



## **Draft Habitats Regulations Assessment**

### Potential Selby Local Plan Site Allocations

September 2017

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## Quality Assurance – Approval Status

This document has been prepared and checked in accordance with  
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## Non-Technical Summary

This document is the draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (or HRA) of the possible Selby Local Plan Site Allocations. Its function is to test the impact of the current, possible allocations on the internationally important sites for biodiversity, the Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Ramsar sites found in and around the district; collectively these are known as European sites.

HRA asks very specific questions of a local plan. Firstly, it screens the plan to identify which possible allocations may have a *likely significant effect, alone and / or in combination with other plans and projects*, on the European sites. If they can be ruled out, the plan may proceed, but if not, they must be subjected to the greater scrutiny of an '*appropriate assessment*' to evaluate whether the plan will have an *adverse effect on the integrity of the sites*. If not, measures will need to be taken to mitigate or remove the threat. Typically, these measures can require amendments to the allocations or even their removal.

Overall, this assessment found that of the 316 possible individual allocations from 28 settlements, the majority posed no threat or would not have a likely significant effect on the European sites alone or in combination. However, because of uncertainty regarding wastewater disposal, it was impossible to rule out significant effects occurring in combination across every possible allocation. Similarly, because of uncertainty surrounding the impact of recreational pressure from the large cluster of possible allocations in and around Selby, it was impossible to rule out significant effects in combination on Skipwith Common and the Lower Derwent Valley from possible allocations in Barlby, Escrick, Hemingbrough, North Duffield, Osgodby, Riccall and Selby.

Mitigation measures are suggested which could remove much of the potential harm although further work is needed to address others, especially those impacts related to anticipated increases in recreational pressure. These issues will be considered by the Council in the next stage of the plan making process when the preferred options will be selected and site specific policies drawn up.

## 1. Introduction

### Background

- 1.1 Selby District Council (the *Council*) is developing its Site Allocations Local Plan to deliver the strategic vision outlined in its *Core Strategy*<sup>1</sup> (adopted in 2013). The Site Allocations Document will form part of the Local Plan for the District and will influence future development within the Council's boundaries.
- 1.2 Currently a 'pool of sites' has been developed which encompasses 316 possible allocations and associated information. The possible allocations within the pool of sites have been influenced by the Core Strategy, Strategic Growth Options and populated via a public call for sites. In due course the Council will select their Preferred Site Allocations and develop site specific policies relating to these Preferred Options. These will be presented in the Submission Draft of the Site Allocations Local Plan.
- 1.3 The Habitats Directive requires local authorities to assess the impact of local plans on the Natura 2000 network of protected sites. The terms of the Directive are transposed into UK law by the Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) or the 'Habitats Regulations'. In England, this requirement is delivered via a *Habitats Regulations Assessment* (HRA) which comprises a series of mandatory tests.

### Habitats Regulations Assessment of Local Plans, Natura 2000 and European sites

- 1.4 Natura 2000 is the cornerstone of European nature conservation policy; an EU-wide network of Special Protection Areas (SPA) classified under the 1979 Birds Directive and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated under the 1992 Habitats Directive.
- 1.5 In the UK, SPAs and SACs (and, according to UK Government policy<sup>2</sup>, Ramsar sites as well) are known collectively as 'European Sites' and contribute to the safeguarding of the most valuable and threatened habitats and species across Europe. Around 8.6% of the UK land area forms part of this network including, locally, sites such as Skipwith Common, the Lower Derwent Valley and the River Derwent. Further afield, it includes such well known sites as the Humber Estuary, Yorkshire Dales, Peak District and South Pennines.
- 1.6 Importantly, the Regulations employ the precautionary principle and Reg. 102 ensures that where a plan is '*likely to have a significant effect*', it can only be adopted if it can be ascertained that it '*will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site*'.
- 1.7 To enable this decision to be made, the Regulations employ a series of mandatory tests outlined in Figure 1 (derived from Circular 06/05<sup>3</sup>). In practical terms, however, best practice now suggests these steps should be preceded by a test that explores if the plan actually needs assessment in the first place. This approach, which can avoid much unnecessary work, is described in Figure 2 along with many of the other steps in the process; Figure 1 shows what tests must be carried out, Figure 2 shows how these are delivered.
- 1.8 Therefore, this HRA begins by considering whether the plan can be excluded from further scrutiny because it couldn't have any conceivable effect on a European site before exploring whether the plan is necessary to the management of a European site (Section 2).

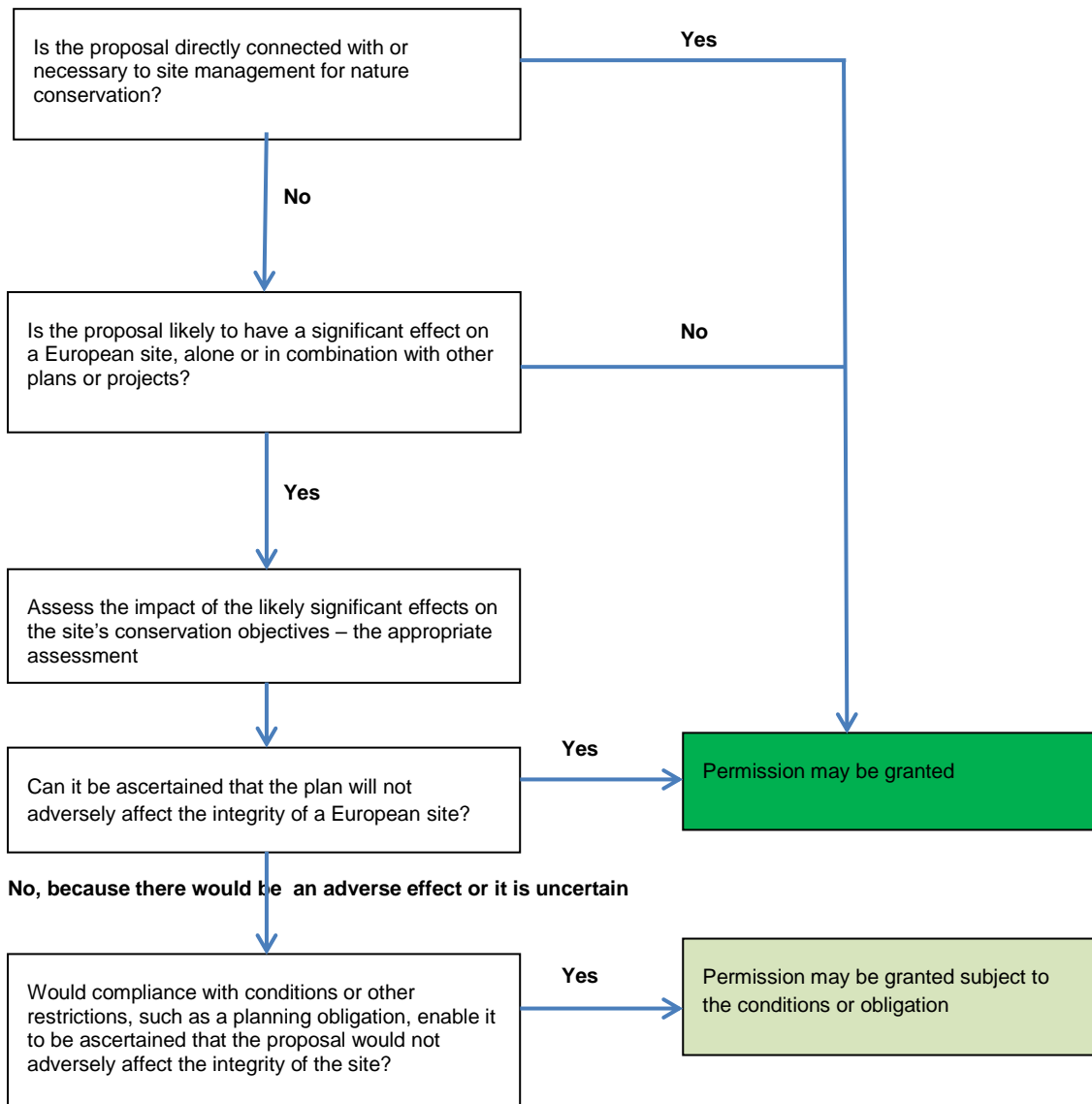
<sup>1</sup> <http://www.selby.gov.uk/core-strategy-2013>

<sup>2</sup> ODPM Circular 06/2005 Government Circular R: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System (16 August 2005)

<sup>3</sup> Circular 06/05: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and Their Impact Within the Planning System. ISBN 9780117539518

- 1.9 If this is not possible, the competent authority (that is, the Council) must then identify whether the plan is ‘... likely to have a significant effect (LSE) on a European Site ... either alone or in combination with other plans or projects’ and with or without mitigation. If significant effects are found to be absent or can be avoided, the plan may be adopted without further scrutiny.
- 1.10 An *in-combination* assessment is only required where an impact is identified but which is so small that *alone*, its effects would not be significant but, when combined with other minor effects from other plans or projects, these combined ‘residual effects’ become significant.
- 1.11 Importantly, if measures can be identified that could mitigate any adverse effects, alone or in combination, these too are suggested, evaluated and recommendations made.

Figure 1: Decision Making Flowchart in HRA



- 1.12 The preliminary stage of the HRA process is often referred to as ‘*screening*’ and follows the actions described in Stage 1 of Figure 2. This is the stage which this report considers. It seeks only to identify where LSE can be ruled out or where they cannot, alone or in combination. It is not the final HRA of this plan making process, and simply seeks to identify issues for



subsequent scrutiny later. However, where relatively straightforward mitigation measures would benefit the plan, these are explored in Section 4.

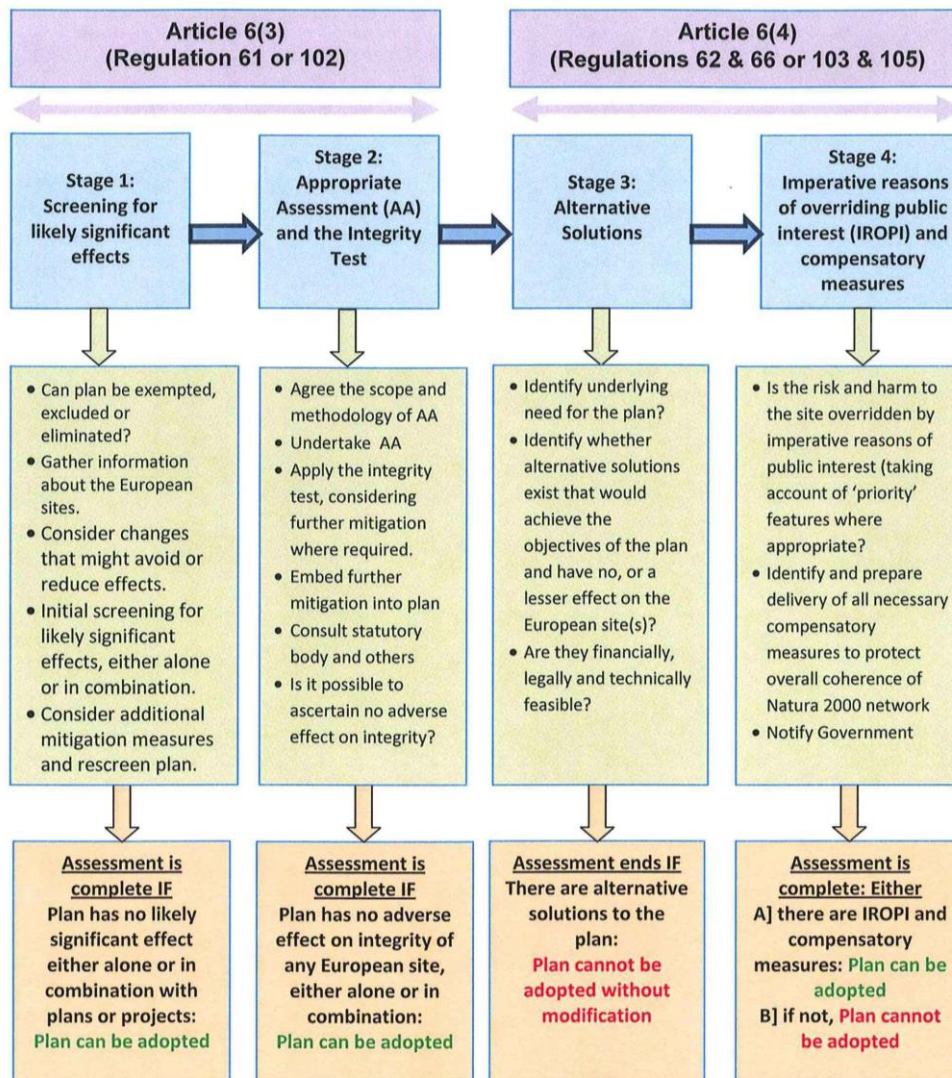
- 1.13 In order to carry out this screening exercise, this HRA relies heavily on the Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook<sup>4</sup>. This draws on best practice and case law in the UK and across the EU to identify over 180 principles that inform how HRA should be carried out. Subscribers to the Handbook include Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Planning Inspectorate which ensures that key decision-makers utilise the approach shown in Figure 2. In addition, the design and layout of the HRA has been influenced by a number of HRAs from over the years
- 1.14 The Handbook (C7.1) draws on case law, government and other guidance to set out a series of principles to inform the subsequent decisions which include:
- *As a result of European case law in Waddenzee, irrespective of the normal English meaning of 'likely', in this statutory context a 'likely significant effect' is a possible significant effect; one whose occurrence cannot be excluded on the basis of objective information. In this context it is permissible to ask whether a plan or project 'may have a significant effect' ...;*
  - *A significant effect is any effect that would undermine the conservation objectives for a European site ...;*
  - *'Objective', in this context, means clear verifiable fact rather than subjective opinion. ... There should be credible evidence to show that there is a real rather than a hypothetical risk of effects that could undermine the site's conservation objectives. Any serious possibility of a risk that the conservation objectives might be undermined should trigger an 'appropriate assessment'*
- 1.15 The level of scrutiny in a screening exercise is important both in terms of the level of scrutiny and the depth of the evidence base. Indeed, the third principle above shows that the initial screening phase is not meant to be exhaustive, a point described by Advocate General Sharpston in paragraphs 49 and 50 of the Sweetman case<sup>5</sup> as follows:
- 'The threshold at the first stage ...is thus a very low one. It operates merely as a trigger, in order to determine whether an appropriate assessment must be undertaken ... The threshold at this (the second) stage [the appropriate assessment] is noticeably higher than that laid down at the first stage. That is because the question (to use more simple terminology) is not 'should we bother to check?' (the question at the first stage) but rather 'what will happen to the site if this plan or project goes ahead ...'.*
- 1.16 The judge in the Bagmoor Wind case<sup>6</sup> was similarly clear:
- 'If the absence of risk ... can only be demonstrated after a detailed investigation, or expert opinion, that is an indicator that a risk exists and the authority must move from preliminary examination to appropriate assessment'.*
- 1.17 Although not a part of this HRA, the test in the 'appropriate assessment' is more thorough and must determine whether it can be 'ascertained that the plan will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site' (AEOI). If AEOI can be avoided, the plan can again be adopted (Fig 1). If this cannot be concluded, derogations would have to be sought to allow the plan to continue; these are regarded as a last resort and considered only in exceptional circumstances. These latter stages are not shown in Figure 1 but are summarised in Stages 2, 3 & 4 of Figure 2.

<sup>4</sup> Tyldesley, D., and Chapman, C., (2013) *The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook*, May 2015 edition UK: DTA Publications Ltd

<sup>5</sup> C-258/11 Sweetman reference for a preliminary ruling from the Supreme Court of Ireland .. opinion of the Advocate General 22 November 2012

<sup>6</sup> Bagmoor Wind Limited v The Scottish Ministers Court of Sessions [2012] CSIH 93

Figure 2: Outline of the four stage approach to the assessment of plans under the Habitats Regulations



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1.18 The HRA of development plans was first made a requirement in the UK following a ruling by the European Court of Justice in *EC v UK*<sup>7</sup>. However, the judgement<sup>8</sup> recognised that any assessment had to reflect the actual stage in the strategic planning process and the level of evidence that might or might not be available. This was given expression in the UK High Court (*Feeney*<sup>9</sup>) which stated: “Each ... assessment ... cannot do more than the level of detail of the strategy at that stage permits”.

1.19 HRA is an iterative process enabling the early identification of potential conflicts and providing the opportunity to resolve them prior to publication of the Draft Submission Plan, perhaps by steering development away from sensitive sites or by influencing their design or scale. As both

<sup>7</sup> Case C-6/04: Commission of the European Communities v United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland judgment of the Court 20 October 2005.

<sup>8</sup> Opinion of advocate general Kokott, 9th June 2005, Case C-6/04. Commission of the European Communities v United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

<sup>9</sup> Sean Feeney v Oxford City Council and the Secretary of State CLG para 92 of the judgment dated 24 October 2011 Case No CO/3797/2011, Neutral Citation [2011] EWHC 2699 Admin

the European Court of Justice and domestic courts have shown though, there are limits to the effectiveness of undertaking a full, formal assessment during these early stages when evidence regarding ecological matters and indeed the actual allocations is often lacking.

- 1.20 This is where the HRA has to find a middle route that both applies the precautionary principle and yet strives to identify only plausible LSE and not the extremely unlikely. Indeed, the Court of Appeal (re Boggis<sup>10</sup>) stated that there should be “*credible evidence that there was a real, rather than a hypothetical, risk*”.
- 1.21 Importantly, draft proposals, such as the possible site allocations considered here, do not, strictly speaking, need to be subjected to formal HRA but the Council, mindful of the need to have regard to the Habitats Directive in the exercise of its functions, believes it is good practice to ensure that the potential effects on European sites are considered from the earliest stages of the plan-making process.

### **This Assessment**

- 1.22 This document represents a preliminary *screening* assessment of the HRA of the possible site allocations.
- 1.23 At this stage in the process, information such as detailed site policies, is not available. This information will be prepared by the Council in the next stage of the plan making process when the preferred options will be selected and site specific policies drawn up. Therefore, the ‘*objective information*’<sup>11</sup> that is relied on to inform a full assessment is not always available and whilst reasonable allowances are made for this the principles established in the Feeney case and the precautionary principle are always applied.
- 1.24 However, a number of allocations within the pool of sites are already subject to planning applications and some have already gained planning consent. Some of these will already have been considered by the Council (as the competent authority with advice sought from Natural England) under the Habitats Regulations as individual ‘projects’. Unless there are reasons for doubt, any extant HRA decisions will always be adopted in this evaluation. However, as the developments within the allocated sites will not have been completed these would be considered as part of any future in-combination assessment if necessary.
- 1.25 This is an important point which draws on Defra guidance<sup>12</sup> and section C.12.1 of the Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook<sup>13</sup> (hereafter the ‘Handbook’) which allows competent authorities to reduce the duplication of effort by utilising earlier conclusions where there has been no material change in circumstances. If there is any doubt, the possible allocation is assessed as normal.
- 1.26 In addition, it is important to remember that the possible allocations assessed in this HRA originate from a number of sources and do not represent fixed allocations at all. Accordingly, all references to ‘*allocations*’ should be taken as ‘*possible or potential allocations*’.
- 1.27 In terms of the overall need for this exercise, as its origins are firmly embedded in the European Union’s Habitats Directive, the decision to leave the EU potentially throws doubt on the need for the HRA of local plans. However, UK law and policy is currently unchanged and the need for HRA remains. The HRA of the Council’s Local Plan will therefore continue and the recommendations will be acted upon until such time as Government indicates otherwise

<sup>10</sup> Peter Charles Boggis and Easton Bavants Conservation v Natural England and Waveney District Council, High Court of Justice Court of Appeal case C1/2009/0041/QBACF Citation No [2009] EWCA Civ. 1061 20th October 2009

<sup>11</sup> European Court of Justice Case C – 127/02 *Waddenzee* 7 September 2004

<sup>12</sup> Habitats Directive – Guidance on competent authority coordination under the Habitats Regulations, Defra (July 2012).

<sup>13</sup> Tyldesley, D., and Chapman, C., (2013) *The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook*, May 2015 edition UK: DTA Publications Ltd

- 1.28 Lastly, but importantly, this document is what is commonly called a *shadow* HRA, and although it has been prepared to assist the Council to discharge its duties under the Habitats Regulations, it is neither designed to, nor can it replace the formal exercise to be undertaken separately by the Council. The Council is the competent authority and it must decide to adopt this report or otherwise.

## 2. Identifying the European Sites Potentially at Risk from the Possible Allocations

- 2.1. Even before identifying potentially vulnerable sites, the Handbook (F3.2 – 3.4) first provides a mechanism that allows exploration of whether the Plan, or parts of it, can first be:
- **Excluded** from the HRA because ‘it is not a plan within the meaning and scope of the Habitats Directive’, or
  - **Eliminated** from the HRA because it can easily be shown that although ‘it is a plan ... it could not have any conceivable effect on any European site’, or
  - **Exempted** from the HRA because it is ‘... directly connected with or necessary to the management of the ... European site’ (ie the first formal stage of the HRA - Fig 1).
- 2.2. The outcomes will be a reflection of the type and location of activities proposed within the plan and/or the ecological characteristics of the European sites – it is neither an exploration of the impact of the plan on the conservation objectives of the sites, nor a test for LSE (which follows later).
- 2.3. Taking these in turn, it is clear the Site Allocations Local Plan represents a real plan with the potential to harm European sites and so can neither be **excluded** nor **eliminated** from the HRA. Likewise, its purpose is not the nature conservation management of any European sites and so it cannot be made **exempt** from further assessment.
- 2.4. Given these outcomes, the next step in this assessment (Stage 1, Fig 2) requires the identification of those European sites that could reasonably be expected to be affected by the possible allocations.
- 2.5. To promote a consistent, reliable and repeatable process, the *Handbook* identifies 16 criteria, listed below, that when applied (with supporting information and expert opinion) generate a robust list of European sites that could be affected by a range of generic impacts (column 3 of Table 1). This table is taken from the Handbook with minor changes to the titles appropriate to this HRA.
- 2.6. It is a coarse filter that is precautionary in approach but is also mindful of the Boggis case and attempts to only consider realistic and credible threats whilst avoiding hypothetical or extremely unlikely events. As a reflection of this, a ‘Zone of Influence’, extending 20km from the district boundary was utilised as the maximum extent that the possible allocations can seriously be considered to generate measurable effects.

Table 1: Potential mechanisms and the initial list of European sites that could be affected

Types of plan (or potential effects)	Sites to scan for and check	European sites selected
1. All plans (terrestrial, coastal and marine)	Sites within the geographic area covered by or intended to be relevant to the plan	Lower Derwent Valley (SPA, SAC, Ramsar) River Derwent (SAC) Skipwith Common (SAC)
2. Plans that could affect the aquatic environment	Sites upstream or downstream of the plan area in the case of river or estuary sites	Lower Derwent Valley (SPA, SAC, Ramsar) River Derwent (SAC)
	Open water, peatland, fen, marsh and other wetland sites with relevant hydrological links to land within the plan area, irrespective of distance from the plan area	Skipwith Common (SAC)

Types of plan (or potential effects)	Sites to scan for and check	European sites selected
3. Plans that could affect the marine environment	Sites that could be affected by changes in water quality, currents or flows; or effects on the inter-tidal or sub-tidal areas or the sea bed, or marine species	Humber Estuary (SPA, SAC, Ramsar)
4. Plans that could affect the coast	Sites in the same coastal 'cell', or part of the same coastal ecosystem, or where there are interrelationships with or between different physical coastal processes	None
5. Plans that could affect mobile species	Sites whose qualifying features include mobile species which may be affected by the plan irrespective of the location of the plan's proposals or whether the species would be in or out of the site when they might be affected	Lower Derwent Valley (SPA, SAC, Ramsar) River Derwent (SAC) Thorne & Hatfield Moors (SPA) Humber Estuary (SPA, SAC, Ramsar) Kirk Deighton (SAC)
6. Plans that could increase recreational pressure on European sites potentially vulnerable or sensitive to such pressure	(a) Such European sites in the plan area	Lower Derwent Valley (SPA, SAC, Ramsar) River Derwent (SAC) Skipwith Common (SAC)
	(b) Such European sites within an agreed zone of influence or other reasonable and evidence-based travel distance of the plan area boundaries that may be affected by local recreational or other visitor pressure from within the plan area	Thorne Moor (SAC) Hatfield Moor (SAC) Thorne & Hatfield Moors (SPA) Humber Estuary (SPA, SAC, Ramsar) Strensall Common (SAC) Kirk Deighton (SAC)
	(c) Such European sites within an agreed zone of influence or other evidence-based longer travel distance of the plan area, which are major (regional or national) visitor attractions such as European sites which are National Nature Reserves where public visiting is promoted, sites in National Parks, coastal sites and sites in other major tourist or visitor destinations	None – the sites of the Peak District, Yorkshire Dales, and Flamborough Head etc are considered too distant to be affected by any credible threats
7. Plans that would increase the amount of development	(a) Sites in the plan area or beyond that are used for, or could be affected by, water abstraction irrespective of distance from the plan area	None – The HRA of Yorkshire Water's Water Resources Management Plan found that there were unlikely to be any significant effects on European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects <sup>14</sup> .
	(b) Sites used for, or could be affected by, discharge of effluent from waste water treatment works or other waste management streams serving the plan area, irrespective of distance from the plan area	Lower Derwent Valley (SPA, SAC, Ramsar) River Derwent (SAC) Humber Estuary (SPA, SAC, Ramsar)

<sup>14</sup> Water Resource Management Plan 2014 Strategic Environmental Assessment Post Adoption Statement Cascade/Yorkshire Water

Types of plan (or potential effects)	Sites to scan for and check	European sites selected
	(c) Sites that could be affected by the provision of new or extended transport or other infrastructure	None – no such infrastructure proposed
	(d) Sites that could be affected by increased deposition of air pollutants arising from the proposals, including emissions from significant increases in traffic	Lower Derwent Valley (SPA, SAC, Ramsar) River Derwent (SAC) Skipwith Common (SAC) Thorne Moor (SAC) Hatfield Moor (SAC) Thorne & Hatfield Moors (SPA) Strensall Common (SAC) Kirk Deighton (SAC)
8 Plans for linear developments or infrastructure	Sites within a specified distance from the centre line of the proposed route (or alternative routes), the distance may be varied for differing types of site / qualifying features and in the absence of established good practice standards, distance(s) to be agreed by the statutory nature conservation body	None
9. Plans that introduce new activities or new uses into the marine, coastal or terrestrial environment	Sites considered to have qualifying features potentially vulnerable or sensitive to the effects of the new activities proposed by the plan	None
10. Plans that could change the nature, area, extent, intensity, density, timing or scale of existing activities or uses	Sites considered to have qualifying features potentially vulnerable or sensitive to the effects of the changes to existing activities proposed by the plan	None
11. Plans that could change the quantity, quality, timing, treatment or mitigation of emissions or discharges to air, water or soil	Sites considered to have qualifying features potentially vulnerable or sensitive to the changes in emissions or discharges that could arise as a result of the plan	None
12. Plans that could change the quantity, volume, timing, rate, or other characteristics of biological resources harvested, extracted or consumed	Sites whose qualifying features include the biological resources which the plan may affect, or whose qualifying features depend on the biological resources which the plan may affect, for example as prey species or supporting habitat or which may be disturbed by the harvesting, extraction or consumption	None
13. Plans that could change the quantity, volume, timing, rate, or other characteristics of physical resources extracted or consumed	Sites whose qualifying features rely on the non-biological resources which the plan may affect, for example, as habitat or a physical environment on which habitat may develop or which may be disturbed by the extraction or consumption	None

Types of plan (or potential effects)	Sites to scan for and check	European sites selected
14. Plans which could introduce or increase, or alter the timing, nature or location of disturbance to species	Sites whose qualifying features are considered to be potentially sensitive to disturbance, for example as a result of noise, activity or movement, or the presence of disturbing features that could be brought about by the plan	Lower Derwent Valley (SPA, SAC, Ramsar) River Derwent (SAC) Thorne & Hatfield Moors (SPA) Humber Estuary (SPA, SAC, Ramsar) Kirk Deighton (SAC)
15. Plans which could introduce or increase or change the timing, nature or location of light or noise pollution	Sites whose qualifying features are considered to be potentially sensitive to the effects of changes in light or noise that could be brought about by the plan	None
16. Plans which could introduce or increase a potential cause of mortality of species	Sites whose qualifying features are considered to be potentially sensitive to the source of new or increased mortality that could be brought about by the plan	None

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- 2.7. The application of local knowledge and expert opinion can further refine these outcomes as described in Table 2.

Table 2: Further observations on the initial list of European sites

European Site	Further Observations
Kirk Deighton SAC	Kirk Deighton SAC lies around 20km from the nearest possible allocation on private land with no public access. It will not be affected by local or more strategic factors and therefore, <b>Kirk Deighton SAC is removed from consideration in this HRA for all potential impacts.</b>
Strensall Common SAC	Although with considerable open access it is, at 23km distance (by road) from the nearest possible allocation at Escrick, considered too distant to be affected by local or more strategic factors such as public pressure as it will not represent a regular destination of any magnitude. <b>Strensall Common SAC is therefore removed from consideration in this HRA for all potential impacts.</b>
Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA	At 20km+ from the nearest possible allocation, these otherwise fragile sites display either restricted access and/or effective visitor management to strongly suggest that visitor numbers would be low, well-managed and the sites would be resilient to change. The distance of the qualifying habitats from major roads means that Air pollution effects will be avoided. <b>These three European sites are therefore removed from further consideration in this HRA for all potential impacts.</b>
Lower Derwent Valley River Derwent Humber Estuary Skipwith Common	<b>2. Impacts on the aquatic environment.</b> Effects considered are those associated with the physical presence of built development and the <i>localised</i> effects on surface and ground water resources and quality resulting from changes in run-off, sedimentation, erosion etc. No development is proposed that could lead to such effects. Therefore, <b>effects on the aquatic environment are removed from further consideration for these four European sites.</b> Note that the <i>indirect</i> effects of changes to wastewater disposal are assessed separately under '7d'.
Humber Estuary SPA, SAC, Ramsar	<b>3. Impacts on the marine environment</b> It is considered almost inconceivable that any of the possible allocations will lead to impacts of sufficient magnitude to



European Site	Further Observations
	<p>significantly affect the physical and biological processes of the Humber Estuary. Direct, physical effects can be ruled out, as none are proposed. Possible impacts on water quality will be restricted to the disposal of wastewater which is better evaluated via 7(b). Furthermore, impacts on mobile species found within the estuary are considered more effectively below. Consequently, <b>impacts on the marine environment are removed from any further consideration in this HRA.</b></p>
<p>Lower Derwent Valley (SPA, SAC, Ramsar) River Derwent (SAC) Thorne &amp; Hatfield Moors (SPA) Humber Estuary (SPA, SAC, Ramsar) Kirk Deighton (SAC)</p>	<p><b>14. Disturbance</b></p> <p>For the purposes of this exercise, it is considered that the effects of this category will be captured effectively via the application of criteria 5 (mobile species) and/or 6 (recreation).</p> <p>Therefore, this criterion is screened out to avoid duplication and so <b>impacts resulting from 'Disturbance' will be removed from further consideration in this HRA on all five European sites listed.</b></p>

- 2.8 The outcomes of the exercise carried out in Tables 1 and 2 reduces markedly the number of sites at risk, the number of features threatened and the overall number of factors at play. This exercise rules out the possibility of credible effects of the Plan on Kirk Deighton SAC, Strensall Common SAC, Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and Thorne & Hatfield Moors SPA. These sites will therefore be ruled out of the remainder of this HRA. In addition, key impacts, ie impacts on the marine environment and disturbance are also ruled out for discrete European sites.
- 2.9 Importantly, three of the four European sites either form or lie close to the boundary with the neighbouring local authorities of East Riding and City of York which may be of relevance in terms of in combination effects. All four sites that remain at risk are described and their reasons for designation (or qualifying features) listed in Table 3. Their conservation objectives, and a list of the 'pressures and threats' they experience (the latter drawn from Natural England's Site Improvement Plans or SIPs) are provided in Appendix A.

Table 3: Description of European Sites

Site name	Description	Qualifying Features
Lower Derwent Valley SAC, SPA & Ramsar	<p>The Lower Derwent Valley (LDV) supports the largest single expanse of wet, neutral (MG4) hay meadow in the UK, alongside fen, swamp, alder woodland and open water. Together, these habitats also host internationally important populations of breeding and wintering waterbirds. The former is heavily reliant in part on the maintenance of a favourable hydrological regime, including periodic inundation, and the latter is susceptible to disturbance. Wintering and breeding waterbirds communities both utilise discrete areas of functionally-linked farmland outside the designated site.</p> <p>Importantly, the SPA is classified only for wintering and breeding bird communities whereas the Ramsar designation adds wetland invertebrates, passage birds, ruff and whimbrel. All features are considered in this screening assessment and, reflecting the ecology of the species and habitats, a common approach to site and species safeguard is adequate to cover all species and all designations.</p> <p>In common with the River Derwent SAC, the qualifying features include important otter populations</p> <p>The majority of the site is privately owned and farmed with limited public access but is managed for nature conservation in partnership with Natural England as the Lower Derwent Valley National Nature Reserve (NNR). Limited car parking and a formal arrangement of footpaths and hides effectively reduces the impact of existing recreational pressure although some 'informal' access occurs.</p> <p>There are five component SSSIs. Natural England has assessed all of the Derwent Ings SSSI to be in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition. 99.6% of the River Derwent SSSI is considered to be in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition; only 0.4% is considered to be 'unfavourable no change' but the threat level is considered to be 'high' across a much wider area. All of Newton Mask SSSI, Brighton Meadows SSSI and Melbourne and Thornton Ings SSSI are considered to be in favourable condition but carry a range of threats from none to high, especially for the latter at Brighton Meadows.</p> <p>The corresponding SIP for the European site identifies, <i>inter alia</i>, a number of threats including public pressure, air pollution and invasive species.</p>	<p><b>Lower Derwent Valley SAC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H91E0: Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)</li> <li>H6510: Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>)</li> <li>S1355: <i>Lutra lutra</i>: Otter</li> </ul> <p><b>Lower Derwent Valley SPA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waterbird assemblage</li> <li>A052(NB) <i>Anas crecca</i>: Eurasian teal</li> <li>A050(NB) <i>Anas penelope</i>: Eurasian wigeon</li> <li>A056(B) <i>Anas clypeata</i>: Northern shoveler</li> <li>A151(NB) <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>: Ruff</li> <li>A140(NB) <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> : European golden plover</li> <li>A037 (NB) <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>: Bewick's swan (not listed in SIP)</li> <li>(NB) non-breeding</li> <li>(B) breeding</li> </ul> <p><b>Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Criterion 2 - Assemblage of wetland invertebrates.</li> <li>Criterion 4 – Nationally important populations of ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> and whimbrel <i>Numerius phaeopus</i> on passage</li> <li>Criterion 5 – Internationally important assemblage of wintering birds</li> <li>Criterion 6 – Internationally important populations of wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> and teal <i>Anas crecca</i></li> </ul>

Site name	Description	Qualifying Features
River Derwent SAC	<p>The River Derwent represents one of the best examples in England of a lowland classic river stretching from Ryemouth in the north to its confluence with the Ouse in the south of the District – a small stretch lies within the LDV NNR.</p> <p>It supports diverse communities of flora and fauna, notably floating vegetation dominated by water crowfoot; and river lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>), sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>), otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) and bullhead (<i>Cottus gobio</i>). These highly mobile species utilise extensive stretches of water both upstream and downstream of the designated site, and elsewhere within the catchment, and are critically dependent on the maintenance of a favourable hydrological conditions throughout their range. In particular, lamprey migrate to the open sea via the Humber Estuary providing an intimate link between both sites.</p> <p>Limited car parking and a formal arrangement of footpaths reduces the impact of existing recreational pressure although informal access also occurs.</p> <p>There are two component SSSIs – the River Derwent and Newton Mask. Natural England has assessed 99.6% of the River Derwent SSSI to be in ‘favourable’ or ‘unfavourable recovering’ condition; 0.4% is ‘unfavourable no change’ but the threat level is considered to be ‘high’ across a much wider area. All of Newton Mask SSSI is considered to be in favourable condition but carries a ‘medium’ threat level.</p> <p>The corresponding SIP for the European site identifies, <i>inter alia</i>, a number of threats including public pressure, air pollution and hydrological changes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H3260. Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation; Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot;</li> <li>• S1095. <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>; Sea lamprey;</li> <li>• S1099. <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>; River lamprey;</li> <li>• S1163. <i>Cottus gobio</i>; Bullhead;</li> <li>• S1355. <i>Lutra lutra</i>; Otter.</li> </ul>
Skipwith Common SAC	<p>Skipwith Common supports extensive areas of both northern Atlantic wet heath and European dry heath, with rush pasture, mire, reedbed, open water and woodland. The entire European site is managed as a National Nature Reserve, grazed with cattle and sheep and has been dedicated as open access land under CRoW. The number of visitors is increasing causing erosion and disturbance of grazing animals, and the wet heathland is vulnerable to nitrogen deposition.</p> <p>The underpinning Skipwith Common SSSI was assessed by Natural England to be in ‘favourable’ or ‘unfavourable recovering’ condition in 2014. The corresponding SIP for the European site identifies, <i>inter alia</i>, a number of threats including public pressure, air pollution and drainage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H4010. Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath;</li> <li>• H4030. European dry heaths.</li> </ul>

Site name	Description	Qualifying Features
Humber Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar	<p>The Humber Estuary is a huge estuary carrying high suspended sediment loads which sustain a dynamic system of, in the upper estuary, intertidal and subtidal mudflats, sandflats, saltmarsh and reedbeds. Elsewhere, other notable habitats include sand dunes, together with sub-tidal sandbanks and coastal lagoons. Qualifying features include river and sea lamprey which migrate through the estuary to breed in the rivers of the Humber catchment, including the Ouse and Derwent.</p> <p>The estuary regularly supports around 150,000 wintering and passage waterbirds. At high tide, large mixed flocks congregate in key roost sites often beyond the designated site boundary due to the combined effects of extensive land claim, coastal squeeze and lack of grazing marsh and grassland on both banks of the estuary. In summer, the site supports important breeding populations of Bittern, Marsh harrier, Avocet and Little tern.</p> <p>Although the Ramsar again introduces different features, these can be safely accommodated within the SPA and SAC features in terms of the HRA of this plan.</p> <p>Natural England has assessed 98% of the underpinning Humber Estuary SSSI to be in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition. 2% of the site has been assessed to be in 'unfavourable no change' or 'unfavourable declining' condition, although the majority of the affected units are associated with Barton and Barrow Claypits on the south bank. However, the 'threat' level is considered to be 'high' across a much wider area.</p> <p>The corresponding SIP for the European site identifies, <i>inter alia</i>, a number of threats including water pollution and public pressure.</p>	<p><b>SPA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A021 <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>; Great bittern (Non-breeding);</li> <li>• A021 <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>; Great bittern (Breeding);</li> <li>• A048 <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>; Common shelduck (Non-breeding);</li> <li>• A081 <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>; Eurasian marsh harrier (Breeding);</li> <li>• A082 <i>Circus cyaneus</i>; Hen harrier (Non-breeding);</li> <li>• A132 <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>; Pied avocet (Non-breeding);</li> <li>• A132 <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>; Pied avocet (Breeding);</li> <li>• A140 <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>; European golden plover (Non-breeding);</li> <li>• A143 <i>Calidris canutus</i>; Red knot (Non-breeding);</li> <li>• A149 <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>; Dunlin (Non-breeding);</li> <li>• A151 <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>; Ruff (Non-breeding);</li> <li>• A156 <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding);</li> <li>• A157 <i>Limosa lapponica</i>; Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding);</li> <li>• A162 <i>Tringa totanus</i>; Common redshank (Non-breeding);</li> <li>• A195 <i>Sterna albifrons</i>; Little tern (Breeding);</li> <li>• Waterbird assemblage.</li> </ul> <p><b>SAC Annex I habitats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1130 Estuaries;</li> <li>• 1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time;</li> <li>• 1150 Coastal lagoons * Priority feature;</li> <li>• 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand;</li> <li>• 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>);</li> <li>• 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes;</li> <li>• 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes);</li> <li>• 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) * Priority feature;</li> <li>• 2160 Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>.</li> </ul>

Site name	Description	Qualifying Features
		<p><b>SAC Annex II species:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1095 Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>;</li> <li>• 1099 River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>;</li> <li>• 1364 Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ramsar</b></p> <p>Criterion 1 – near natural estuary;</p> <p>Criterion 3 – breeding colony of grey seals;</p> <p>Criterion 5 – Internationally important assemblage of wintering waterfowl;</p> <p>Criterion 6 – Internationally important populations of waterbirds on passage: golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>, knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>, dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>, black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> and redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i>;</p> <p>Criterion 6 – Internationally important populations of waterbirds in winter: common shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>, golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>, knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> and dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>;</p> <p>Criterion 8 – migration route for river lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> and sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>.</p>

2.10 The analysis carried out in Tables 1 & 2 now allows the HRA to focus solely on possible impacts on the Lower Derwent Valley SPA, SAC & Ramsar, the River Derwent SAC, Skipwith Common SAC and the Humber Estuary SPA, SAC and Ramsar. However, by drawing on the additional information provided on each of these European sites in Table 3, the HRA is able to further refine the possible impacts to specific features, habitats and species. These, the key issues for the next stage of this HRA are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Summarised, initial list of European sites, affected features and potential effects

European site	Potential effects	Specific features
Lower Derwent Valley SPA, SAC & Ramsar	(5) Impacts on mobile species	Breeding and non-breeding birds, and otter
	(6) Impacts from recreational pressure	All habitats and species
	(7b) Impacts from wastewater disposal	All habitats and otter
	(7d) Impacts from air pollution	All habitats
River Derwent SAC	(5) Impacts on mobile species	Otter, bullhead & lamprey
	(6) Impacts from recreational pressure	All
	(7b) Impacts from wastewater disposal	All
	(7d) Impacts from air pollution	Floating vegetation dominated by water crowfoot
Skipwith Common SAC	(6) Impacts from recreational pressure	All
	(7d) Impacts from air pollution	All
Humber Estuary SAC, SPA, Ramsar	(5) Impacts on mobile species	Lamprey, grey seals, breeding, passage and wintering birds
	(6) Impacts from recreational pressure	All except subtidal features
	(7b) Impacts from wastewater disposal	All

2.11 Note that whilst Ramsar features often share considerable overlap with SPA and SAC features and so can frequently be considered as one, the relationship is not always so convenient. For instance, the wetland invertebrate assemblage in the Lower Derwent Valley (a Ramsar feature) is not represented in the corresponding SAC. However, as the safeguard of these features depends on ensuring that the supporting wetland and grassland habitats of the SAC are retained in favourable conservation status, then assessing the impact of the plan proposals on the latter will be sufficient to deliver the necessary scrutiny of Ramsar sites as required by current Government policy. Therefore, there will no specific reference to Ramsar features in the following screening exercises unless it is required for clarity.

### 3. Screening the Possible Allocations – process and outcomes

#### Methodology

- 3.1 The previous section identified the European sites and the specific features which might potentially be affected by the possible site allocations. The next and first, formal stage of the HRA process is commonly referred to as ‘screening’. Fundamentally, its purpose is to identify if there is a real risk that a proposal in the plan may lead to LSE (by threatening to undermine the conservation objectives) of a European site. It achieves this by evaluating the proposals in the plan against the following criteria to see if they should be:
- **Screened out from further scrutiny** because the individual policies or allocations are considered not ‘likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects’; or
  - **Screened in for further scrutiny** because the individual policies or allocations are considered ‘likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects’.
- 3.1 To achieve this, the Handbook goes on to provide a list of ‘screening categories’ designed to evaluate both policy and site-based allocations to provide a rigorous and transparent approach to the screening process. Whilst certain categories will not be relevant to his HRA, being more relevant to the assessment of policies, they are still listed for completeness. The categories are shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Screening categories

Code	Category	Outcome
A	General statement of policy/general aspiration	Screened out
B	Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of the plan	Screened out
C	Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Screened out
D	Environmental protection/site safeguarding policy	Screened out
E	Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Screened out
F	Policy that cannot lead to development or other change	Screened out
G	Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a site	Screened out
H	Policy or proposal the (actual or theoretical) effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects)	Screened out
I	Policy or proposal with a likely significant effect on a site alone	Screened in
J	Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but not likely to be significant alone, so need to check for likely significant effects in combination	Check
K	Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination (screened out after the in combination test)	Check
L	Policy or proposal likely to have a significant effect in combination (screened in after the in combination test)	Check

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- 3.2 Bearing these criteria in mind, each of the outstanding threats identified in Table 4 is then considered against the conservation objectives for the European sites to assess the effects on individual qualifying features. This is carried in Tables 6 to 10 below. At the end of that process, a category is attached to each of the 316 possible allocations which is summarised, by settlement in Table 11. Given the large number of possible allocations, the raw data is confined to Appendix B.

## Screening the Possible Allocations

### *Potential Effect – Mobile Species*

Table 6: Potential Effect – Mobile Species

European sites	Feature
Lower Derwent Valley	Breeding and non-breeding birds, and otter
River Derwent	Bullhead, lamprey and otter
Humber Estuary	Lamprey, grey seals and both breeding and non-breeding birds

### Context

- 3.3 Mobile Species are defined here as those that also utilise (*‘functionally-linked’*) land or water beyond the designated site boundary for some part of their life-cycle; consequently, they are vulnerable to a range of both localised and strategic effects away from protected areas. Therefore, in the case of fish and otter, effects on water quality and resources will have to be considered both up and downstream, and, in terms of bird populations, attention will have to be paid to land-take or disturbance on potentially wide areas of land.
- 3.4 All the potential European sites selected identify ‘disturbance’ as a key pressure or threat in the relevant SIP (Appendix A).

### Screening opinions

- 3.5 Effects on mobile species are only likely to be significant where development is located in close proximity to a designated site, having functionally-linked land or water that is in hydraulic continuity to the site. This category is solely concerned with this type of direct effect.
- 3.6 Given the absence of proposed development in close proximity to the estuary or known, functionally-linked land, it is considered highly unlikely that any proposals in the Plan could undermine the conservation objectives (alone or in combination) of the breeding and non-breeding bird populations of the Humber Estuary SPA and so likely significant effects **can be screened out (Category G)**.
- 3.7 Otters are associated with waterways throughout the district and, in common with experiences across much of lowland England, populations have been steadily increasing as water quality, in particular, has improved. Otters are typically nocturnal and elusive and although they will range widely in the rivers and adjacent riparian habitats to forage, holts are typically established in undisturbed locations, away from human pressure. As no possible allocations promote obstructions in the rivers and most are situated far from water courses or in heavily urbanised locations, no significant effects are anticipated.
- 3.8 Consequently, it is considered highly unlikely that any proposals in the Plan could undermine the conservation objectives (alone or in combination) of the otter populations of the River Derwent or Lower Derwent Valley SACs and so likely significant effects **can be screened out (Category G)**.



- 3.9 Whilst it is noted that a fall in water quality of the rivers could reduce the availability of prey, it is considered that this issue will be captured by assessment of wastewater disposal below.
- 3.10 Similarly, and simply because of the distance between the Plan area and seal haul-out areas, it is considered highly unlikely that any proposals in the Plan could undermine the conservation objectives (alone or in combination) of the grey seal populations of the Humber Estuary SAC and so likely significant effects can be **screened out (Category G)**.
- 3.11 Given the absence of proposals for the creation of physical or other obstructions in watercourses, it is considered highly unlikely that any proposals in the Plan could undermine the conservation objectives (alone or in combination) of the lamprey and bullhead populations of the River Derwent or Humber Estuary SACs and so likely significant effects can be **screened out (Category G)**. Changes in water quality remain highly relevant but again, will be addressed via assessment of wastewater disposal below.
- 3.12 The Lower Derwent Valley supports diverse, fragile breeding and non-breeding bird populations throughout the year, both within the SPA and on functionally-linked land beyond. All are equally vulnerable to disturbance from public pressure which could result in their disturbance or displacement. However, no possible allocations are proposed on or in close proximity to land utilised by these populations at any time of the year and so direct, adverse effects can be ruled out. Indeed, when consulted on recent applications for housing in North Duffield, Natura England advised that there would be no likely significant effects alone on any of the nearby European sites. Therefore, it is considered highly unlikely that any proposals in the Plan could undermine the conservation objectives (alone or in combination) of the breeding and non-breeding bird populations of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA and so likely significant effects can be **screened out (Category G)**.
- 3.13 Note, that this evaluation is only concerned with direct effects from new development. Indirect effects resulting from an increased number of visitors to the site or land nearby is considered separately, under (6) below.
- 3.14 Overall, likely significant effects on mobile species have been screened out (alone and in-combination) for all features on all three European sites - the Humber Estuary (SPA, SAC & Ramsar), River Derwent (SAC) and the Lower Derwent Valley (SAC). Consequently, there is no need to consider this issue further. There is no need for an in-combination assessment and they will play no further role in this HRA.

#### *Potential Effects - Recreation*

Table 7: Potential Effects - Recreation

European Sites	Feature
Lower Derwent Valley	All habitats and species
River Derwent	All features
Skipwith Common	All features
Humber Estuary	All features except subtidal

#### **Context**

- 3.15 For those European sites in and around the District, recreational pressure is largely limited to walking (frequently with dogs) and associated car parking.

- 3.16 Recreational pressure at the most popular destinations can draw in visitors in great numbers from considerable distances and lead to erosion and disturbance. Less popular sites, or those with fewer facilities, have a smaller catchment, fewer visitors and the issue is typically less problematic. Alternatively, sites managed specifically to encourage large numbers of visitors can tolerate these pressures without causing significant harm.
- 3.17 Excessive pressure typically leads to the disturbance of designated species, and a reduction in habitat quality/extent from trampling. It can be particularly problematic on land with open or unauthorised access where desire lines can be created and so compromise site management.
- 3.18 In addition, dogs can cause localised eutrophication and disturb grazing stock, reducing the effectiveness of site management and a decline in the condition of features not normally considered vulnerable to disturbance.
- 3.19 As with 'mobile species', all the European site SIPs (Appendix A), list 'disturbance/public access' as a key pressure or threat.

#### Screening Options

- 3.20 Distance or accessibility remain key factors and in general, where modest possible residential allocations are situated over 5km from a vulnerable European site, then direct, significant effects (alone) can often (but not always) be ruled out. Of course, each site is different and other key factors will include the fragility of the feature, size of the development, the accessibility of alternative destinations, the availability of footpaths, public transport and so on. In particular, all possible employment allocations are removed from consideration in this category. Given the reduced opportunities for workers to visit European sites nearby during the working day any adverse impacts can be screened out, alone or in combination.
- 3.21 In terms of all features on and around the Humber Estuary, given the absence of proposed development nearby, limited access to the foreshore, compounded by private ownership of much of the functionally-linked land it is considered highly unlikely that any proposals in the Plan could undermine the conservation objectives (alone or in combination) of the features of the Humber Estuary SPA and SAC and so likely significant effects can be **screened out (Category G)**; a visitor survey in 2012<sup>15</sup> suggested that the median distance travelled by visitors (by car) visitors was just 4.4km.
- 3.22 Otters are found on both the River Derwent and Lower Derwent Valley. The evaluation of this issue is similar to that expressed in 'mobile species' above. They are clearly associated with waterways throughout the district and populations have been steadily increasing as water quality, in particular, has improved. Otters are typically nocturnal and elusive and although they will range widely in the rivers and adjacent riparian habitats to forage, holts are typically established in undisturbed locations, away from human pressure. Given that access to the riverside is effectively (although not entirely) restricted by management measures and private ownership, adverse effects can be ruled out.
- 3.23 Consequently, it is considered highly unlikely that any proposals in the Plan could undermine the conservation objectives (alone or in combination) of the otter populations of the River Derwent or Lower Derwent Valley SACs and so likely significant effects can be **screened out (Category G)**.
- 3.24 Lamprey and bullhead populations, and floating vegetation communities can be considered immune to recreational pressure, and otters will largely avoid it through their nocturnal habits.

<sup>15</sup> Fearnley, H, Liley, D. & Cruickshanks, K. (2012). Results of the recreational visitor surveys across the Humber Estuary. Footprint Ecology, unpublished report for Humber Management Scheme

Therefore, it is considered highly unlikely that any proposals in the Plan could undermine the conservation objectives (alone or in combination) of the lamprey and bullhead of the Lower Derwent Valley, River Derwent and Humber Estuary SACs and so likely significant effects can be **screened out (Category G)**.

- 3.25 Such mitigating factors do not apply to the bird communities and habitats of the Lower Derwent Valley or the fragile heathlands of Skipwith Common which both remain vulnerable to recreational pressure. Whilst the mechanisms are rather different, the outcome, in terms of this HRA, are similar and so they are considered together to avoid repetition.
- 3.26 Taking the Lower Derwent Valley first, this supports diverse, fragile breeding and non-breeding bird populations throughout the year, both within the SPA and on functionally-linked land beyond which are vulnerable to disturbance and displacement. In addition, the woodland, and especially grassland communities are all equally vulnerable to disturbance from public pressure which could result in trampling and erosion.
- 3.27 Whilst access to much of the SPA is managed and/or restricted, it is not completely controlled. Furthermore, whilst the majority of functionally-linked land is found on private land, access here can also not be fully managed. Consequently, given the numerous possible allocations clustered within a few kilometres of the SPA adverse effects cannot be ruled out if recreational pressure is to increase considerably.
- 3.28 Turning to Skipwith Common SAC, the dry and wet heathland communities are equally vulnerable to recreational pressure. It is a popular site for (dog-) walking with the small, local community but limited places to park currently appear to deter larger numbers from further afield. The site is carefully managed as a National Nature Reserve by Natural England and a mosaic of fenced grazing compartments effectively delineate a network of footpaths which largely prevent the damaging trampling of fragile habitats (although some erosion and widening of paths is evident already). That said, even dogs on leads can have the subtle effect of driving grazing stock into cover reducing the effectiveness of essential grazing management. These issues can only be expected to increase if the local population grows considerably.
- 3.29 In terms of these potential threats from both the Lower Derwent Valley and Skipwith Common, it is not expected that each possible allocation will lead to significant effects alone, but **in-combination effects cannot be ruled out**. This justifies a very precautionary approach at this stage of the evolution of the Plan and so all possible allocations within 10km of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA will need to be checked for significant effects in combination; large numbers of visitors are unlikely to travel further than this. This in-combination assessment will be carried out in a subsequent document.
- 3.30 This radius will encompass most but not all of the many possible allocations in Selby and so to avoid artificial distinctions, all Selby possible allocations will also be included in this screening exercise. It is anticipated that this can be refined in due course as further evidence arises. For instance, a brief visitor survey may allow more confident, evidence-based, and objective decisions to be made in due course.
- 3.31 In conclusion, whilst effects on both the Lower Derwent Valley and Skipwith Common European sites are not likely to be significant for each individual possible allocation alone, the need exists to check for likely significant effects in combination for all possible allocations within a 10km radius of the European site (Category J).
- 3.32 Each possible allocation will be individually screened only against this criterion; the raw analysis is presented in Appendix B with the outcomes summarised in Section 4. At this stage in the HRA and

Plan evolution, factors such as the characteristics of each European site will not be considered or the size of individual possible allocations.

- 3.33 Overall, likely significant effects on qualifying habitats and species have been screened out on the Humber Estuary (SPA, SAC & Ramsar) and River Derwent (SAC). They have also been screened out for otters on the Lower Derwent Valley (and River Derwent) SAC. There is no need for an in-combination assessment and they will play no further role in this HRA.
- 3.34 However, likely significant effects cannot be ruled out from recreational pressure on neither the habitats, breeding and non-breeding bird populations on the Lower Derwent Valley SPA & SAC, nor the habitats of Skipwith Common SAC which need to be checked in combination.

#### *Potential Effects – Wastewater*

Table 8: *Potential Effect – Wastewater*

European sites	Feature
Lower Derwent Valley	All habitats and species
River Derwent	All features
Humber Estuary	All features except subtidal

#### Context

- 3.35 Development generates wastewater which requires treatment prior to disposal normally via connection to the mains sewerage network and treatment at the relevant wastewater treatment works (WwTW). Consequently, potential impacts are restricted to the receiving aquatic and riparian environments and the three sites listed.
- 3.36 Adverse effects can be direct through, for instance, pollution events causing destruction of fragile vegetation communities in the Derwent or contributing to increased biological oxygen demand so preventing the movement of migrating lamprey. Indirect effects on the abundance of prey for otter are also possible.
- 3.37 Discharge of wastewater by Yorkshire Water (YW) is licensed by the Environment Agency (EA) and both must recognise that the consenting and management options available to the EA are limited both by capacity within existing infrastructure and the existing pollutant levels in the receiving watercourses.
- 3.38 YW also has a duty to accept wastewater from new development, yet there will be a tension within the HRA if the EA assumes that YW can simply accept any associated increases in wastewater irrespective of limitations in capacity. All three potential European sites identified here only hint at, rather than explicitly state, the threat from changes to water quality in the relevant SIPs (Appendix A).

#### Screening opinion

- 3.39 The purpose of this screening exercise is to ensure that there are viable options available to both the EA and YW to meet wastewater drainage demands without adverse effects on the integrity of any European sites.
- 3.40 Whilst the vegetation and animal communities found within the three European sites will be the focus of attention, this exercise cannot escape that lamprey migrate throughout the entire catchment. Consequently, the safeguard of, for example, the Humber population can also be said

to rely on the achieving adequate levels of protection throughout not only the Derwent but also the Ouse, Wharfe and beyond.

- 3.41 Notwithstanding their intention and obligation to accept wastewater from new development, there is no information available at present to determine whether YW's WwTW infrastructure has the capacity to accommodate the possible development indicated by the numerous possible allocations. Similarly, there is no formal commitment to adapt their investment programmes to build new capacity, nor when it could be completed, if needed. Consequently, adverse effects on aquatic features cannot be ruled out at this stage.
- 3.42 Therefore, whilst effects on the Lower Derwent Valley, River Derwent and Humber Estuary European sites are not likely to be significant for each individual possible allocation alone, the need exists to check for likely significant effects in combination for all possible allocations in this Plan (Category J).

#### *Potential Effects – Air Pollution*

Table 9: Potential Effects – Air Pollution

European sites	Feature
Lower Derwent Valley	All habitats
River Derwent	Floating vegetation dominated by water crowfoot
Skipwith Common	All habitats

#### Context

- 3.43 Both residential and employment development is typically associated with increased traffic and emissions which have been shown to be linked to impacts on vegetation within 200m of the road edge. Beyond this distance, effects become difficult to distinguish from background levels of atmospheric pollutants.
- 3.44 Where critical loads are shown to be exceeded, further increases are generally considered to avoid LSE (alone) if each increment is below 1%; however, building on recent case law in Sussex, residual effects must still be considered in-combination.
- 3.45 In addition, possible employment allocations have the potential to generate specific, point-sourced emissions that may or may not adversely affect European sites and that may require specific licensing by the EA. As no information is provided on the latter, it is assumed that for this stage in the assessment process, that no such processes are proposed.
- 3.46 Consequently, the additional contributions that might arise from increased traffic are only likely to be significant where the site is known to be sensitive to such effects and where the appropriate critical loads and levels are either exceeded or approaching exceedance.
- 3.47 Despite this assessment, Natural England's SIPs (Appendix A) only identified air pollution as a key pressure or threat for Skipwith Common.

#### Screening opinion

- 3.48 Given the rural surroundings and the lack of other major industry it is assumed that new employment will be relatively benign, with low numbers of employees (and cars) and will more closely resemble residential characteristics. If these assumptions are shown to be incorrect in any future iteration of the Plan, this section will need to be re-assessed.

- 3.49 In contrast, the River Derwent, Lower Derwent Valley and Skipwith Common designated sites, although in markedly rural locations, in places lie in close proximity to a network of roads – one minor right of way even runs through Skipwith Common. Potentially, these could exert an influence on the variety of designated features on all three sites. Impacts on these European sites will continue to be evaluated as normal.
- 3.50 Taking each site in turn below, the following applies which relies heavily on information drawn from the Air Pollution Information System (APIS).

#### River Derwent

- 3.51 None of the features (neither habitats nor otter nor fish) of the River Derwent benefit from identified critical loads although all are known to be sensitive to nitrogen deposition and acidification.
- 3.52 APIS data for the River Derwent projected that in 2020 only 5% of the overall nitrogen contribution would be caused by road traffic. Although often an underestimate, this strongly suggests the contribution from road traffic will be minor. Furthermore, although the site is very long, roads of any magnitude within 200m of the river (such as the A1069) are few and far between and largely restricted to occasional river crossings (and lie outside the District). Despite this, meso/eutrophic systems like the Derwent are often phosphate limited providing a clear relationship with wastewater and other sources/discharges and may make the system more vulnerable. However, high nutrient loads within the river make it resilient to the effects of any increases caused by airborne pollution.
- 3.53 Given these mitigating factors, it is considered almost inconceivable, given the scale of overall development, that traffic associated with individual or multiple allocations will have an adverse impact on the River Derwent from road traffic and significant effects alone can be ruled out.
- 3.54 Given these mitigating factors, it is considered highly unlikely that any proposals in the Plan could undermine the conservation objectives (alone or in combination) of the features of the River Derwent SAC and so **likely significant effects can be screened out (Category G)**.

#### Lower Derwent Valley SPA and SAC

- 3.55 The critical loads identified for the habitat of the qualifying breeding and wintering birds struggle to relate to the habitats at the SPA as they tend to describe the more typically associated upland and coastal communities of these species. Use of these would lead to a struggle to present a coherent narrative.
- 3.56 However, by adopting the loads for the associated low altitude hay meadows, critical loads of 20-30 kgNha<sup>-1</sup>yr<sup>-1</sup> are found. Both the critical loads for nitrogen deposition and acidity are already and clearly exceeded.
- 3.57 Although emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> from road traffic contribute primarily to local levels of acidity, they make only a limited contribution to local nitrogen deposition and the 2020 projection for overall nitrogen contribution for the LDV SPA and SAC is only 4.6%. As the LDV occupies a similar geography to the River Derwent the same issues regarding the absence of nearby roads. In addition, the site is managed for nature conservation and any tendency for the encouragement of coarse grasses etc will be effectively managed on site. Furthermore, this site is subject to regular flooding which will contribute far greater amounts of nitrogen to the habitat than air pollution and is regarded as a part of the functioning of the (semi-) natural system.
- 3.58 Given these mitigating factors, it is considered highly unlikely that any proposals in the Plan could undermine the conservation objectives (alone or in combination) of the features of the Lower

Derwent Valley European site and so **likely significant effects can be screened out (Category G)**.

#### Skipwith Common

- 3.59 Values for nitrogen deposition at Skipwith lie midway between the minimum and maximum range of 20-30 kgNha<sup>-1</sup>yr<sup>-1</sup> and likewise for acidity.
- 3.60 As for the LDV above, the 2020 projection for the site is 6.9% of total contributions but the Common is bordered to the east by a minor road (although there is road within the site although this is impassable to most vehicles). Although road traffic can increase nitrogen concentrations over wide areas, nitrogen deposition is usually restricted to very short distances and can be restricted further by roadside vegetation. If effects from the minor road within the site are dismissed because of the tiny volume of traffic, so too can effects from the road to the east. The boundary of the European site comprises woodland and is not representative of the heathland qualifying habitats. It is highly unlikely that increased road traffic emissions will lead to adverse effects.
- 3.61 Given these mitigating factors, it is considered highly unlikely that any proposals in the Plan could undermine the conservation objectives (alone or in combination) of the features of Skipwith Common SAC and so **likely significant effects can be screened out (Category G)**.
- 3.62 The outcomes of the first stage of the formal screening assessment set out above are summarised in Table 10 below.

Table 10: Screening of the Potential Allocations

Potential effects	Outcome of screening assessment
5 Mobile species	Potential effects on mobile species have been screened out of this assessment. The outcome of the screening of each, individual allocation, is presented in Appendix B and summarised by settlement in Table 11 below.
6 Recreation	Likely significant effects from recreational pressure on the breeding and non-breeding bird communities of the Lower Derwent Valley, and the heathlands of Skipwith Common can be ruled out alone but not in combination. Likely significant effects from recreational pressure on all the other features of these and other sites have been screened out. The outcome of the screening of each, individual allocation, is presented in Appendix B and summarised by settlement in Table 11 below.
7b Wastewater	Likely significant effects from the disposal of wastewater associated with new development on the Humber Estuary, Lower Derwent Valley and River Derwent can be ruled out alone but not in combination. The outcome of the screening of each, individual allocation, is presented in Appendix B and summarised by settlement in Table 11 below.
7d Air pollution	Potential effects resulting from increases in air pollution have been screened out of this assessment .The outcome of the screening of each, individual allocation, is presented in Appendix B and summarised by settlement in Table 11 below.

- 3.63 The content of Tables 6 to 9 (and 10) directly informs the assessment of each of the 316 allocations. This raw data is presented in Appendix B with further comment provided for each of the 28 settlements. This, in turn, is summarised below in Table 11. Each 'overall screening conclusion' (in column 7) draws on the categories described in Table 10 to confirm the outcome of the screening assessment for each settlement.

3.64 The issues for each settlement are identified in columns 3-6. Note that this is an aggregated (or worst-case) list and whilst most potential allocations within a settlement have the same outcome, this may not always be the case. Any differences are shown in Appendix B which should always be referred to. For ease of reference, elements screened out (Category G) are coloured green and where LSE cannot be ruled out in combination, elements are coloured orange. Where individual potential allocations affect more than one European site, reference to Appendix B must be made to clarify which particular features are affected eg whether lamprey or otter are vulnerable, or both.

Table 11: Summary of Formal Screening Exercise by Settlement

Settlement	No of sites	5	6	7b	7	Overall screening conclusion
		Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	
Appleton R'buck	7	G	G	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Barlby	7	G	J	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Brayton	18	G	G	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Brotherton	3	G	G	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Byram	5	G	G	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Carlton	5	G	G	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Cawood	8	G	G	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Church Fenton	13	G	G	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Cliffe	1	G	G	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Eggborough	13	G	G	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Escrick	3	G	J	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Fairburn	1	G	G	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Hambleton	8	G	G	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Great Heck	3	G	G	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Hemingbrough	21	G	J	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Hillam	5	G	G	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Kellington	6	G	G	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Monk Fryston	11	G	G	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
North Duffield	12	G	J	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Osgodby	9	G	J	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Riccall	8	G	J	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Selby	51	G	J	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Sherburn	32	G	G	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
South Milford	11	G	G	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Tadcaster	24	G	G	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Thorpe W'ghby	11	G	G	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination



Settlement	No of sites	5	6	7b	7	Overall screening conclusion
		Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	
Ulleskelf	6	G	G	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Whitley	14	G	G	J	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination

3.65 In brief, this analysis shows that although **LSE alone can be ruled out for all parameters** for all possible allocations, **LSE in combination cannot** be ruled out for all possible allocations because of uncertainty surrounding the impact of the disposal of wastewater. In addition, the impact of increased public or recreational pressure, again, only in combination, cannot be ruled out for those allocations in Selby and within 10km of the Lower Derwent Valley and Skipwith Common European sites. Note, however, that the small number of possible allocations in those settlements situated even closer to the European sites, such as North Duffield, are screened out of this in combination assessment because they already have planning permission and Natural England were consulted and concluded no LSE alone for each application. There are no reasons to disagree with these conclusions and so the outcomes are adopted in this HRA.

## 4. Mitigation and future work

- 4.1 The next step in this HRA is to evaluate the effectiveness of possible mitigation measures. At this stage in the evolution of the Plan this is difficult given the abundance of possible allocations and the widespread nature of the possible adverse effects. However, attempts have been made to suggest broad proposals that can either resolve issues or provide evidence to allow more informed decisions to be made and allow a less cautious approach.

### Wastewater

- 4.2 Uncertainty surrounding the impact of the disposal of wastewater from the possible allocations across the district meant that significant effects could not be ruled out in combination.
- 4.3 Yorkshire Water is required by law to provide the necessary capacity and will also be required to meet the standards laid down by the EA. However, it is not yet known what capacity currently exists within existing licences and whether additional capacity is needed or not. This has the potential to introduce a conflict into the plan by encouraging development where capacity is not yet available and where an anticipated biodiversity policy would prevent permission being granted. The following wording would clarify matters:

Mitigation measure 1

***The Council will maintain the water quality of the River Derwent Special Area of Conservation by:***

- ***Only allowing new development in the River Derwent Catchment where there is sufficient capacity at the appropriate wastewater treatment works, and***
  - ***Only allowing new development in the River Derwent Catchment where it can be demonstrated that it will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the European site***
- 4.4 Again, final wording should be defined by the Council but this or a similar approach may allow wastewater to be screened out of the HRA. Should this policy be adopted, the impact on the possible allocations is summarised in Table 12 below. However, it is recognised that the Plan has not yet identified any policies.

### Recreational pressure

- 4.5 Currently, the selection of possible allocations isn't able to draw on a robust evidence base that describes intensity, frequency and origin of visits to Skipwith Common and the Lower Derwent Valley. Similarly, the current extent, distribution and condition of alternative greenspace are yet to be published. When all this information is available, appropriate mitigation measures can be identified.
- 4.6 However, in general terms, solutions are likely to include a combination of bespoke policies for individual (or groups of) allocations, the creation of alternative greenspace or similar measures. Whilst work is proceeding on these, there is no evidence to draw on to help identify those possible allocations which may or may not pose a threat to the Lower Derwent Valley and Skipwith Common European sites. Consequently, it is recommended that this information is obtained as soon as possible.
- 4.7 Overall, therefore, no measures are readily available to remove the threat from recreational pressure and so it remains unaltered in Table 10 below. However, in the next iteration of the Plan and this HRA it is expected that the greenspace audit should provide a policy-led solution that may allow these outstanding allocations to be screened out. In particular, this should inform the

evolution of policies that (1) describe developer contributions to the establishment of green infrastructure (in part to reduce public recreational pressure on Skipwith Common and the Lower Derwent Valley) and (2) influence the Council's potentially conflicting aspirations to increase the recreational use of the countryside, yet safeguard the same European sites.

4.8 The impact of the proposed mitigation measures is summarised in Table 12 below:

Table 12: Summary of Formal Screening Exercise After Suggested Mitigation

Settlement	No of sites	5	6	7b	7	Overall screening conclusion
		Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	
Appleton R'buck	7	G	G	G	G	No LSE alone. No need for further scrutiny
Barlby	7	G	J	G	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Brayton	18	G	G	G	G	No LSE alone. No need for further scrutiny
Brotherton	3	G	G	G	G	No LSE alone. No need for further scrutiny
Byram	5	G	G	G	G	No LSE alone. No need for further scrutiny
Carlton	5	G	G	G	G	No LSE alone. No need for further scrutiny
Cawood	8	G	G	G	G	No LSE alone. No need for further scrutiny
Church Fenton	13	G	G	G	G	No LSE alone. No need for further scrutiny
Cliffe	1	G	G	G	G	No LSE alone. No need for further scrutiny
Eggborough	13	G	G	G	G	No LSE alone. No need for further scrutiny
Escrick	3	G	J	G	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Fairburn	1	G	G	G	G	No LSE alone. No need for further scrutiny
Hambleton	8	G	G	G	G	No LSE alone. No need for further scrutiny
Great Heck	3	G	G	G	G	No LSE alone. No need for further scrutiny
Hemingbrough	21	G	J	G	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Hillam	5	G	G	G	G	No LSE alone. No need for further scrutiny
Kellington	6	G	G	G	G	No LSE alone. No need for further scrutiny
Monk Fryston	11	G	G	G	G	No LSE alone. No need for further scrutiny
North Duffield	12	G	J	G	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Osgodby	9	G	J	G	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Riccall	8	G	J	G	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Selby	51	G	J	G	G	No LSE alone. Possible LSE in-combination
Sherburn	32	G	G	G	G	No LSE alone. No need for further scrutiny
South Milford	11	G	G	G	G	No LSE alone. No need for further scrutiny
Tadcaster	24	G	G	G	G	No LSE alone. No need for further scrutiny
Thorpe W'ghby	11	G	G	G	G	No LSE alone. No need for further scrutiny
Ulleskelf	6	H	H	H	H	No LSE alone. No need for further scrutiny
Whitley	14	H	H	H	H	No LSE alone. No need for further scrutiny

## 5. Overall screening conclusion

- 5.1 Selby District Council (the Council) is in the process of producing their Site Allocations Local Plan and is currently refining its list of site allocations. Currently a 'pool of sites' has been developed which encompasses 316 possible allocations and information about each possible allocation. This list will be refined following consultation, to produce a set of preferred allocations together with site specific policies. This draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) represents a preliminary ('Screening') assessment of the possible allocations within the pool of sites under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (commonly referred to as the Habitats Regulations), to help inform the identification of key issues and options.
- 5.2 It does not represent the final HRA for the Selby Local Plan Site Allocations; it is a step in the process and only considers the impact of each possible allocation 'alone'. It identifies possible 'in-combination' threats but does not assess them further. Neither does it include the more detailed 'appropriate assessment stage'. However, this edition still follows best practice (drawing heavily, in particular, on guidance contained within the Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook) and takes account of Government policy and law.
- 5.3 In due course, this draft HRA will help influence a refined list of preferred allocations and inform the preparation of associated site specific policies for consultation. Future iterations will be based on a stronger evidence base and will explore the full range of tests required by the Regulations.
- 5.4 The individual outcomes of the screening exercise can be found in Appendix B and are summarised in Table 11. This assessment found that none of the individual possible allocations would result in LSE' alone. However, because of uncertainties regarding the anticipated need for increased wastewater disposal it was impossible to rule out significant effects in combination across every possible allocation. Similarly, due to uncertainty surrounding the impact of recreational pressure from the cluster of possible allocations in and around the north of Selby, it was impossible to rule out significant effects in combination on Skipwith Common and the Lower Derwent Valley from possible allocations in Barlby, Escrick, Hemingbrough, North Duffield, Osgodby, Riccall and Selby.
- 5.5 However, recommendations are made that, if implemented, could reduce the likelihood of harm arising as follows:
- The Council should engage both Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency to ensure that the capacity of the wastewater infrastructure and associated investment programme is sufficient to allow the proposed development (through the preferred allocations) to take place without adversely affecting the integrity of the River Derwent European site and its features. The outcomes should inform the generation of a specific policy to deliver this – a suggestion is provided within the main body of the report. The impact of the adoption of this or a similar policy is shown in Table 12 where LSE in relation to wastewater disposal could be removed across all possible allocations; and
  - To evaluate the impact of recreational pressure on European sites, it is recommended that the Council identifies in the near future, the intensity, frequency and origin of visits to Skipwith Common and Lower Derwent Valley. The outcomes would feedback valuable evidence into the strategy and the Plan and directly influence the outcomes of the HRA.
- 5.6 The outcomes will ensure the Council is better placed to identify measures that are best able to avoid, cancel or reduce the anticipated effects and avoid, if possible, the need for appropriate assessment. If incorporated into future iterations, they could, potentially, remove many of the likely significant effects alone and in combination and provide a more robust evidence base from which to develop the next iteration of the Plan.



## **APPENDICES**

### **Appendices**

Draft HRA of the Potential Selby Site Allocations  
WIA5072-104-R-4.6.1-HRA

## A. Conservation objectives and Site Improvement Plans for European sites

### Lower Derwent Valley SPA

Conservation objectives <sup>16</sup>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;</li> <li>• The population of each of the qualifying features, and,</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>
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### Lower Derwent Valley SAC

Conservation objectives <sup>17</sup>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats;</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species;</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely;</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>
SIP pressures and threats (SPA and SAC) <sup>18</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hydrological changes;</li> <li>• Drainage;</li> <li>• Public access/Disturbance;</li> <li>• Invasive species;</li> <li>• Undergrazing;</li> <li>• Inappropriate scrub control.</li> </ul>

### River Derwent SAC

Conservation objectives <sup>19</sup>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitat;</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species;</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely;</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>
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<sup>16</sup> European Site Conservation Objectives for Lower Derwent Valley SPA, Natural England, 30 June 2014 (Version 2)

<sup>17</sup> European Site Conservation Objectives for Lower Derwent Valley SAC, Natural England (undated)

<sup>18</sup> Lower Derwent Valley Site Improvement Plan, Natural England, v1.0, 6 October 2014

<sup>19</sup> European Site Conservation Objectives for River Derwent Valley SAC, Natural England, 30 June 2014 (Version 2)

### River Derwent SAC

SIP pressures & threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical modification;</li> <li>• Water pollution;</li> <li>• Invasive species;</li> <li>• Change in land management;</li> <li>• Water abstraction.</li> </ul>
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### Skipwith Common SAC

Conservation objectives <sup>20</sup>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats;</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats and,</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely.</li> </ul>
SIP pressures & threats <sup>21</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public access/Disturbance;</li> <li>• Inappropriate scrub control;</li> <li>• Drainage;</li> <li>• Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition.</li> </ul>

### Humber Estuary SPA

Conservation objectives <sup>22</sup>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;</li> <li>• The population of each of the qualifying features; and,</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>
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### Humber Estuary SAC

Conservation objectives <sup>23</sup>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats;</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species;</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely;</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species; and,</li> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>
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<sup>20</sup> European Site Conservation Objectives for Skipwith Common SAC, Natural England, 30 June 2014 (Version 2)

<sup>21</sup> Skipwith Common Site Improvement Plan, Natural England, v1.0, 18 December 2014

<sup>22</sup> European Site Conservation Objectives for the Humber Estuary SPA, Natural England, 30 June 2014 (Version 3)

<sup>23</sup> European Site Conservation Objectives for the Humber Estuary SAC, Natural England, 31 March 2014 (Version 2)

### Humber Estuary SAC

SIP pressures<sup>24</sup>

- Water pollution;
  - Coastal squeeze;
  - Changes in species distributions;
  - Undergrazing;
  - Invasive species;
  - Natural changes to site conditions;
  - Public access/Disturbance;
  - Fisheries: Fish stocking;
  - Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine (P);
  - Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine (T);
  - Direct and take from development;
  - Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition;
  - Shooting/scaring;
  - Direct impact from third party;
  - Inappropriate scrub control;
  - Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine (T);
  - Direct and take from development;
  - Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition;
  - Shooting/scaring;
  - Direct impact from third party;
  - Inappropriate scrub control.
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<sup>24</sup> Humber Estuary Site Improvement Plan, Natural England, v1.1, 8 July 2015



## B. Record of preliminary screening of original list of 316 possible site allocations – no mitigation measures applied

Appleton Roebuck	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
AROE-A	G	G	J	G	<p>Appleton Roebuck and its associated possible residential allocations, is situated around 25km <b>by road</b> from the nearest European site (Skipwith Common) and there are no waterways of note nearby.</p> <p>At such a distance, localised effects associated with the proximity of development <b>alone</b> are highly unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management <b>acting in combination</b>.</p> <p>Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.</p> <p>For wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so, in the absence of mitigation, <b>will require assessment in-combination</b>.</p>
AROE-C	G	G	J	G	
AROE-E	G	G	J	G	
AROE-H	G	G	J	G	
AROE-I	G	G	J	G	
AROE-J	G	G	J	G	
AROE-K	G	G	J	G	

Barlby	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
BARL-A	G	J	J	G	<p>Barlby is situated 4km by road and on foot from the nearest European site (Skipwith Common) and a similar distance to the Lower Derwent Valley and River Derwent.</p> <p>At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development <b>alone</b> are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management and recreation, including the impact on the LDV habitats and bird communities, and heathland habitats of Skipwith Common <b>acting in combination</b>.</p> <p>However, the need to consider recreational impacts in combination is removed for those employment only allocations(^) where the potential for employees to visit sites nearby is reduced allowing such impacts to be screened out.</p> <p>Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except recreation and wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no</p>
BARL-B*	G	J	J	G	
BARL-C*	G	J	J	G	
BARL-D	G	J	J	G	
BARL-E^	G	G	J	G	
BARL-F*	G	J	J	G	
BARL-G	G	J	J	G	

residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.

For recreation and wastewater, LSE **alone** from individual allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so, in the absence of mitigation, **will need to be assessed in-combination**.

Although certain possible allocations (\*) have been granted planning consent, as they have not been completed, they may still require assessment in combination.

Brayton	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
BRAY-A	G	G	J	G	<p>Brayton is situated 15km by road from the nearest European site (Skipwith Common). At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development <b>alone</b> are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management <b>acting in combination</b>.</p> <p>Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.</p> <p>For wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so, in the absence of mitigation, <b>will require assessment in-combination</b>.</p> <p>Although certain possible allocations (*) have been granted planning consent, as they have not been completed, they may still require assessment in combination.</p>
BRAY-B	G	G	J	G	
BRAY-C	G	G	J	G	
BRAY-D	G	G	J	G	
BRAY-E	G	G	J	G	
BRAY-F	G	G	J	G	
BRAY-G	G	G	J	G	
BRAY-H	G	G	J	G	
BRAY-I*	G	G	J	G	
BRAY-J	G	G	J	G	
BRAY-K	G	G	J	G	
BRAY-M	G	G	J	G	
BRAY-N	G	G	J	G	
BRAY-Q	G	G	J	G	
BRAY-R	G	G	J	G	
BRAY-U*	G	G	J	G	
BRAY-V*	G	G	J	G	
BRAY-W*	G	G	J	G	

Brotherton	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
BROT-B	G	G	J	G	<p>By road, Brotherton is 25km from the nearest European site (Skipwith Common). At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be</p>
BROT-C^	G	G	J	G	
BROT-D*	G	G	J	G	

Brotherton	Mobile spp 5	Recreation 6	Wastewater 7b	Air pollution 15	Comments
<p>those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management <b>acting in combination</b>.</p> <p>Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.</p> <p>For wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so, in the absence of mitigation, <b>will require assessment in-combination</b>.</p> <p>Although one possible allocation (*) has been granted consent, as it has not been completed it may will still require assessment in combination.</p>					

Byram	Mobile spp 5	Recreation 6	Wastewater 7b	Air pollution 15	Comments
BYRM-A	G	G	J	G	<p>By road, the closest European site is Skipwith Common, 25km distant. At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management <b>acting in combination</b>.</p> <p>Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.</p> <p>For wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so, in the absence of mitigation, <b>will require assessment in-combination</b>.</p> <p>Although one possible allocation (*) has been granted consent, as it has not been completed it may will still require assessment in combination.</p>
BYRM-B	G	G	J	G	
BYRM-C	G	G	J	G	
BYRM-D	G	G	J	G	
BYRM-F*	G	G	J	G	

Carlton	Mobile spp 5	Recreation 6	Wastewater 7b	Air pollution 15	Comments
CARL-A*	G	G	J	G	By road, the closest European site is the very western tip of the

Carlton	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
CARL-B*	G	G	J	G	<p>Humber Estuary, 15km distant to the east. At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management <b>acting in combination</b>.</p> <p>Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.</p> <p>For wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so, in the absence of mitigation, <b>will require assessment in-combination</b>.</p> <p>Although certain possible allocations (*) have been granted consent, as they have not been completed they may still require assessment in combination.</p>
CARL-C*	G	G	J	G	
CARL-D	G	G	J	G	
CARL-F*	G	G	J	G	

Cawood	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
CAWD-A	G	G	J	G	<p>By road, the closest European site is Skipwith Common 15km distant to the east. At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management <b>acting in combination</b>.</p> <p>Cawood sits on the River Wharfe which supports lamprey populations which are linked to those of the Derwent and Humber. However, none will lead to direct impacts on the watercourse and so adverse effects re ruled out.</p> <p>Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.</p> <p>For wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so, in the absence of mitigation, <b>will require assessment in-combination</b>.</p> <p>Although certain possible allocations (*) have been granted consent, as they have not been completed they may still require assessment in combination.</p>
CAWD-B	G	G	J	G	
CAWD-C	G	G	J	G	
CAWD-D	G	G	J	G	
CAWD-E	G	G	J	G	
CAWD-F	G	G	J	G	
CAWD-G*	G	G	J	G	
CAWD-H*	G	G	J	G	

Church Fenton	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
CFEN- A	G	G	J	G	<p>By road, the closest European site is Skipwith Common, 20km distant to the east. At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management <b>acting in combination</b>.</p> <p>Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.</p> <p>For wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so, in the absence of mitigation, <b>will require assessment in-combination</b>.</p> <p>Although certain possible allocations (*) have been granted consent, as they have not been completed they may still require assessment in combination.</p>
CFEN-C*	G	G	J	G	
CFEN-D	G	G	J	G	
CFEN-F*	G	G	J	G	
CFEN-G	G	G	J	G	
CFEN-H	G	G	J	G	
CFEN-I	G	G	J	G	
CFEN-J	G	G	J	G	
CFEN-K	G	G	J	G	
CFEN-M	G	G	J	G	
CFEN-O	G	G	J	G	
CFEN-P	G	G	J	G	
CFEN-Q*	G	G	J	G	

Cliffe	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
CLIF-M^	G	G	J	G	<p>Cliffe is situated only 5km or so by road and on foot from three European site (Skipwith Common, Lower Derwent Valley and the River Derwent). At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management and, possibly, recreation <b>acting in combination</b>.</p> <p>However, the need to consider recreational impacts in combination is removed for this single, possible employment only allocation(^) where the potential for workers to visit sites nearby is reduced allowing such impacts to be screened out.</p> <p>Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.</p> <p>For wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so, in the absence of mitigation, <b>will need to be assessed in-combination</b>.</p>

Eggborough	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
EGGB-B	G	G	J	G	<p>By road, the closest European site is Skipwith Common, 18km distant to the north. At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management <b>acting in combination</b>.</p> <p>Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.</p> <p>For wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so, in the absence of mitigation, <b>will need to be assessed in-combination</b>.</p> <p>Although certain possible allocations have been granted planning consent (*), as they have not been completed they may still require assessment in combination.</p>
EGGB-C*	G	G	J	G	
EGGB-D	G	G	J	G	
EGGB-E	G	G	J	G	
EGGB-F	G	G	J	G	
EGGB-G	G	G	J	G	
EGGB-H*	G	G	J	G	
EGGB-J*	G	G	J	G	
EGGB-L	G	G	J	G	
EGGB-M*	G	G	J	G	
EGGB-O^	G	G	J	G	
EGGB-P^	G	G	J	G	
EGGB-S*	G	G	J	G	

Escrick	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
ESCK-A	G	J	J	G	<p>Escrick is situated only 7km or so by road from three European sites, Skipwith Common, Lower Derwent Valley and River Derwent. At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management and recreation including the impact on the LDV habitats and bird communities, and the heathlands of Skipwith Common, <b>acting in combination</b>.</p> <p>However, the need to consider recreational impacts in combination is removed for those employment only possible allocations(^) where the potential for employees to visit sites nearby is reduced allowing such impacts to be screened out.</p> <p>Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except recreation and wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.</p> <p>For recreation and wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so, in the absence of mitigation, <b>will need to be assessed in-combination</b>.</p>
ESCK-B	G	J	J	G	
ESCK-C^	G	G	J	G	

Fairburn	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
FAIR-F	G	G	J	G	<p>This possible allocation at Fairburn lies over 20km by road from Skipwith Common to the north-east. At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management <b>acting in combination</b>.</p> <p>Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.</p> <p>For wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so, in the absence of mitigation, <b>will need to be assessed in-combination</b>.</p>

Hambleton	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
HAMB-A	G	G	J	G	By road, the closest European site is Skipwith Common, 15km distant to the north.
HAMB-C	G	G	J	G	
HAMB-D	G	G	J	G	At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management <b>acting in combination</b> .
HAMB-E	G	G	J	G	
HAMB-F	G	G	J	G	
HAMB-J*	G	G	J	G	
HAMB-L*	G	G	J	G	
HAMB-M	G	G	J	G	<p>Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.</p> <p>For wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so, in the absence of mitigation, <b>will need to be assessed in-combination</b>.</p> <p>Although certain possible allocations (*) have been granted consent, as it has not been completed it may will still require assessment in combination.</p>

Heck	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
HECK-A	G	G	J	G	<p>The possible employment allocations at Great Heck are situated 18km or so by road from the Humber Estuary the east.</p> <p>At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management <b>acting in combination</b>.</p> <p>Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.</p> <p>For wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so, in the absence of mitigation, <b>will need to be assessed in-combination</b>.</p>
HECK-C^	G	G	J	G	
HECK-D	G	G	J	G	

Hemingbrough	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
HEMB-A	G	J	J	G	<p>The numerous possible allocations at Hemingbrough are situated just only 7km at most by road from three European sites, Skipwith Common, Lower Derwent Valley and River Derwent. At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management and, possibly, recreation including the impact on LDV bird communities <b>acting in combination</b>.</p> <p>However, the need to consider recreational impacts in combination is removed for those employment only possible allocations(^) where the potential for employees to visit sites nearby is reduced allowing such impacts to be screened out.</p> <p>However, the need to consider recreational impacts in combination is removed for those possible employment only allocations where the potential for employees to visit sites nearby is reduced allowing such impacts to be screened out.</p> <p>Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except impacts on recreation and wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination</p>
HEMB-B	G	J	J	G	
HEMB-D	G	J	J	G	
HEMB-E	G	J	J	G	
HEMB-F	G	J	J	G	
HEMB-G	G	J	J	G	
HEMB-H	G	J	J	G	
HEMB-I	G	J	J	G	
HEMB-J	G	J	J	G	
HEMB-K	G	J	J	G	
HEMB-L	G	J	J	G	
HEMB-O	G	J	J	G	
HEMB-P	G	J	J	G	
HEMB-Q	G	J	J	G	
HEMB-R	G	J	J	G	
HEMB-S	G	J	J	G	



Hemingbrough	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
HEMB-T^	G	G	J	G	<p>assessment.</p> <p>For recreation and wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so, in the absence of mitigation, <b>will need to be assessed in-combination</b>.</p> <p>Although one possible allocation (*) has been granted consent, as it has not been completed it may will still require assessment in combination.</p>
HEMB-U^	G	G	J	G	
HEMB-V	G	J	J	G	
HEMB-W	G	J	J	G	
HEMB-X*	G	J	J	G	

Hillam	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
HILL-A	G	G	J	G	<p>The possible residential allocations at Hillam are roughly 20km by road from Skipwith Common to the north-east.</p> <p>At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management <b>acting in combination</b>.</p> <p>Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.</p> <p>For wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so, in the absence of mitigation, <b>will need to be assessed in-combination</b>.</p>
HILL-B	G	G	J	G	
HILL-D	G	G	J	G	
HILL-E	G	G	J	G	
HILL-F	G	G	J	G	

Kellington	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
KELL-A	G	G	J	G	<p>The possible residential allocations at Kellington are at least 18km by road from all three European sites in the district.</p> <p>At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European</p>
KELL-B	G	G	J	G	
KELL-C	G	G	J	G	
KELL-E	G	G	J	G	

Kellington	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
KELL-F	G	G	J	G	sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management <b>acting in combination</b> .
KELL-G	G	G	J	G	
<p>Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.</p> <p>For wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so, in the absence of mitigation, <b>will need to be assessed in-combination</b>.</p>					

Monk Fryston	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
MFRY-A	G	G	J	G	The possible residential allocations at Monk Fryston are roughly 20km by road from Skipwith Common to the north-east.
MFRY-B	G	G	J	G	
MFRY-C	G	G	J	G	At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management <b>acting in combination</b> .
MFRY-D	G	G	J	G	
MFRY-E	G	G	J	G	Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.
MFRY-F	G	G	J	G	
MFRY-G	G	G	J	G	For wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so, in the absence of mitigation, <b>will need to be assessed in-combination</b> .
MFRY-H	G	G	J	G	
MFRY-I	G	G	J	G	Although one possible allocation (*) has been granted consent, as it has not been completed it may will still require assessment in combination.
MFRY-J	G	G	J	G	
MFRY-L*	G	G	J	G	

North Duffield	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
NDUF-A	G	J	J	G	The possible allocations at North Duffield are situated just a few

North Duffield	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
NDUF-B	G	J	J	G	hundred metres from three European sites, Skipwith Common, Lower Derwent Valley and River Derwent.
NDUF-C	G	J	J	G	
NDUF-D	G	J	J	G	Even at such short distances, direct harm from construction activities are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites remain those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management and recreation, including the impact on LDV habitats and bird communities, and the heathlands of Skipwith Common <b>acting in combination</b> .
NDUF-E*	G	G	G	G	
NDUF-F*	G	G	G	G	
NDUF-G*	G	G	G	G	
NDUF-H	G	J	J	G	
NDUF-I*	G	G	G	G	Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except impacts on recreation and wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.
NDUF-J	G	J	J	G	
NDUF-L	G	J	J	G	For recreation and wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so, in the absence of mitigation, <b>will need to be assessed in-combination</b> .
NDUF-M	G	J	J	G	

Four possible allocations (\*) have already been granted planning consent and Natural England's advice for the HRA of these applications concluded that LSE was avoided alone. Consequently, these are removed from all other in-combination assessments even though they are not yet completed.

Although the opinion here for the new proposals is more cautious than that adopted by NE for the first four, this is justified by the large number of possible allocations in the Plan which were not considered in the individual possible allocations.

Osgodby	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
OSGB-A*	G	J	J	G	Osgodby is situated around 6km by road from the nearest European sites (Skipwith Common) and a similar distance to the Lower Derwent Valley and River Derwent. At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management and recreation.
OSGB-B*	G	J	J	G	
OSGB-C	G	J	J	G	
OSGB-D*	G	J	J	G	
OSGB-E	G	J	J	G	
OSGB-F*	G	J	J	G	Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except recreation and wastewater, a LSE alone is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.
OSGB-G	G	J	J	G	
OSGB-H	G	J	J	G	
OSGB-I	G	J	J	G	

Osgodby	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
					<p>For recreation and wastewater, LSE alone from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so this will need to be assessed in-combination.</p> <p>Although certain possible allocations (*) have been granted planning consent, as they have not been completed they may still require assessment in combination.</p>

Riccall	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
RICC-A*	G	J	J	G	<p>The possible allocations at Riccall are situated 5km at most by road from Skipwith Common (but 15km or so from the LDV).</p> <p>At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management and, possibly, recreation.</p> <p>Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except recreation and wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.</p> <p>For recreation and wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so <b>this will need to be assessed in-combination</b>.</p> <p>However, the need to consider recreational impacts in combination is removed for those possible employment only allocations(^) where the potential for employees to visit sites nearby is reduced allowing such impacts to be screened out.</p> <p>Although certain possible allocations (*) have been granted planning consent, as they have not been completed they may still require assessment in combination.</p>
RICC-B	G	J	J	G	
RICC-C^	G	G	J	G	
RICC-D	G	J	J	G	
RICC-E	G	J	J	G	
RICC-G	G	J	J	G	
RICC-I	G	J	J	G	
RICC-J*	G	J	J	G	

Selby	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
SELB-A	G	J	J	G	The numerous possible allocations at Selby lie anywhere between

Selby	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
SELB-AA	G	J	J	G	around 6-13km distance by road from three European sites, Skipwith Common, Lower Derwent Valley and River Derwent. At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management and recreation <b>acting in combination</b> .  However, the need to consider recreational impacts in combination is removed for those employment only possible allocations(^) where the potential for employees to visit sites nearby is reduced allowing such impacts to be screened out.  Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except impacts on recreation and wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.  For impacts on recreation and wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so <b>this will need to be assessed in-combination</b> .  However, the need to consider recreational impacts in combination is removed for those possible employment only allocations where the potential for employees to visit sites nearby is reduced allowing such impacts to be screened out.
SELB-AB	G	J	J	G	
SELB-AC*	G	J	J	G	
SELB-AD	G	J	J	G	
SELB-AE^A	G	G	J	G	
SELB-AG*	G	J	J	G	
SELB-AH*	G	J	J	G	
SELB-AI*	G	J	J	G	
SELB-AK*	G	J	J	G	
SELB-AL*	G	J	J	G	
SELB-AO*	G	J	J	G	Although certain possible allocations (*) have been granted planning consent, as they have not been completed they may still require assessment in combination.
SELB-AR	G	J	J	G	
SELB-AW^A	G	G	J	G	
SELB-AX^A	G	G	J	G	
SELB-AZ	G	J	J	G	
SELB-B	G	J	J	G	
SELB-BA^A	G	G	J	G	
SELB-BC^A	G	G	J	G	
SELB-BD	G	J	J	G	
SELB-BE	G	J	J	G	
SELB-BF	G	J	J	G	
SELB-BG*	G	J	J	G	
SELB-BH	G	J	J	G	
SELB-BI	G	J	J	G	
SELB-BL	G	J	J	G	
SELB-BO	G	J	J	G	
SELB-BQ*	G	J	J	G	
SELB-BR*	G	J	J	G	
SELB-BS*	G	J	J	G	
SELB-BT	G	J	J	G	
SELB-BU^A	G	G	J	G	
SELB-BV*	G	J	J	G	
SELB-C	G	J	J	G	
SELB-D	G	J	J	G	

Selby	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
SELB-E	G	J	J	G	
SELB-F	G	J	J	G	
SELB-G	G	J	J	G	
SELB-I	G	J	J	G	
SELB-J	G	J	J	G	
SELB-L	G	J	J	G	
SELB-N	G	J	J	G	
SELB-O	G	J	J	G	
SELB-P	G	J	J	G	
SELB-Q	G	J	J	G	
SELB-T	G	J	J	G	
SELB-U	G	J	J	G	
SELB-W	G	J	J	G	
SELB-X	G	J	J	G	
SELB-Y	G	J	J	G	
SELB-Z	G	J	J	G	

Sherburn	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
SHER-A^	G	G	J	G	The possible allocations at Sherburn lie more than 20km by road from Skipwith Common and the other European sites to the east.
SHER-AB^	G	G	J	G	
SHER-AE	G	G	J	G	At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management <b>acting in combination</b> .
SHER-AF	G	G	J	G	
SHER-AG	G	G	J	G	
SHER-AH	G	G	J	G	Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.
SHER-AI	G	G	J	G	
SHER-AJ^	G	G	J	G	For wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so <b>this will need to be assessed in-combination</b> .
SHER-AK^	G	G	J	G	
SHER-AN*	G	G	J	G	Although certain possible allocations (*) have been granted planning
SHER-AO*	G	G	J	G	
SHER-AP	G	G	J	G	

Sherburn	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
SHER-AQ*	G	G	J	G	consent, as they have not been completed they may still require assessment in combination.
SHER-E	G	G	J	G	
SHER-F	G	G	J	G	
SHER-G	G	G	J	G	
SHER-H	G	G	J	G	
SHER-I	G	G	J	G	
SHER-J*	G	G	J	G	
SHER-K*	G	G	J	G	
SHER-L*	G	G	J	G	
SHER-M	G	G	J	G	
SHER-N	G	G	J	G	
SHER-O*	G	G	J	G	
SHER-Q	G	G	J	G	
SHER-R	G	G	J	G	
SHER-U	G	G	J	G	
SHER-V	G	G	J	G	
SHER-W	G	G	J	G	
SHER-X	G	G	J	G	
SHER-Y	G	G	J	G	
SHER-Z	G	G	J	G	

South Milford	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
SMIL-B	G	G	J	G	The possible residential allocations at South Milford lie over 20km by road from Skipwith Common and the other European sites to the east.
SMIL-C	G	G	J	G	
SMIL-D	G	G	J	G	At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management <b>acting in combination</b> .
SMIL-F	G	G	J	G	
SMIL-G	G	G	J	G	
SMIL-H	G	G	J	G	
SMIL-I	G	G	J	G	Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects
SMIL-J	G	G	J	G	

South Milford	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
SMIL-M*	G	G	J	G	and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.  For wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so <b>this will need to be assessed in-combination</b> .  Although certain possible allocations (*) have been granted planning consent, as they have not been completed they may still require assessment in combination.
SMIL-N	G	G	J	G	
SMIL-R*	G	G	J	G	

Tadcaster	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
TADC-A	G	G	J	G	The possible allocations at Tadcaster lie over 20km by road from Skipwith Common, and the Lower Derwent Valley and River Derwent at Wheldrake to the east.
TADC-AA	G	G	J	G	
TADC-AB^	G	G	J	G	At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management <b>acting in combination</b> .  Tadcaster sits on the River Wharfe which supports lamprey populations which are linked to those of the Derwent and Humber and certain possible allocations eg TADC-B & TADC-I lie immediately adjacent. However, no works within the river appear to be proposed and, consequently, direct impacts on the watercourse will be unlikely and can be ruled out.  Impacts further downstream on the Humber Estuary can also be ruled out.  Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.  For wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so <b>this will need to be assessed in-combination</b> .  Although certain possible allocations (*) have been granted planning consent, as they have not been completed they may still require assessment in combination.
TADC-AD	G	G	J	G	
TADC-AE	G	G	J	G	
TADC-B	G	G	J	G	
TADC-C	G	G	J	G	
TADC-E	G	G	J	G	
TADC-H	G	G	J	G	
TADC-I*	G	G	J	G	
TADC-J	G	G	J	G	
TADC-L*	G	G	J	G	
TADC-M^	G	G	J	G	
TADC-N^	G	G	J	G	
TADC-O	G	G	J	G	
TADC-P	G	G	J	G	
TADC-Q^	G	G	J	G	
TADC-R	G	G	J	G	
TADC-S	G	G	J	G	
TADC-T	G	G	J	G	
TADC-U	G	G	J	G	
TADC-V	G	G	J	G	



Tadcaster	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
TADC-W	G	G	J	G	
TADC-X^	G	G	J	G	

Thorpe Willoughby	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
THRP-A	G	G	J	G	The possible allocations at Thorpe Willoughby lie over 15km by road from Skipwith Common and the other European sites to the north-east.
THRP-B	G	G	J	G	
THRP-C*	G	G	J	G	At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management <b>acting in combination</b> .
THRP-D	G	G	J	G	
THRP-H	G	G	J	G	
THRP-I*	G	G	J	G	
THRP-J	G	G	J	G	
THRP-K	G	G	J	G	Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.
THRP-L	G	G	J	G	For wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so <b>this will need to be assessed in-combination</b> .
THRP-M	G	G	J	G	
THRP-S	G	G	J	G	
Although certain possible allocations (*) have been granted planning consent, as they have not been completed they may still require assessment in combination.					

Ulleskelf	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
ULLE-B	G	G	J	G	<p>By road, the closest European site is Skipwith Common 18km to the east. At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management <b>acting in combination</b>.</p> <p>Cawood sits on the River Wharfe which supports lamprey populations which are linked to those of the Derwent and Humber. However, none of the possible allocations will lead to direct impacts on the watercourse and so adverse effects can be ruled out.</p> <p>Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.</p> <p>For wastewater, LSE <b>alone</b> from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so <b>this will need to be assessed in-combination</b>.</p> <p>Although one possible allocation (*) has been granted consent, as it has not been completed it may still require assessment in combination.</p>
ULLE-C	G	G	J	G	
ULLE-D	G	G	J	G	
ULLE-E	G	G	J	G	
ULLE-F*	G	G	J	G	
ULLE-G	G	G	J	G	

Whitley	Mobile spp	Recreation	Wastewater	Air pollution	Comments
	5	6	7b	15	
WHIT-A	G	G	J	G	<p>By road, the closest European site is Skipwith Common, 18km distant to the north. At such distances localised effects associated with proximity of development are unlikely and the potential effects on European sites are primarily going to be those related to more strategic issues such as wastewater management.</p> <p>Consequently, where indicated to the left, for all potential impacts except wastewater, a LSE <b>alone</b> is avoided, with no residual effects and, therefore, there is no need for these to be considered further in any in-combination assessment.</p> <p>For wastewater, LSE from individual possible allocations is highly unlikely but residual effects cannot be ruled out and so this will need to be assessed in-combination.</p> <p>Although certain possible allocations (*) have been granted planning consent, as they have not been completed they may still require assessment in combination.</p>
WHIT-B*	G	G	J	G	
WHIT-C	G	G	J	G	
WHIT-D	G	G	J	G	
WHIT-E	G	G	J	G	
WHIT-G	G	G	J	G	
WHIT-H	G	G	J	G	
WHIT-I	G	G	J	G	
WHIT-J	G	G	J	G	
WHIT-K	G	G	J	G	
WHIT-L	G	G	J	G	
WHIT-M*	G	G	J	G	
WHIT-N*	G	G	J	G	
WHIT-R	G	G	J	G	

# UK and Ireland Office Locations

