



Habitats Regulation Assessment Addendum

1.1 This consultation proposes the Local Green Space designation SK-LGS66 in the north-central area of the settlement of Skipton. This proposed Local Green Space site is now referenced in an addendum to a specified section of a chapter of the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) document to which it relates to. This altered section is extracted from the overall document and shown below.

1.2 If the proposed designated site SK-LGS66 is recommended for inclusion by the local plan's inspector following this consultation, it will be continue to be considered and referred to in the final HRA document iteration, which will be produced to coincide with the adoption of the local plan.

1.3 The other subject areas of this consultation, in relation to proposed modifications to Policy H1 and Policy H2 of the local plan, do not by themselves affect the content of the HRA because of their specific subject matters which are not directly relevant to the HRA.

1.4 The following text comprises the addendum to the HRA at Chapter 8, Section 8.2:

8.2 Recreational Alternatives to North Pennine Moors SAC

The town of Skipton is by far the largest settlement in Craven close to the North Pennine Moors SAC, and has approximately 50% of the preferred housing allocation. Therefore it is important to place priority on this town in terms of trying to reinforce existing recreational facilities and establish new recreational alternatives in and around the town, in preference to increasing usage of this SAC. Skipton has a very good range of existing green park space. The majority of the preferred residential sites in Skipton have substantial green infrastructure provision, which is aimed at forming a green infrastructure network and linkages around Skipton. Under the Local Plan provisions, Skipton has numerous proposed local green space designations, to support the existing large recreational areas of Aireville Park in northwestern Skipton, and Skipton Wood in the northern area of the town. One such example is proposed site SK-LGS66 in the north-central area of Skipton, adjacent to a designated Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SINC) and a recognised area of Ancient Woodland. Aireville Park consists of 27.3 hectares of parkland which is managed by Craven District Council. From consistent observations, it is very popular with recreational walkers, joggers, and dog walkers during the morning, afternoon and well into the evening throughout the year. Floodlighting allows recreational users to utilise much of the park past the hours of darkness. Amongst the many facilities is a skateboard park, an eighteen hole pitch & putt course, a multi-use games area for football, tennis and basketball and a children's playground. Craven Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre is also located in the park. Skipton Wood is a 19.6 hectare area of woodland following the valley of Eller Beck to

the immediate north of the urban area, behind Skipton Castle. The wood is owned by Skipton Castle but has been leased to the Woodland Trust. Most of the wood is native broadleaved trees such as oak and ash, and is classed as “ancient semi-natural woodland” by the Woodland Trust. There are also a large number of introduced beech and sycamore trees, with a smaller number of non-native trees such as hornbeam and sweet chestnut. Notable animal species in the wood include badgers, roe deer, kingfishers, spotted flycatchers, sparrowhawks and pipistrelle bats. Again from consistent observation, Skipton Wood is a very popular area for recreational walkers during the day, and provides a sufficient remove from an urban environment for walkers wishing to experience tranquillity, beauty, and exposure to the natural environment. There is a designated walkway of approximately 4km through the forest. There is also a walk covering a distance of 6.5km, which changes gradually to a hike, from the northern Skipton housing areas to the summit of Sharpaw hill. Sharpaw is located on the southern fringe of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and commands superb views over the countryside and settlements in Craven. There is also a far longer hike referred to as Malhamdale, which is a section of walkway which goes through Skipton, and enters the town of Settle from its eastern side. This 30km section of walkway is part of the Dales Highway which begins in the settlement of Saltaire to the south. Appendix IV shows the range of green spaces and the proposed residential sites in Skipton. The larger proposed residential sites in Skipton each have all significant areas marked for green infrastructure – for example, site SK094 in the southwest, SK013 to the southeast, SK088 in the northeast, and the joined up sites of SK081, SK082 and SK108 to the northwest. The green infrastructure provision in these larger sites is strategically located so that they connect up to Public Rights Of Way through the town, to facilitate longer recreational walks from, for example, Aireville Park via green infrastructure areas (in SK081, SK082 & SK108) and Public Rights Of Way onto Skipton Wood or Sharpaw Hill. It is believed that such long, varied and attractive recreational walking opportunities within and adjacent to Skipton greatly reduce the requirement for walking opportunities in the North Pennine Moors SAC. Overall, Skipton is show to have a range of effective SANGS provision. In Chapter 5, it was noted that the village of Embsay, bordering the Yorkshire Dales National Park and close to the North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA, has a relatively high number of outstanding planning permissions. As a result, no site allocations are intended for Embsay in this Local Plan as it has reached its percentage allocation of 2%. To somewhat counterbalance the dwellings generated in the existing planning permissions, there are relatively large local green space designations in the village. Appendix VII features a table which clearly sets out the mitigation measures for each preferred site allocation, alongside a description of the site, and the designated European sites potentially affected by the individual site. The mitigation measures include green infrastructure allocations on site, improvements to Public Rights of Way adjacent to sites, local green space designations in the settlements, and biodiversity appraisals for many of the sites allocated.