoid harming local wildlife and to encourage the restoration of habitats through after use conditions. 	<p>Identifies specific and positive actions that can be undertaken to conserve the District's biodiversity, such as,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The precautionary principle, • No net loss of habitat, • Like for like mitigation requirement, • Protection for Sites of Importance for nature Conservation (SINCs), • The need for high quality ecological surveys, • The need to work with the local record centre on baseline data, monitoring and reporting. • The importance of green space for quality of life. <p>While the individual action plans have specific targets and actions, the following table gives a number of areas of good practice, for which we can all have regard,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced disturbance • Resist picking fungi and flowers • Environmental education • Giving records to the local record centre • Careful siting of habitat creation schemes • Protecting of migrating birds in southern Europe 	<p>Produced as a Supplementary Planning Document. The Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD will provide guidance on limited any impacts on biodiversity.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it support the vibrancy of town and village centres? 	N/A	The SPD will not impact on the vibrancy of town and village centres.
7. Education and training opportunities which build on the skills and capacity of the population		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it promote lifelong learning and widening participation in lifelong learning activities? 	N/A	The SPD will not promote or provide any training opportunities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve levels of basic skills 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it provide opportunities for training and apprenticeships 		
8. Bio-diverse and attractive natural environment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it protect and enhance existing priority habitats and species and provide for long term management of wildlife habitats? 	✓✓	The SPD specifically directs development away from protected wildlife habitats such as SPAs and SACs, and also refers to specific issues such as bats and wind turbines. As the SPD promotes the use of renewable and low carbon energy technologies, this is seen as a benefit to the environment as a whole
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it increase the quality and quantity of woodland cover? 	N/A	The SPD will have no effect on woodland cover.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it make use of opportunities wherever possible to enhance the environment as part of other initiatives 	✓	The purpose of the SPD is to encourage the uptake of renewable and low carbon energy technologies, whilst minimising any adverse impacts they may have. This will be of benefit to the whole environment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it promote and raise awareness of the enjoyment/benefits of the natural environment/biodiversity and promote access to wildlife on appropriate sites? 	N/A	The SPD will have no impact.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it protect and enhance the region's rivers, estuary and coastal waters to achieve good ecological status? 	N/A	The SPD encourages the uptake of renewable and low carbon energy technologies. This has the potential to reduce atmospheric pollutants from fossil fuels, which can affect rivers via rainfall.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it contribute to local distinctiveness and countryside character? 	×	Many renewable and low carbon energy technologies are modern in appearance and can be at odds with local distinctiveness and countryside character.
9. Minimal pollution levels		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it clean up contaminated land? 	N/A	The SPD will have no impact on contaminated land.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it maintain and where possible improve air quality? 	✓	The reduction in the amount of power that is produced from burning fossil fuels has the potential to increase air quality.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it maintain and where possible improve surface water and groundwater quality? 	N/A	The SPD encourages the uptake of renewable and low carbon energy technologies. This has the potential to reduce atmospheric pollutants from fossil fuels, which can affect ground/surface water via rainfall.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it maintain and where possible improve soil quality and minimise the loss of soils to development 	N/A	The SPD encourages the uptake of renewable and low carbon energy technologies. This has the potential to reduce atmospheric pollutants from fossil fuels, which can affect soil via rainfall.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it prevent unacceptable levels of noise and light pollution? 	✓	For those technologies where noise can be an issue (e.g. wind turbine, air source heat pumps) the SPD gives guidance on acceptable separation distances, and clearly states that noise may be an issue that makes the technology unacceptable in certain locations.
10. A transport network which maximises access whilst minimising detrimental impacts		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it increase access to key resources and services by means other than the car 	N/A	The SPD will have no impact on transport networks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it ease congestion on the road/rail network? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it increase provision of public transport where needed? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve existing provision of cycleways and footpaths? 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it make the environment for non car travel more attractive? • Will it improve rail services and facilities? 		
11. Minimise greenhouse gas emissions and a managed response to climate change		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce greenhouse gas emissions? 	✓✓	The SPD encourages the uptake of renewable and low carbon energy technologies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase the amount of energy from renewable sources that is generated and consumed? 	✓✓	The SPD encourages the uptake of renewable and low carbon energy technologies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce the risk of flooding? 	✓	The increased use of renewable and low carbon energy technologies has the potential to combat the effects of climate change, one of which is increased flooding.
12. Prudent and efficient use of energy and natural resource with minimal production of waste		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase efficiency in water, energy and raw material use? 	✓	The increased use of renewable and low carbon energy technologies reduces the amount of fossil fuels that need to be burnt to produce energy. The SPD emphasises that energy efficiency measures should also be incorporated into buildings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it make efficient use of land (appropriate density, brownfield in preference to Greenfield, protect good agricultural land)? 	N/A	The SPD will not affect the efficient use of land.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase prevention, re-use, recovery and recycling of waste 	N/A	The SPD will not have any affects.
13. Protect and enhance the historic environment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it enhance features and areas of historical/cultural value? 	(✓)	Development is unlikely to have a detrimental impact on the historic environment. The SPD clearly identifies heritage assets as a planning constraint and emphasises their importance. The increased use of renewable and low carbon energy technologies has the potential to combat the effects of climate change, which can help protect the historic environment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it preserve and where appropriate enhance features of archaeological importance? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it conserve the character of historic settlements and conservation areas? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it promote sensitive re-use of historic/culturally important buildings where appropriate? 		
14. A quality built environment and efficient land use patterns, that make good use of derelict sites, minimise travel and promote balanced development		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it promote the development of communities with accessible services, employment, shops and leisure facilities? 	N/A	The SPD will not have any affects.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it prevent inappropriate development in flood plains? 	N/A	The SPD will not have any affects.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it ensure new developments provide essential services accessible without use of a car and are accessible by public transport? 	N/A	The SPD will not have any affects.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it result in the regeneration of derelict or visually unattractive land? 	N/A	The SPD will not have any affects.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it encourage the re-use of existing buildings? 	N/A	The SPD will not have any affects.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it ensure high design quality which supports local distinctiveness? 	×	Many renewable and low carbon energy technologies are modern in appearance and can be at odds with local distinctiveness and countryside character.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it promote mixed use development? 	N/A	The SPD will not have any affects.

15. Good quality employment opportunities available to all		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it provide employment opportunities for local people? • Will it contribute to improving diversity of employment opportunities? 	N/A	The SPD will not have any affects.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it ensure employment opportunities are accessible by public transport? 		
16. Conditions for business success, economic growth and investment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it support existing businesses? • Will it maximise local skills? • Will it encourage investment (including inward investment)? • Will it provide for the needs of business (such as a range of premises, land and infrastructure)? 	N/A	The SPD will not have any affects.