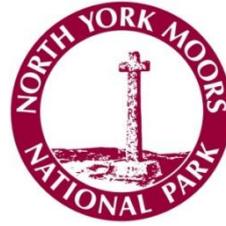


RYEDALE
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Assessment under the Habitats Regulations

Screening Assessment

Publication Helmsley Plan

January 2014

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1. Summary

1.1 The Habitats Directive¹ seeks to protect the integrity of Natura 2000 sites and requires a Habitats Regulations Assessment to be undertaken to assess the implications of the plan or project on Natura 2000 sites, which includes Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and RAMSAR sites. The key principle is to adopt the precautionary approach and to preserve the integrity of sites. The sites identified for inclusion in the assessment are:

- North York Moors SAC
- North York Moors SPA
- River Derwent SAC
- Lower Derwent SAC, SPA and RAMSAR

None of these sites are within or immediately adjoin Helmsley but have been included due to proximity or other geographical reasons.

1.2 The Helmsley Plan will allocate land for housing and employment development within Helmsley, for the period up to 2027.

1.3 Habitats Regulations Assessments were previously undertaken on both the North York Moors Core Strategy and the Ryedale Local Plan Strategy, including the assessment of strategic options for future development. The conclusions of these assessments have helped to inform the assessment of the Helmsley Plan.

1.4 All of the policies and allocations in the Helmsley Plan have been assessed to ascertain whether any significant effects could arise from the Plan. This concluded that effects may arise in relation to:

- Recreational pressures on the North York Moors SAC and SPA (trampling and disturbance);
- Loss of foraging ground for golden plover;
- Disturbance to golden plover on foraging ground;
- Effects on water quality in the River Derwent SAC and Lower Derwent SAC, SPA and Ramsar from increased run-off;
- Effects on species in the River Derwent SAC from any need (resulting from increased rates of run-off) to alter water level controls or provide additional flood defences.

1.5 As a result of the Screening Assessment, as the effects of the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites above cannot be ruled out (regardless of how likely they are), it is necessary to proceed to an Appropriate Assessment, This is contained in a separate report.

¹ The Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) (Directive 92/43/EEC)

2. Introduction

Requirement to carry out an assessment under the Habitats Regulations

- 2.1 Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) (Directive 92/43/EEC) require an assessment to be undertaken for plans and projects that are likely to have a significant effect, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, on one or more European sites (Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation). Article 6(3) states:

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

- 2.2 This is translated into UK statute via The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 and via The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 which state:

61.—(1) A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which –

(a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and

(b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site,

must make an appropriate assessment of the implications for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives.

102. – (1) Where a land use plan—

(a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and

(b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site, the plan-making authority for that plan must, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives.

(2) The plan-making authority must for the purposes of the assessment consult the appropriate nature conservation body and have regard to any representations made by that body within such reasonable time as the authority specify.

(3) They must also, if they consider it appropriate, take the opinion of the general public, and if they do so, they must take such steps for that purpose as they consider appropriate.

(4) In the light of the conclusions of the assessment, and subject to regulation 103 (considerations of overriding public interest), the plan-making authority or, in the case

of a regional strategy, the Secretary of State must give effect to the land use plan only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site or the European offshore marine site (as the case may be).

(5) A plan-making authority must provide such information as the appropriate authority may reasonably require for the purposes of the discharge of the obligations of the appropriate authority under this Chapter.

(6) This regulation does not apply in relation to a site which is—

(a) a European site by reason of regulation 8(1)(c), or

(b) a European offshore marine site by reason of regulation 15(c) of the 2007 Regulations

(site protected in accordance with Article 5(4) of the Habitats Directive).

Purpose of the Screening Assessment

- 2.3 The purpose of a Screening Assessment under the Habitats Regulations is to determine whether the Plan is likely to give rise to significant effects which would affect achievement of the sites' conservation objectives. If a likely significant effect is identified then an Appropriate Assessment will be necessary. The precautionary principle must be applied, if significant effects cannot be ruled out then an Appropriate Assessment must be undertaken. Significant effects can be defined as 'A likely significant effect (LSE) is any effect that may reasonably be predicted as a consequence of a plan or project that may affect the achievement of conservation objectives of the features for which the site was designated, but excluding trivial or inconsequential effects (de minimis)'.
- 2.4 An Appropriate Assessment identifies any adverse effects on the integrity of a SPA or SAC and, if necessary, identifies mitigation measures which will reduce (ideally eliminate) those effects. If effects cannot be reduced sufficiently then the Appropriate Assessment will conclude that an adverse effect on integrity will occur. If the competent authority wishes it to go ahead, then a case for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest has to be made, and any necessary compensatory measures will need to be secured.

How does this differ from Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal?

- 2.5 Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal is required to be carried out as part of plan preparation under separate legislation and is used to inform decision making throughout the production of the Plan. Habitats Regulations Assessment on the other hand requires a certain standard to be met under the Habitats Regulations. Both assessments have informed the production of the Helmsley Plan.

Guidance

- 2.6 The following guidance has been taken into account in undertaking the Habitats Regulations Assessment:
- *Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment* (Draft, DCLG, 2006)
 - *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites'* (European Commission, 2001)
 - *Habitats Regulations Guidance Notes 1, 3 and 4* (English Nature 1997, 1999 and 2001)

- *The Assessment of Regional Spatial Strategies and Sub-Regional Strategies under the Provisions of the Habitats Regulations* (David Tyldesley and Associates for Natural England, 2006)
- Planning Policy Statement 9 *Biodiversity and Geological Conservation* (ODPM, 2005) (since revoked)
- ODPM Circular 06/2005 *Biodiversity and Conservation*
- *The Appropriate Assessment of Spatial Plans in England – A Guide to How, When and Why to do it* (RSPB, 2007)

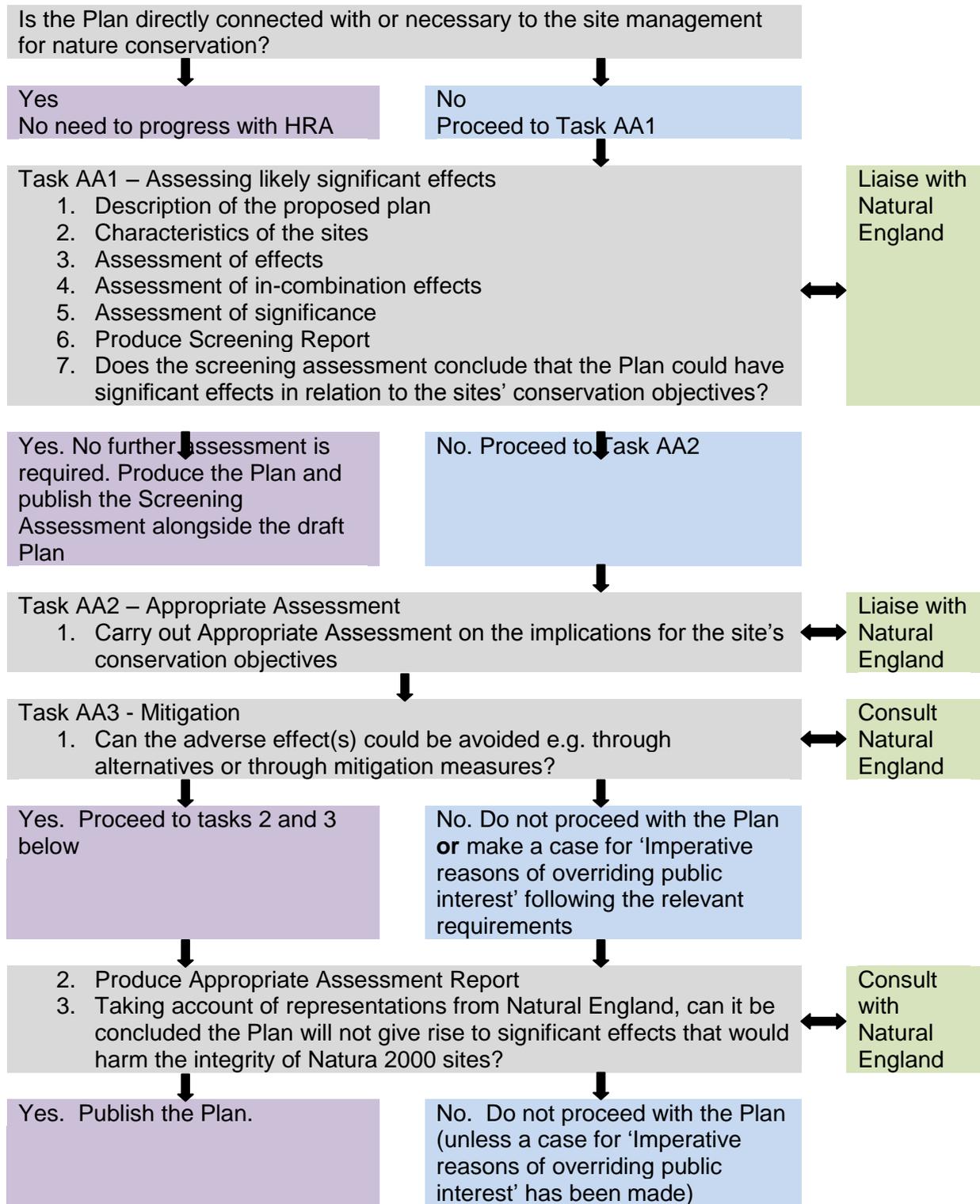
2.7 Consultation

The 2007 Regulations, which relate to land use plans, require that ‘The plan making authority shall for the purposes of the assessment consult the appropriate nature conservation body and have regard to any representations made by that body within such reasonable time as the authority specifies.’ The ‘appropriate nature conservation body’ is Natural England. Natural England were consulted on the Screening Assessment and the Appropriate Assessment produced alongside the Draft Helmsley Plan and submitted comments related to the procedural aspects of the assessment. A meeting subsequently took place with Natural England to ensure that their comments were fully understood, and these have been addressed in producing the Screening Assessment and Appropriate Assessment relating to the Publication Helmsley Plan. Natural England have confirmed that the methodology is compliant with the European Habitat Directives and the Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).

Methodology

- 2.8 The process of carrying out the Habitats Regulations Assessment is set out in Chart 1 overleaf. The Tasks AA1 – AA3 have been taken from the 2006 draft DCLG guidance (see above) and the detailed stages have been adapted from the 2001 European Commission guidance.

Chart 1 - Procedure and Methodology for applying Assessment under the Habitats Regulations



3. Screening Assessment

- 3.1 The purpose of the screening stage is to examine whether there are likely to be any significant effects upon the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites. The Plan is not connected with or necessary to the site management for nature conservation and it is therefore necessary to progress to Task AA1. This Screening Assessment relates to the draft Helmsley Plan published for consultation in June 2013.

Natura 2000 sites

- 3.2 In identifying which Natura 2000 sites could possibly be affected consideration has been given to topography and physical factors as well as proximity. The sites considered as part of this assessment are:

- North York Moors SAC (approximately 7km from the northern edge of Helmsley)
- North York Moors SPA (approximately 7km from the northern edge of Helmsley)
- River Derwent SAC (approximately 20km from Helmsley)
- Lower Derwent RAMSAR, SPA and SAC (approximately 40km from Helmsley)

- 3.3 Beast Cliff - Whitby SAC, Eilers Wood and Sand Dale SAC, Fen Bog SAC, Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs SPA, Flamborough Head SAC and Strensall Common SAC were all considered as part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment carried out on the Ryedale Local Plan Strategy in 2009, but it is considered that due to their distance from Helmsley they can be scoped out of this Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Ryedale Local Plan Strategy and North York Moors Core Strategy and Development Policies

- 3.4 The Helmsley Plan is being produced jointly by two planning authorities - Ryedale District Council and the North York Moors National Park Authority. The boundary of these two authorities runs through the centre of Helmsley and it is therefore sensible to plan for the future of the town through production of a joint plan for the town. The North York Moors National Park does not have a figure to meet in relation to housing requirements and any land allocated in Helmsley will contribute towards meeting Ryedale's housing figure.

North York Moors Core Strategy and Development Policies

- 3.5 The North York Moors National Park Authority adopted the Core Strategy and Development Policies in 2008. A Habitats Regulations Assessment was undertaken as part of this. In relation to the policies which are relevant to the Helmsley Plan (CPJ – Housing, CPH – Rural Economy and DP10 – New Employment and Training Development) this concluded that there would not be any significant effects relating to any employment or housing developments in Helmsley (although significant effects relating to the more rural parts of the Park were identified in relation to these policies).
- 3.6 However in relation to Core Policy J the assessment did state that additional demands on water resources could have effects on the North York Moors SAC, North York Moors SPA and River Derwent SAC, and that any specific effects would be assessed further down the line. The Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Ryedale Local Plan Strategy (discussed below), which considered in more detail the effects of housing and employment development, did not identify this as a potential issue.

3.7 Extracts from the Habitats Regulations Assessment are attached at Appendix B.

Ryedale Local Plan Strategy

3.8 The Ryedale Local Plan Strategy was adopted in September 2013. As part of its production, a Habitats Regulations Assessment² was undertaken in December 2009 – this considered the implications of the strategic options for housing and employment development. Consultation on the options took place in summer 2009 with a Draft Core Strategy being published for consultation in Summer 2010. This was followed by a Publication version of the Local Plan Strategy which was available for comments in January 2012. This was accompanied by an addendum to the Habitats Regulations Assessment which stated that there had been no significant changes to the strategy which would affect the conclusions of the assessment. The effects of the principle of an additional 150 homes in Helmsley have therefore been considered already as part of the production of the Ryedale Local Plan Strategy which was Submitted in May 2012 and Adopted in September 2013. The Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Ryedale Local Plan Strategy can be viewed at <http://extranet.ryedale.gov.uk/pdf/HRA%20Report%202009.pdf>.

3.9 The Habitats Regulations Assessment examined the three Development Location options. In relation to the selected option (option 3) it was concluded that the following effects, in relation to development in Helmsley, may result from the broad approach of concentrating development in market towns and a selection of key service villages:

- River Derwent SAC – flood management, infrastructure, effluent discharge
- Lower Derwent Ramsar, SPA and SAC - flood management, effluent discharge
- North York Moors SPA and SAC – Loss of foraging grounds, recreation

3.10 As the market towns are mostly located towards the north of the district it was considered that option 3 may result in increased amounts of development close to the North York Moors SAC and SPA. Whilst it was concluded that direct impacts were not anticipated, it was concluded that effects may occur through the loss of foraging ground where pasture land is used for housing or disturbance to foraging golden plover where pasture land is used for recreational activities such as dog walking. However this option would reduce pressure on the River Derwent SAC.

3.11 In terms of the Quantum of Development, it was considered that in relation to option 1 (the selected option) the development of a proportion of 450 new houses in Helmsley (the remainder to be developed in Kirkbymoorside) may result in the loss of pasture land used for foraging golden plover and increased use of pasture land for dog walking may lead to disturbance to golden plover.

3.12 In order to ensure that the impacts identified in 3.7 and 3.8 do not occur the assessment set out a series of recommendations which should be followed in allocating sites through undertaking an Appropriate Assessment. This is factored into the considerations undertaken as part of this Screening Assessment.

Screening Assessment (Task AA1)

3.13 The questions used in the screening assessment are adapted from ‘*Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites*’ (European Commission, 2001) and provide the basis for ascertaining whether there will be any likely significant effects.

² Habitats Regulations Assessment (Entec for Ryedale District Council, 2009)

1. Description of the proposed plan

Location

3.14 The Helmsley Plan relates to the town of Helmsley.

Distance from designated site boundary to plan proposal

3.15 The southern boundaries of the North York Moors SAC and North York Moors SPA are approximately 7km north of the northernmost point of Helmsley. River Derwent SAC is approximately 20km to the southeast of Helmsley. The Lower Derwent RAMSAR, SPA and SAC is located approximately 40km to the south east of Helmsley.

Site area (ha)

3.16 The Plan covers the area of the market town of Helmsley, although the proposed site allocations are various areas as shown below:

- NYMH1 (Land north of Swanland Road and east of Carlton Road – 2.3ha)
- NYMH3 (Land north of Elmslac Road) – 2.1ha
- Site 174 (Land south of Riccal Drive) – 1.9ha
- Site 183 (Land east of Riccal Drive) – 1.6ha
- NYMH8 (Land south of Swanland Road) – 0.8ha
- Site EMP1 (Land east of Riccal Drive) – 0.6ha
- Site EMP2 (Land south of Riccal Drive) – 1.3ha

The total area of allocations is 10.6ha.

Brief description of proposal

3.17 The Helmsley Plan allocates land for housing and employment development to meet the requirements for the town as established through Ryedale's Local Plan Strategy. This equates to land for 150 houses on 8.7ha of land and for 1.9ha of employment land. The sites will come forward for development over the period to 2027.

Projects / plans which might act in combination

3.18 The Directive states that the assessment needs to consider whether the plan will have an effect on the site *either individually or in combination with other plans and projects*. This should include:

- approved but incomplete plans and projects;
- permitted ongoing activities; and
- plans or projects begun/applied for but not yet approved.

3.19 Plans have also been selected depending upon their relevance and significance, and have been selected where:

- They are not directly connected with or necessary to the site management for nature conservation; and
- They cover all or part of a Natura 2000 site or sites, or they relate to activities which may impact upon Natura 2000 sites.

3.20 The relevant plans and projects that should be considered in combination with the North York Moors National Park Management Plan are:

- North York Moors National Park Core Strategy and Development Policies Development Plan Document
- Hambleton Core Strategy³ and Hambleton Development Policies⁴

³ Hambleton Core Strategy Development Plan Document (Hambleton District Council, 2007)

⁴ Hambleton Development Policies Development Plan Document (Hambleton District Council, 2008)

- Ryedale Local Plan Strategy⁵
- North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan⁶
- North Yorkshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan⁷
- River Derwent Catchment Flood Management Plans⁸
- River Derwent Catchment Abstraction Management Plan
- Humber River Basin Management Plans⁹
- North York Moors National Park Management Plan¹⁰
- North York Moors Recreation and Access Strategy¹¹

In relation to the North York Moors Core Strategy and Development Policies and the Ryedale Local Plan Strategy the Helmsley Plan will not be proposing development which is in addition to these plans but will be setting out in detail how these plans will be implemented within Helmsley.

- 3.21 Appendix 3 contains an assessment of the effects of these plans upon the integrity of Natura 2000 sites. This information will be used when considering the ‘in combination’ effects of the Helmsley Plan. In combination effects should also be considered in terms of the effects of different parts of the Helmsley Plan itself.

2. Characteristics of the sites

Details of the sites’ features, vulnerabilities and conservation objectives

- 3.22 Full details of each site, including the site’s features, vulnerabilities, conservation objectives and location maps, are contained in Appendix 1.

3. Assessment of effects

Description of the individual elements of the plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the designated sites.

- 3.23 The effect on the integrity of the sites is considered in relation to their ability to:

- Delay or interrupt the achievement of the conservation objectives;
- Impact on factors that help to maintain the favourable condition of the site;
- Interfere with the balance, distribution and density of key species.

- 3.24 The table below will help in assessing whether there is likely to be a positive, negative or neutral effect.

	Type of policy	Effect
✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies which will be beneficial for Natura 2000 sites, either directly or indirectly • Policies that steer inappropriate activity away from Natura 2000 	The policy / action will have a positive effect on Natura 2000 sites

⁵ Ryedale Local Plan Strategy (Ryedale District Council, 2013)

⁶ Local Transport Plan 2: 2011 – 2016 (North Yorkshire County Council, 2006)

⁷ People, Paths and Places – The Rights of Way Improvement Plan for North Yorkshire 2007 – 2011 (North Yorkshire County Council, 2007)

⁸ River Derwent Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency, 2010)

⁹ River Basin Management Plan – Humber River Basin District (Environment Agency, 2009)

¹⁰ North York Moors National Park Management Plan (North York Moors National Park Authority, 2012)

¹¹ Recreation and Access Strategy for the North York Moors National Park (North York Moors National Park Authority, 2008)

	sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies / actions which are intended to protect the natural environment 	
○	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies that will not lead to activities of a nature that could impact upon the Natura 2000 sites 	The policy / action will have neither a positive or a negative effect upon Natura 2000 sites
=	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies that are of a nature that <i>could</i> affect Natura 2000 sites but will not in this instance 	The policy / action will have neither a positive or a negative effect upon Natura 2000 sites
✘	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature of the activity / project provided for by the policy could not be implemented in a way which would not adversely affect Natura 2000 sites 	The policy / action will have a negative effect upon the integrity of Natura 2000 sites
U	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy may lead to positive and/or negative effects depending upon how it is implemented 	It cannot be determined for certain what the effect would be

If uncertainties (U) or negative effects (✘) are identified an Appropriate Assessment will need to be carried out on that policy.

3.25 The assessment of effects considers 'likely significant effects' which for the purposes of Habitats Regulations Assessment means whether or not effects are possible, not just likely.

3.26 The type of effects which may potentially have already been raised in the Habitats Regulations Assessment of Ryedale's Local Plan Strategy and in the Habitat Regulations Assessment of the North York Moors Core Strategy and Development Policies, and the effects assessed in these will be used as a basis for assessing the effects of the Helmsley Plan. These effects are:

- The potential for greenfield development to result in the loss of foraging ground for Golden Plover, thereby having an effect on the North York Moors SPA;
- The potential for development in the floodplain of the River Rye (a tributary of the Derwent) to lead to increased run-off, having effects on the River Derwent SAC;
- The potential for an increase in the number of residents to result in increased demand for recreation within the North York Moors SAC and North York Moors SPA, leading to potential for disturbance and trampling.

The full conclusions of the Habitats Regulations Assessment of Ryedale's Local Plan Strategy are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Conclusions and recommendation of the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Ryedale Local Plan Strategy

Natura 2000 site	Conclusion / recommendation
River Derwent SAC	Except within Malton/Norton, development will not be permitted within the floodplain of the River Derwent and its tributaries unless it can be demonstrated through an Appropriate Assessment that there will be no adverse effect on the SAC, alone or in combination with other

	plans and projects.
River Derwent SAC	Developments within the catchment of the River Derwent and its tributaries must incorporate sustainable drainage measures to: a) Ensure there is no increase in surface water run-off (accounting for climate change) and thus demand for flood defences; and b) Ensure there is no increase in diffuse pollution from the built up area entering the river system.
North York Moors SAC and SPA	To help manage recreational pressure on the North York Moors SPA/SAC and east coast designated sites all new residential developments within 10km should provide a financial contribution (appropriate to the scale of development in question and distance from the designated sites) towards on-going access management in accordance with this management plan.
North York Moors SAC and SPA	To avoid increasing recreational pressure on the North York Moors SPA/SAC, in line with the Natural England guidance, an area of accessible natural greenspace of at least 500ha in size must be provided within 10km of each home forming part of new residential developments in Kirkbymoorside, Helmsley and Pickering.
North York Moors SAC and SPA	In Pickering / Kirkbymoorside / Helmsley, a sequential approach will be taken to site allocation such that development will only be permitted on Greenfield sites if no other sites are reasonably available.
North York Moors SPA	Greenfield development sites within 10km of the North York Moors SPA will only be granted planning approval once a breeding bird survey has been completed by an appropriately qualified ecologist. If golden plover are recorded, development will only be permitted where it has been demonstrated through an Appropriate Assessment that the development site is not of significant value to golden plover.
North York Moors SPA	To avoid increasing recreational pressure on pasture land of value to golden plover, in line with Natural England guidance, at least 2ha of accessible natural greenspace within 300m of each home must be provided as part of the development proposals in respect of residential developments on Greenfield sites in Pickering / Helmsley / Kirkbymoorside, unless an Appropriate Assessment at Site Allocations DPD stage can demonstrate there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the SPA/SAC, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Strategic Options

- 3.27 Strategic options for housing and employment development for the whole of Ryedale District were assessed as part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment undertaken on the Local Plan Strategy. This concluded that the two chosen options – option 3 of the Development Location options and option 1 of the Quantum of Development options – could have effects in relation to the loss of pasture land used by golden plover for foraging and disturbance to golden plover by dog walkers. The detailed

conclusions of the Ryedale Habitats Regulations Assessment are contained in paragraph 3.3 above.

- 3.28 As strategic options have been considered already it is not necessary to revisit the assessment of these broader policies. The conclusions will be taken into account in assessing the detail of the Helmsley Plan.

Policies

- 3.29 The policies in the Draft Helmsley Plan were previously assessed, and this assessment is contained in the Screening Assessment dated June 2013. Following consultation on the Draft Helmsley Plan a number of amendments have been made to the Plan, as listed in Table 2 below. A number of these amendments are purely contextual and the right hand column identifies whether there is a need to consider the change through the Screening Assessment. Consideration has been given as to whether the amendment is likely to have implications for decisions taking.

Table 2: Amendments to Plan between Draft and Publication stages

Amendment to Plan	Implications for Habitats Regulations Assessment
Addition of reference to the fact that decisions taken on proposals in Helmsley will need to accord with other relevant adopted policies, namely those in the North York Moors Core Strategy and Development Policies and the Ryedale Local Plan Strategy.	Not an amendment to policy – no need to screen
Inclusion of Policy SD1 – Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	New policy – screen for Likely Significant Effects
Amendments to Policy H1 New Residential Development relating to phasing of housing development	Amendment to policy – consider implications when reviewing Screening Assessment
Updated supporting text to Policy H1	Contextual only – no need to screen
Amendments to Policy H2 Windfall Development to include reference to the need for development to preserve other important open spaces.	Amendment to policy – consider implications when reviewing Screening Assessment
Amendment to Policy H3 Affordable Housing Provision to include requirement for financial contribution.	Amendment to policy – consider implications when reviewing Screening Assessment
Updates to supporting text to H3 to reflect amendment above	Contextual only – no need to screen
Amendment to Policy H4 Employment Land to protect existing employment uses	Amendment to policy – consider implications when reviewing Screening Assessment
Updates to supporting text to H4 to reflect amendment above	Contextual only – no need to screen
Amendments to Policy H5 Retail to provide tighter policy on directing retail uses to the town centre.	Amendment to policy – consider implications when reviewing Screening Assessment
Amendment to supporting text to H5 to require facilities for recycling where possible	Could have implications for decisions – screen for Likely Significant Effects
Addition of supporting text to Policy H6	Contextual only – no need to screen

Amendment to Policy H7 to include potential for alternative replacement facilities to be provided	Amendment to policy – consider implications when reviewing Screening Assessment
Amendment to Policy H8 to require consideration to be given to the long distance views of the town	Amendment to policy – consider implications when reviewing Screening Assessment
Amendments to the supporting text of Policy H8	Contextual only – no need to screen
Addition of new Policy H9 Design and accompanying supporting text	New policy – screen for Likely Significant Effects
Amendment to Policy H10 to require any sustainable building standards to be applied in a way which does not harm the visual character or historic buildings of Helmsley or the special qualities of the National Park.	Amendment to policy – consider implications when reviewing Screening Assessment
Amendment to Policy H10 to include policy against which proposals for renewable energy would be assessed.	Amendment to policy – screen for Likely Significant Effects
Addition of reference in the supporting text to H11 Green Infrastructure to the need to ensure consideration is given to implications for crime.	Could have implications for decisions – screen for Likely Significant Effects
More details of infrastructure needed included in Policy H12 Developer Contributions and more detail on Community Infrastructure Levy included.	Could have implications in relation to the provision of infrastructure – screen for Likely Significant Effects
Addition of new Policy H13 Open Space Requirements	New policy – screen for Likely Significant Effects
Addition of Policy H14 Telecommunications Installations	New policy – screen for Likely Significant Effects
Development Brief for Site NYMH1 – Inclusion of requirement to retain the remnants of the orchard and inclusion of 'buffer' area in the eastern part of the site.	Could have implications for decisions – consider when revisiting screening assessments of the sites
Development Brief for Site NYMH3 – Inclusion of reference to the need to retain the vista north of Elmslac Road.	Could have implications for decisions – consider when revisiting screening assessments of the sites
Development Brief for Site 183 – Inclusion of reference to three round barrows (Scheduled Monuments) 130m east of the site and requirement for development to not harm these or their setting.	Could have implications for decisions – consider when revisiting screening assessments of the sites
Site EMP1 – Area expanded to include an additional 0.2ha to the north and north west plus inclusion of a buffer zone between EMP1 and site 183.	Could have implications for decisions – consider when revisiting screening assessments of the sites
Development Brief for Sites EMP 1 and EMP2 – Addition of reference for the need for all proposals to meet Environment Agency emissions requirements	Could have implications for decisions – consider when revisiting screening assessments of the sites

All sites – addition of requirements to use Sustainable Drainage Systems (requirement for Habitats Regulations Assessment to be undertaken where this is not possible)	Mitigation measure from Appropriate Assessment of Draft Plan – revisit assessments of sites to ensure Likely Significant Effects have been mitigated.
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- 3.30 One mitigation measure was identified through the Appropriate Assessment of the Draft Plan (relating to Sustainable Drainage Systems) and this was incorporated prior to consultation. Following discussions with Natural England the wording in the Plan (in the Development Briefs for each site) has been tightened to ensure that where a developer does not propose Sustainable Drainage Systems a Habitats Regulations Assessment must be undertaken to assess the effects on the River Derwent and Lower Derwent SACs.
- 3.31 The Screening Assessment has therefore been revised to reflect the policies of the Publication Plan. Where the mitigation measures identified at Draft Plan stage relate to measures outwith the Plan, the potential effects remain within this Screening Assessment, with mitigation measures remaining recorded in the Appropriate Assessment. Where new detail in the supporting text of policies helps to mitigate the effects, this is also picked up in the Appropriate Assessment. Table 3 overleaf shows the Likely Significant Effects.
- 3.32 In summary, the assessment concludes, based upon the conclusions of the previous Habitats Regulations Assessment, that the following effects are possible:
- Loss of foraging ground for Golden Plover (North York Moors SPA) due to housing, employment or retail development;
 - Effects on water quality in the River Derwent SAC due to run-off from development taking place in the floodplain of the River rye;
 - Increased potential for trampling and disturbance in the North York Moors SAC and North York Moors SPA due to increased numbers of people living in the area.

An Appropriate Assessment will therefore need to be undertaken to ascertain whether or not these effects will occur and whether any mitigation measures can be put in place.

Table 3: Screening assessment of Helmsley Plan policies

Policy	Is there potential for 'likely significant effects' on SACs and SPAs? ¹²	Risk of Likely Significant Effect?	In-combination effects?	Risk of In-Combination Likely Significant Effect?	Appropriate Assessment required?
Policy SD1 – Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	○ There will be no effects as the NPPF states that 'The presumption in favour of sustainable development (paragraph 14) does not apply where development requiring appropriate assessment under the Birds or Habitats Directives is being considered, planned or determined.'	n/a	n/a	n/a	No
Policy H1 – New Residential Development	U Based on the conclusions of the Ryedale HRA ¹³ there is the possibility for effects on North York Moors SPA due to loss of pasture land used by golden plover for foraging or disturbance to golden plover on such land through recreational activities.	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In combination effects may occur alongside development at other locations close to the North York Moors (to be identified through Ryedale's site allocations document). and through the allocation of employment sites in the Helmsley Plan.	Yes, in-combination effects are possible	Yes, as a result of conclusions of the Ryedale HRA
	U Based on the conclusions of the Ryedale HRA, potential for recreation pressure to cause disturbance to golden plover (North York Moors SPA) when foraging on pasture land	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In combination effects may occur alongside development at other locations close to the North York Moors (to be identified through Ryedale's site	Yes, in-combination effects are possible	Yes, as a result of conclusions of the Ryedale HRA

¹² Taking account of possible effect on the sites' qualifying features and conservation objectives – see Appendix 1.

¹³ Provision of new housing in Helmsley was assessed as part of the Quantum of Development options in the 2009 Ryedale District Council Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Policy	Is there potential for 'likely significant effects' on SACs and SPAs? ¹²	Risk of Likely Significant Effect?	In-combination effects?	Risk of In-Combination Likely Significant Effect?	Appropriate Assessment required?
	outside the SPA.		allocations document) and through the allocation of employment sites in the Helmsley Plan.		
	<p>U Based on the conclusions of the Ryedale HRA there is the possibility for effects on water quality in the River Derwent SAC and Lower Derwent SAC, SPA and RAMSAR from surface water run-off entering the River Rye (tributary of the Derwent) from development of sites in its catchment. Development of sites which are in the floodplain (parts of 174, 183, EMP1 and EMP2) may pose a greater risk water quality.</p>	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In-combination effects may occur through the development of other sites in the catchment and floodplain of the River Derwent and its tributaries, although these have not been allocated at this stage.	Yes, in-combination effects are possible	Yes, as a result of conclusions of the Ryedale HRA
	<p>U Based on the conclusions of the Ryedale HRA there is the possibility for increased recreational pressure on the North York Moors SAC/SPA.</p>	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In combination effects may occur through the development of housing at other locations close to the North York Moors and with the aims of the National Park Management Plan to increase visitor numbers.	Yes, in-combination effects are possible	Yes, significant effects are possible
Policy H2 – Windfall Development	<p>U As windfalls are only supported within the development limits which are</p>	n/a	n/a	n/a	No

Policy	Is there potential for 'likely significant effects' on SACs and SPAs? ¹²	Risk of Likely Significant Effect?	In-combination effects?	Risk of In-Combination Likely Significant Effect?	Appropriate Assessment required?
	tightly defined around the built area there is no potential for loss of Golden Plover foraging ground.				
	U Based on the conclusions of the Ryedale HRA, potential for recreation pressure to cause disturbance to golden plover (North York Moors SPA) when foraging on pasture land outside the SPA.	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In combination effects may occur alongside development at other locations close to the North York Moors (to be identified through Ryedale's site allocations document) and through the allocation of employment sites in the Helmsley Plan.	Yes, in-combination effects are possible	Yes, as a result of conclusions of the Ryedale HRA
	U At a lesser scale than H1 there is the possibility for effects on water quality in the River Derwent SAC and Lower Derwent SAC, SPA and RAMSAR from surface water run-off entering the River Rye (tributary of the Derwent) from development of sites in its catchment. Development of any sites which are in the floodplain may pose a greater risk water quality.	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In-combination effects may occur through the development of other sites on the floodplain of the River Derwent and its tributaries, although these have not been allocated at this stage.	Yes, in-combination effects are possible	Yes, as a result of conclusions of the Ryedale HRA
	U At a lesser scale than H1 there is the possibility for increased recreational pressure on the North York Moors SAC/SPA .	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In combination effects may occur through the development of housing at other locations close to the North York Moors	Yes, in-combination effects are possible	Yes, significant effects are possible

Policy	Is there potential for 'likely significant effects' on SACs and SPAs? ¹²	Risk of Likely Significant Effect?	In-combination effects?	Risk of In-Combination Likely Significant Effect?	Appropriate Assessment required?
			(to be identified in Ryedale's allocations document) and with the aims of the National Park Management Plan to increase visitor numbers.		
Policy H3 – Affordable Housing Provision	○ Relates to the type of housing within sites allocated under Policy H1, therefore no likely significant effects	n/a	n/a	n/a	No
Policy H4 – Employment Land	U Based on the conclusions of the Ryedale HRA ¹⁴ there is the possibility for effects on North York Moors SPA due to loss of pasture land used by golden plover for foraging or disturbance to golden plover on such land through recreational activities.	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In combination effects may occur alongside development at other locations close to the North York Moors (to be identified through Ryedale's site allocations document). and through the allocation of housing sites in the Helmsley Plan.	None	Yes, as a result of conclusions of the Ryedale HRA
Policy H5 – New Town Centre Uses including Retail	U New retail uses outside of the built area may have an effect on the North York Moors SPA due to the loss of foraging land for Golden Plover.	Yes, significant effects are possible	In combination effects may occur alongside other allocations in the Ryedale Plan close to the North York Moors	Yes, in-combination effects are possible	Yes, significant effects are possible
	U New retail uses outside of the	Yes, significant effects are possible	In combination effects may occur alongside	Yes, in-combination effects are possible	Yes, significant effects are possible

¹⁴ Provision of new housing in Helmsley was assessed as part of the Quantum of Development options in the 2009 Ryedale District Council Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Policy	Is there potential for 'likely significant effects' on SACs and SPAs? ¹²	Risk of Likely Significant Effect?	In-combination effects?	Risk of In-Combination Likely Significant Effect?	Appropriate Assessment required?
	built area and in the catchment of the River Rye may increase run-off, leading to effects on water quality in the River Derwent SAC and Lower Derwent SAC, SPA and RAMSAR . Development of sites which are in the floodplain may pose a greater risk water quality.		allocations of land in Helmsley and development at other locations close to the North York Moors (to be identified through Ryedale's site allocations document).		
Policy H6 – Protection of Retail Uses	○ Relates to retaining existing floorspace, therefore no likely significant effects.	n/a	n/a	n/a	No
Policy H7 – Loss of Community Facilities and Employment	○ Whilst there could be effects resulting from the development of alternative facilities, the policy contains a requirement for such development to be considered against other relevant adopted policies which would include policies giving protection to Natura 2000 sites.	n/a	n/a	n/a	No
Policy H8 – Important Open Views	○ Relates to design within sites – the allocation of specific sites is considered later in this Screening Assessment.	n/a	n/a	n/a	No
Policy H9 - Design	○ Relates to design within sites – the allocation of specific sites is considered later in this Screening Assessment.	n/a	n/a	n/a	No

Policy	Is there potential for 'likely significant effects' on SACs and SPAs? ¹²	Risk of Likely Significant Effect?	In-combination effects?	Risk of In-Combination Likely Significant Effect?	Appropriate Assessment required?
Policy H10 – Renewable Energy	○ Relates to sustainable design on site and development of renewable energy. Renewable energy developments this distance from Natura 2000 sites are unlikely to have any effects as they are unlikely to take up a large amount of land.	n/a	n/a	n/a	No
Policy H11 – Green Infrastructure	✓ This is likely to relieve pressure on the North York Moors SAC and North York Moors SPA by providing alternative open space for recreation.	n/a	n/a	n/a	No
Policy H12– Developer Contributions	○ Relates to securing necessary developer contributions. The infrastructure improvements referred to are improvements to facilities which already exist, with the exception of the Extra Care unit which has been assessed under Site NYMH3.	n/a	n/a	n/a	No
Policy H13 – Open Space Requirements	✓ This is likely to relieve pressure on the North York Moors SAC and North York Moors SPA by providing alternative open space for recreation.	n/a	n/a	n/a	No
Policy H14 – Telecommunications Installations	○ Telecommunications development assessed as	n/a	n/a	n/a	No

Policy	Is there potential for 'likely significant effects' on SACs and SPAs? ¹²	Risk of Likely Significant Effect?	In-combination effects?	Risk of In-Combination Likely Significant Effect?	Appropriate Assessment required?
	having no impact under North York Moors Core Strategy and Development Policies Habitats Regulations Assessment.				

Site allocations

3.33 The site allocations have each been assessed. The Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Ryedale Plan has concluded the circumstances in which allocations in Helmsley may result in significant effects and produced recommendations as to how the allocations document could prevent such effects. These conclusions and recommendations have been used as the basis for the assessment of the proposed site allocations. This assessment is contained in Table 4 overleaf. The sites proposed for allocation are shown on Map 1 overleaf.

To summarise, the following effects are possible:

- Loss of foraging ground for Golden Plover (North York Moors SPA) from all proposed sites;
- Effects on water quality in the River Derwent SAC due to run-off from development taking place in the floodplain of the River rye (sites 174, 183, EMP1 and EMP2);
- Increased potential for trampling and disturbance in the North York Moors SAC and North York Moors SPA due to increased numbers of people living in the area, resulting from all housing allocations.

An Appropriate Assessment will therefore need to be undertaken to ascertain whether or not these effects will occur and whether any mitigation measures can be put in place.

Map 1: Proposed site allocations

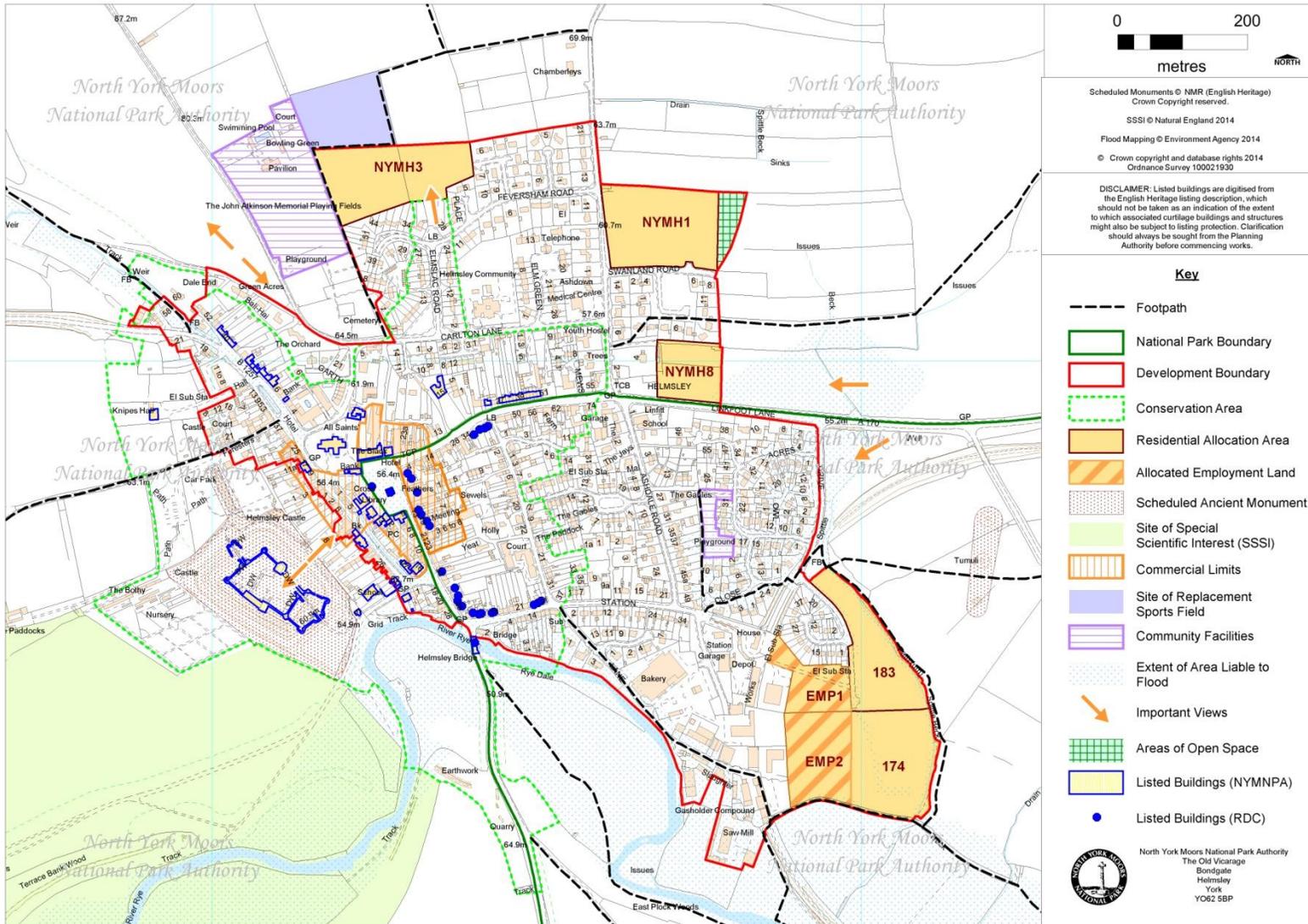


Table 4: Screening assessment of proposed Site Allocations

Policy	Is there potential for 'likely significant effects' on SACs and SPAs?¹⁵	Risk of Likely Significant Effect?	In-combination effects?	Risk of In-Combination Likely Significant Effect?	Appropriate Assessment required?
NYMH1 – Land north of Swanland Road and East of Carlton Road	U Based on the conclusions of the Ryedale HRA ¹⁶ there is the possibility for effects on North York Moors SPA due to loss of pasture land used by golden plover for foraging or disturbance to golden plover on such land through recreational activities.	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In combination effects may occur alongside development at other locations close to the North York Moors (to be identified through Ryedale's site allocations document). and through the allocation of employment sites in the Helmsley Plan.	Yes, in-combination effects are possible	Yes, as a result of conclusions of the Ryedale HRA
	U The site is in the catchment of the River Rye (tributary of the River Derwent) and therefore development may affect water quality in the River Derwent SAC .	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In-combination effects may occur through the development of other sites in the catchment and floodplain of the River Derwent and its tributaries, although these have not been allocated at this stage.	Yes, in-combination effects are possible	Yes
	U Based on the conclusions of the Ryedale HRA there is the possibility for increased recreational pressure on the North York Moors SAC/SPA leading to trampling and disturbance.	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In combination effects may occur through the development of housing at other locations close to the North York Moors and with the aims of the National Park Management Plan to increase visitor numbers.	Yes, in-combination effects are possible	Yes, as a result of conclusions of the Ryedale HRA

¹⁵ Taking account of possible effect on the sites' qualifying features and conservation objectives – see Appendix 1.

¹⁶ Provision of new housing in Helmsley was assessed as part of the Quantum of Development options in the 2009 Ryedale District Council Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Policy	Is there potential for 'likely significant effects' on SACs and SPAs? ¹⁵	Risk of Likely Significant Effect?	In-combination effects?	Risk of In-Combination Likely Significant Effect?	Appropriate Assessment required?
NYMH3 – Land north of Elmslac Road	U Based on the conclusions of the Ryedale HRA there is the possibility for effects on North York Moors SPA due to loss of pasture land used by golden plover for foraging or disturbance to golden plover on such land through recreational activities.	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In combination effects may occur alongside development at other locations close to the North York Moors (to be identified through Ryedale's site allocations document). and through the allocation of employment sites in the Helmsley Plan.	None	Yes, as a result of conclusions of the Ryedale HRA
	U The site is in the catchment of the River Rye (tributary of the River Derwent) and therefore development may affect water quality in the River Derwent SAC .	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In-combination effects may occur through the development of other sites in the catchment and floodplain of the River Derwent and its tributaries, although these have not been allocated at this stage.	Yes, in-combination effects are possible	Yes
	U Based on the conclusions of the Ryedale HRA there is the possibility for increased recreational pressure on the North York Moors SAC/SPA leading to trampling and disturbance.	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In combination effects may occur through the development of housing at other locations close to the North York Moors and with the aims of the National Park Management Plan to increase visitor numbers.	Yes, in-combination effects are possible	Yes, significant effects are possible
Site 174 – Land south of Riccal Drive	U Based on the conclusions of the Ryedale HRA there is the possibility for effects on North	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In combination effects may occur alongside development at other locations close to the	None	Yes, as a result of conclusions of the Ryedale HRA

Policy	Is there potential for 'likely significant effects' on SACs and SPAs? ¹⁵	Risk of Likely Significant Effect?	In-combination effects?	Risk of In-Combination Likely Significant Effect?	Appropriate Assessment required?
	York Moors SPA due to loss of pasture land used by golden plover for foraging or disturbance to golden plover on such land through recreational activities.		North York Moors (to be identified through Ryedale's site allocations document). and through the allocation of employment sites in the Helmsley Plan.		
	U A small part of site 174 is within the floodplain. Based on the conclusions of the Ryedale HRA there is the possibility for effects on water quality in the River Derwent SAC from surface water run-off entering the River Rye (tributary of the Derwent) from development of sites in its floodplain.	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In-combination effects may occur through the development of other sites on the floodplain of the River Derwent and its tributaries, although these have not been allocated at this stage.	Yes, in-combination effects are possible	Yes, as a result of conclusions of the Ryedale HRA
	U Based on the conclusions of the Ryedale HRA there is the possibility for increased recreational pressure on the North York Moors SAC/SPA leading to trampling and disturbance.	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In combination effects may occur through the development of housing at other locations close to the North York Moors and with the aims of the National Park Management Plan to increase visitor numbers.	Yes, in-combination effects are possible	Yes, significant effects are possible
Site 183 – Land east of Riccal Drive	U Based on the conclusions of the Ryedale HRA there is the possibility for effects on North York Moors SPA due to loss of pasture land used by golden	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In combination effects may occur alongside development at other locations close to the North York Moors (to be identified through	None	Yes, as a result of conclusions of the Ryedale HRA

Policy	Is there potential for 'likely significant effects' on SACs and SPAs? ¹⁵	Risk of Likely Significant Effect?	In-combination effects?	Risk of In-Combination Likely Significant Effect?	Appropriate Assessment required?
	plover for foraging or disturbance to golden plover on such land through recreational activities.		Ryedale's site allocations document). and through the allocation of employment sites in the Helmsley Plan.		
	U A small part of site 183 is within the floodplain. Based on the conclusions of the Ryedale HRA there is the possibility for effects on water quality in the River Derwent SAC from surface water run-off entering the River Rye (tributary of the Derwent) from development of sites in its floodplain.	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In-combination effects may occur through the development of other sites on the floodplain of the River Derwent and its tributaries, although these have not been allocated at this stage.	Yes, in-combination effects are possible	Yes, as a result of conclusions of the Ryedale HRA
	U Based on the conclusions of the Ryedale HRA there is the possibility for increased recreational pressure on the North York Moors SAC and North York Moors SPA leading to trampling and disturbance.	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In combination effects may occur through the development of housing at other locations close to the North York Moors and with the aims of the National Park Management Plan to increase visitor numbers.	Yes, in-combination effects are possible	Yes, significant effects are possible
Site NYMH7 – Land to the south of Swanland Road	U Based on the conclusions of the Ryedale HRA there is the possibility for effects on North York Moors SPA due to loss of pasture land used by golden plover for foraging or disturbance to golden plover	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In combination effects may occur alongside development at other locations close to the North York Moors (to be identified through Ryedale's site allocations document).	None	Yes, as a result of conclusions of the Ryedale HRA

Policy	Is there potential for 'likely significant effects' on SACs and SPAs? ¹⁵	Risk of Likely Significant Effect?	In-combination effects?	Risk of In-Combination Likely Significant Effect?	Appropriate Assessment required?
	on such land through recreational activities.		and through the allocation of employment sites in the Helmsley Plan.		
	U Based on the conclusions of the Ryedale HRA there is the possibility for increased recreational pressure on the North York Moors SAC/SPA leading to trampling and disturbance.	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In combination effects may occur through the development of housing at other locations close to the North York Moors and with the aims of the National Park Management Plan to increase visitor numbers.	Yes, in-combination effects are possible	Yes, significant effects are possible
Site EMP1 – Land east of Riccal Drive	U Based on the conclusions of the Ryedale HRA ¹⁷ there is the possibility for effects on North York Moors SPA due to loss of pasture land used by golden plover for foraging or disturbance to golden plover on such land through recreational activities.	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In combination effects may occur alongside development at other locations close to the North York Moors (to be identified through Ryedale's site allocations document). and through the allocation of employment sites in the Helmsley Plan.	None	Yes, as a result of conclusions of the Ryedale HRA
	U A small part of site EMP1 is within the floodplain. Based on the conclusions of the Ryedale HRA there is the possibility for effects on water quality in the River Derwent SAC from	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In-combination effects may occur through the development of other sites on the floodplain of the River Derwent and its tributaries, although these have not been	Yes, in-combination effects are possible	Yes, as a result of conclusions of the Ryedale HRA

¹⁷ Provision of new housing in Helmsley was assessed as part of the Quantum of Development options in the 2009 Ryedale District Council Habitats Regulations Assessment.

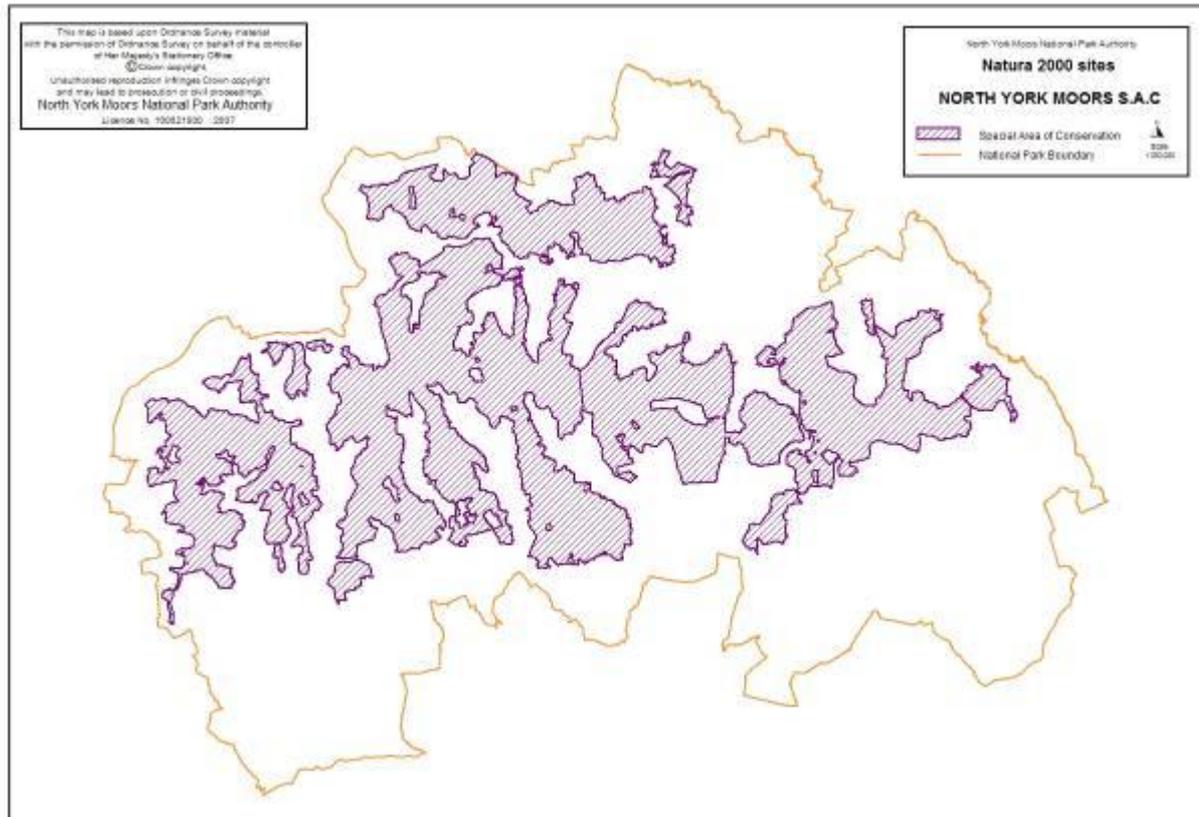
Policy	Is there potential for 'likely significant effects' on SACs and SPAs? ¹⁵	Risk of Likely Significant Effect?	In-combination effects?	Risk of In-Combination Likely Significant Effect?	Appropriate Assessment required?
	surface water run-off entering the River Rye (tributary of the Derwent) from development of sites in its floodplain.		allocated at this stage.		
Site EMP1 – Land east of Riccal Drive	U Based on the conclusions of the Ryedale HRA there is the possibility for effects on North York Moors SPA due to loss of pasture land used by golden plover for foraging or disturbance to golden plover on such land through recreational activities.	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In combination effects may occur alongside development at other locations close to the North York Moors (to be identified through Ryedale's site allocations document). and through the allocation of employment sites in the Helmsley Plan.	None	Yes, as a result of conclusions of the Ryedale HRA
	U A small part of site EMP2 is within the floodplain. Based on the conclusions of the Ryedale HRA there is the possibility for effects on water quality in the River Derwent SAC from surface water run-off entering the River Rye (tributary of the Derwent) from development of sites in its floodplain.	The Ryedale HRA identifies that significant effects are possible	In-combination effects may occur through the development of other sites on the floodplain of the River Derwent and its tributaries, although these have not been allocated at this stage.	Yes, in-combination effects are possible	Yes, as a result of conclusions of the Ryedale HRA

4. Screening Conclusion

- 4.1 The screening assessment has revealed that many of the policies in the draft Helmsley Plan will have no effect on Natura 2000 sites. However, in some cases, particularly those which relate to the allocation of land for development, it has not been possible to conclude for certain whether significant effects will occur or not but it can be concluded that they are possible ('likely significant effects'). Those policies / allocations in Tables 3 and 4 where 'likely significant effects' are identified as uncertain must be subject to an Appropriate Assessment, including consideration of the effects of the site allocations themselves. The Appropriate Assessment is contained in a separate report.

Appendix 1: Details and locations of Natura 2000 sites

North York Moors SAC Register entry UK0030228



Features of Interest

This hilly upland landscape is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK for heathland, containing the largest continuous tract of upland heather moorland in England.

In the northern and eastern moors, which are underlain by peat that impedes drainage, the principal type of heathland is the Annex I Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*. The most extensive vegetation found on these wet heaths is *Erica tetralix* – *Sphagnum compactum*, although they also support rare species such as the nationally scarce creeping forget-me-not *Myosotis stolonifera*. These wet heaths account for a high proportion of the European distribution of this habitat, and are a primary reason for the selection of this site as an SAC.

Elsewhere, on the western, southern and central moors, the principal type of heathland is Annex I European dry heaths. This reflects the underlying geology of the area, which is predominantly composed of limestone and sandstone that allows the soil to drain freely. These dry heaths exhibit exceptional diversity in comparison with examples found elsewhere in the EU, and are a primary reason for the selection of this site as an SAC.

Interspersed amongst the heathland on the higher plateaus and between river valley catchments, blanket bog is also a significant presence in the North York Moors. Although not a primary reason for the selection of this site as an SAC, blanket bogs are an important priority habitat within the UK due to the abundance of bogs found in the UK compared to their comparative scarcity in the rest of Europe.

Vulnerabilities

This habitat is highly sensitive to any changes to the existing moorland management, which is currently carried out by farmers for sheep and by gamekeepers for the sporting shooting of grouse. Changes to grazing levels will impact upon the diversity of heather found, with overgrazing leading to direct heather loss and undergrazing allowing scrub to encroach.

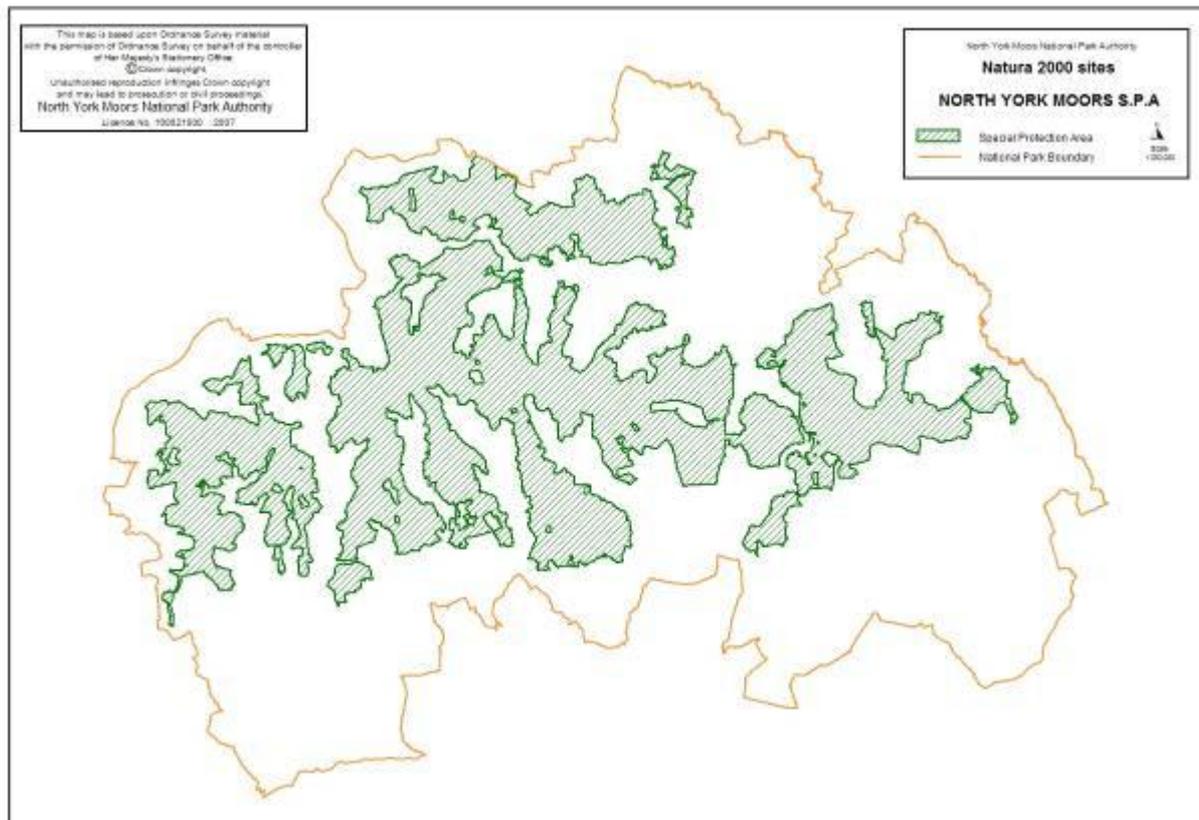
In addition the wetter habitats, in particularly blanket bog, are susceptible to changes in drainage, which can lead to a loss in structural diversity as well as the loss of mosses and lichens. These habitats may also be detrimentally impacted upon by overburning or accidental fires which can result from increasing visitor numbers.

Conservation objectives

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely;
- The populations of qualifying species;
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

North York Moors SPA Register entry UK9006161



Features of Interest

The North York Moors supports an intimate mosaic of dry and wet heath interspersed in parts with smaller amounts of blanket bog (see North York Moors SAC). This heathland supports an important assemblage of moorland breeding birds.

In particular, the tall heather is favoured for breeding by populations of merlin *Falco columbarius*, the UK's smallest bird of prey. Merlin are of international importance and are a primary reason for the selection of this site as an SAP. There is also a long recorded history of occupancy of Merlin at this site.

In addition, the diversity of heather of found on these moors as a result of heather management also supports a large population of golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, who generally favour the shorter vegetation. Golden plover are also of international importance and are a primary reason for the selection of this site as an SAP.

Vulnerabilities

The value of the North York Moors as a habitat for merlin, golden plover and other breeding birds is dependent upon maintaining the existing levels of moorland management currently carried out by farmers and gamekeepers. Overgrazing or too frequent heather burning (deliberate or accidental) could lead to a loss of structural diversity on the heaths and mires, whilst the removal of grazing could result in large areas of old heather and invasion by bracken. In addition, poor keeping of the moors for grouse may also lead to increasing persecution of raptors, including merlins.

Conservation Objectives

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;
- The populations of the qualifying features;
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

River Derwent SAC (*Outside the North York Moors National Park*) **Register entry UK0030253**

Location

The northern most part of the SAC is located approximately 20km southwest of Helmsley. A location map can be viewed at

<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?EUCODE=UK0030253>.

Features of Interest

The River Derwent rises in the North York Moors National Park, flows through Malton, North Yorkshire, and Stamford Bridge, East Riding of Yorkshire, then forms the border with the City of York, before joining the River Ouse at Long Drax.

The lower reaches of the River Derwent are considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom for the Annex II River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*. The UK populations of *Lampetra fluviatilis* are considered important for the conservation of the species at an EU level, and it is for this primary reason that the River Derwent is designated an SAC.

The River Derwent also supports the Annex I habitat water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation. This habitat type is characterised by the abundance of water-crowfoots *Ranunculus* spp., subgenus *Batrachium*. Floating mats of these white-flowered species are characteristic on the River Derwent channels in early to mid-summer, where they modify water flow, promote fine sediment deposition, and provide shelter and food for fish and invertebrate animals.

A number of other Annex II species are also present. The lower reaches of the Derwent are an important habitat important for Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, a primitive jawless fish resembling an eel. Further upstream in the faster flowing waters are populations of the bullhead *Cottus gobio*, a small bottom living fish that requires well well-oxygenated waters. Populations of Otters *Lutra lutra* also use the River Derwent for resting and breeding holts, and are also dependent upon the high quality of the water for their supply of food.

Vulnerabilities

In recent years there has been a growing concern expressed about water levels on the River Derwent, particularly with regard to the flooding of adjacent agricultural land and urban areas. This problem has been exacerbated by the growth of urban areas on or close to the floodplains of the River Derwent, and changes to land use and management in the catchment area. Extensive development of the land surrounding the River Derwent or further land management changes upstream, for example for agricultural use or forestry, would threaten to increase the frequency and intensity of flooding. Although flooding is damaging to the economy and communities of those areas affected, it is a natural process and has little negative impacts upon the ecology of the River Derwent.

However, increases in the frequency and intensity of flooding are likely to lead for increased calls from the public for methods of controlling water levels and the construction of flood defences. All of the SAC Annex I and Annex II habitats and species found on the River Derwent are highly susceptible to longer term changes in the flow rate and water level of the river.

Increasing water abstraction rates from the River Derwent and its catchment area may also affect the sensitive hydrology of the river and its supporting habitats and species. This is most likely to result from increased demand for water from new development.

The quality of the water is also of fundamental importance to the habitats and species found here. As well as the potential of the water quality to be reduced by flood management

construction, increases in sewage discharge, agricultural waste or runoff and other waste management operations could have an equally detrimental ecological impact.

Conservation Objectives

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely;
- The populations of qualifying species;
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

Lower Derwent SAC

Location

The Lower Derwent SAC is located approximately 40km to the southwest of Helmsley. A location map can be viewed at

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0012844>.

Features of Interest

General site character:

Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) (3%)

Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (30%)

Dry grassland. Steppes (1%)

Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland (64%)

Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (2%)

Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:

Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*). The Lower Derwent Valley in north-east England contains a greater area of high-quality examples of lowland hay meadows than any other UK site and encompasses the majority of this habitat type occurring in the Vale of York. The abundance of the rare narrow-leaved water-dropwort *Oenanthe silaifolia* is a notable feature. Traditional management has ensured that ecological variation is well-developed, particularly in the transitions between this grassland type and other types of wet and dry grassland, swamp and fen vegetation.

Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:

Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*)

Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site:

Not applicable

Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection:

Otter *Lutra lutra*

Vulnerabilities

There is an extant planning permission for the extraction of coal by deep mining. This has been reviewed under Regulation 50 by the Minerals Planning Authority and an appropriate compensation/mitigation package has been agreed by the MPA/English Nature and the holder of the permission. This is to take account of potential changes to topography, soil water relations and flooding patterns and duration as a result of subsidence. Water levels in general are an issue in the Valley and this is being addressed by a collaborative project between English Nature, Environment Agency and the water company, Yorkshire Water.

Conservation Objectives

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely;
- The populations of qualifying species;

- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

Lower Derwent SPA

Location

The Lower Derwent SPA is located approximately 40km southwest of Helmsley (having the same boundary as the Lower Derwent SAC). More details are available at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/SPA/UK9006092.pdf>.

Features of interest

Site characteristics:

Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) 10%

Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens 24%

Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland 65%

Broad-leaved deciduous woodland 1%

Breeding conrcrake, ruff and spotted crane

Wintering Bewick's swan, bittern, golden plover, ruff

Migratory wintering teal

Vulnerabilities

Eutrophication risk due to agricultural run-off and domestic sewage residues are currently being investigated by English Nature to determine the scale and effect before preventative measures can be formulated. Water abstraction and the associated tidal barrage are thought to adversely affect water levels and qualities on the site. This is being investigated through a joint project between English Nature, Environment Agency and the private water company. Coal mining takes place adjacent to the site. The potential effects of this are monitored with mitigation where necessary via a section 106 planning agreement. Recreational disturbance is increasing due to increased house building adjacent to the site.

Conservation Objectives

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;
- The populations of the qualifying features;
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Lower Derwent Ramsar

Location

The Lower Derwent SPA is located approximately 40km southwest of Helmsley (having the same boundary as the Lower Derwent SAC). More details are available at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/RIS/UK11037.pdf>.

Qualifying features

Internationally important wetland assemblage – plants, invertebrates

Ramsar criterion 1

The site represents one of the most important examples of traditionally managed species-rich alluvial flood meadow habitat remaining in the UK. The river and flood meadows play a substantial role in the hydrological and ecological functioning of the Humber Basin.

Ramsar criterion 2

The site has a rich assemblage of wetland invertebrates including 16 species of dragonfly and damselfly, 15 British Red Data Book wetland invertebrates as well as a leafhopper, *Cicadula ornata* for which Lower Derwent Valley is the only known site in Great Britain.

Ramsar criterion 4

The site qualifies as a staging post for passage birds in spring. Of particular note are the nationally important numbers of Ruff, *Philomachus pugnax* and Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus*.

Ramsar criterion 5 – assemblages of international importance:

Species with peak counts in winter:

31942 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)

Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):

Species with peak counts in winter:

Eurasian wigeon, *Anas penelope*, NW Europe 8350 individuals, representing an average of 2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3) Eurasian teal, *Anas crecca*, NW Europe 4200 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)

Vulnerabilities

Information not available

Appendix 2: Assessment of Other Plans and Projects

Plan / Project	Purpose / Content	HRA carried out?	Effects on Natura 2000 Sites
North York Moors Core Strategy and Development Policies ¹⁸	Sets out the planning policies for the North York Moors National Park.	Yes	<p>Should be no significant effects as HRA carried out.</p> <p>Prior to mitigation HRA identified:</p> <p>Core Policy D – Climate Change Effects are possible from the development of wind turbines and in combination with the development of wind turbine development in adjoining districts could lead to significant effects upon flight paths and migratory routes for species in the North York Moors SPA.</p> <p>Core Policy E – Minerals Whilst the policy only provides for small scale minerals extraction, there is no locational guidance as minerals can only be extracted where they exist. Minerals extraction could have impacts in terms of physical loss and damage, disturbance and air and water pollution to Beast Cliff SAC, Ellers Wood and Sand Dale SAC, Fen Bog SAC and North York Moors SAC and SPA.</p> <p>Core Policy F – Sustainable Waste Management Waste management facilities could have impacts in terms of physical loss and damage, disturbance and water and soil pollution to Arnecliff and Park Hole Woods SAC, Beast Cliff SAC, Ellers Wood and Sand Dale SAC, Fen Bog SAC and North York Moors SAC and SPA.</p> <p>Development Policy 8 –Conversion of Traditional Rural Buildings Conversion of rural buildings to holiday accommodation or residential use in or close to Natura 2000 sites, in combination with increased disturbance and trampling from various other plans and projects, could lead to disturbance upon Arnecliff and Park Hole Woods SAC, Beast Cliff SAC, Ellers Wood and Sand Dale SAC, Fen Bog SAC and North York Moors SAC and SPA.</p>

¹⁸ North York Moors Core Strategy and Development Policies (North York Moors National Park Authority, November 2008)

Plan / Project	Purpose / Content	HRA carried out?	Effects on Natura 2000 Sites
			<p>Core Policy H – Rural Economy Opportunities for tourism and rural diversification may lead to impacts upon all sites in the National Park in relation to physical loss and damage, disturbance and trampling, pollution or water extraction.</p> <p>Development Policy 10 – New Employment and Training Development Whilst employment uses are generally directed towards settlements, re-use of existing buildings or farm diversification schemes in or close to Natura 2000 sites could lead to impacts on all sites in the National Park in relation to physical loss and damage, disturbance and trampling, pollution or water extraction.</p> <p>Development Policy 12 – Agriculture New agricultural buildings in or close to Natura 2000 sites could lead to impacts on all sites in the National Park in relation to physical loss and damage, disturbance, trampling, pollution and water extraction, in combination with effects of disturbance and trampling arising from other plans.</p> <p>Development Policy 13 – Rural Diversification Rural diversification schemes in or close to Natura 2000 sites could lead to impacts on all sites in the National Park in relation to physical loss and damage, disturbance, pollution or water extraction, in combination with effects of disturbance and trampling arising from other policies and plans.</p> <p>Development Policy 14 – Tourism and Recreation Development which attracts visitors to the National Park could lead to impacts on all sites in the National Park in relation to trampling and disturbance, in combination with effects of disturbance and trampling arising from other policies and other plans. Increased levels of tourism could lead to increased use of the North Yorkshire Moors Railway which could impact upon Fen Bog SAC in terms of air pollution.</p> <p>Development Policy 16 – Chalet and Camping Sites</p>

Plan / Project	Purpose / Content	HRA carried out?	Effects on Natura 2000 Sites
			<p>Development of chalet and camping sites which attracts visitors to the National Park could lead to impacts on all sites in the National Park in relation trampling and disturbance, plus physical loss and damage to the sites from the development itself.</p> <p>Development Policy 17 – Commercial Horse Related Development New horse development is likely to lead to an increase in horse riding and impacts of disturbance and trampling to Arnecliff and Park Hole Woods SAC and North York Moors SAC and SPA, in combination with effects of disturbance and trampling from other policies and other plans.</p> <p>Development Policy 20 – Extensions to Residential Curtilages The extension of domestic residential curtilage could potentially encroach upon all sites in the National Park thus leading to the direct loss of habitat.</p> <p>Development Policy 24 – Transport Infrastructure Support for Public Rights of Way and other access routes for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians could lead to effects from disturbance on all sites in the National Park, in combination with effects of disturbance and trampling from other policies and other plans.</p>
Redcar and Cleveland Core Strategy ¹⁹	Sets the strategic framework for future development in Redcar and Cleveland Borough.	Yes	<p>Should be no significant effects as HRA carried out.</p> <p>Prior to mitigation HRA identified:</p> <p>Effects on Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical loss and damage, non-physical damage, and contamination as a result of expansion of Teesport for steel exports and a deep sea container facility, and expansion / new businesses at South Tees Employment Area; • Physical and non-physical damage, and disturbance from housing, leisure and tourist development, sports management, flood control, promoting the integrated use of the

¹⁹ Redcar and Cleveland Core Strategy (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, 2007)

Plan / Project	Purpose / Content	HRA carried out?	Effects on Natura 2000 Sites
			<p>foreshore and improving accessibility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical loss and damage, non-physical damage and toxic contamination from steel chemical and port related industries. • Physical loss and damage to habitats and species through wind farm development <p>Effects on North York Moors SPA through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance to species through increased housing development resulting in increased recreation; • Physical damage to species and noise disturbance resulting from windfarms; <p>Effects on North York Moors SAC through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical damage from recreation pressure through increased housing development resulting in increased recreation; • Pollution from businesses and farm diversification; <p>Recommendations have been taken forward to ensure full consideration is given to the effects upon Natura 2000 sites at the planning application stage.</p> <p>Detailed Report – <i>Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Core Strategy and Development Policies DPDs of the Local Development Framework</i> (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, January 2007)</p>
Redcar and Cleveland Development Policies ²⁰	Sets out detailed criteria based policies against which applications for planning permission will be assessed.	Yes	As above – one Habitats Regulations Assessment was carried out for both.

²⁰ Redcar and Cleveland Development Policies (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, 2007)

Plan / Project	Purpose / Content	HRA carried out?	Effects on Natura 2000 Sites
Hambleton Core Strategy ²¹	Sets out the strategic framework for future development in Hambleton District.	No	<p>Effects would be along the lines of those identified below in relation to Development Policies.</p> <p>The Core Strategy identifies areas of opportunity around Northallerton, Thirsk and Bedale and areas of restraint around Stokesley and Easingwold. These areas of restraint are closer to the Natura 2000 sites in the National Park whilst the areas of opportunity are further from the sites. There is no specific protection for Natura 2000 sites in the Core Strategy as detailed development control policies are contained in the Development Policies DPD.</p> <p>Generally the approach would direct development away from Natura 2000 sites.</p>
Hambleton Development Policies ²²	Sets out detailed criteria based policies against which applications for planning permission will be assessed.	Yes	<p>Should be no significant effects as HRA carried out.</p> <p>Prior to mitigation HRA identified:</p> <p>Effects on North York Moors SPA from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical disturbance to bird species resulting from policies on telecommunications, major out of town shopping and leisure proposals and very noisy activities where development under these would take place close to the SPA. • Effects upon species from wind development located in flights paths or migration routes. <p>Effects upon the North York Moors SPA and SAC from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The regeneration of Market Towns, and the new development that comes with this, would lead to increased pressure upon water abstraction and water quality. • Policies to assist the economy and employment, including road schemes, have been assessed as having the potential to lead to impacts upon air quality. • Policies to assist economy and employment, market town regeneration, tourism and

²¹ Hambleton Core Strategy (Hambleton District Council, 2007)

²² Hambleton Development Policies (Hambleton District Council, 2008)

Plan / Project	Purpose / Content	HRA carried out?	Effects on Natura 2000 Sites
			<p>major outdoor recreation have the potential to lead to disturbance.</p> <p>Mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to the nature protection policy have been made to state that ‘any proposed development that could have an adverse effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 or Ramsar site alone or in combination with other plans or projects will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the legislative provisions to protect such sites can be fully met’, with additional explanation in the supporting text. • Supporting text to the nature conservation policy will include reference to the potential water abstraction and water quality impacts on Natura 2000 sites. • Supporting text to the nature conservation policy will include reference to potential air quality impacts on Natura 2000 sites. • Changes to the supporting text of nature conservation and tourism policies to include reference to potential effects of tourism upon Natura 2000 sites. • Additional criterion added to renewable energy policy to ensure wind development does not affect integrity of SPAs. <p><i>Detailed report – Habitats Regulations Assessment of Hambleton Development Policies Development Plan Document Submission Draft (Land Use Consultants, May 2007)</i></p>
Ryedale Local Plan Strategy ²³	Sets out strategic policies for future development in Ryedale district.	Yes	<p>Possible effects on the North York Moors SPA relating to loss of pasture land for foraging birds and recreational disturbance of birds foraging on pasture land. Possible effects on North York Moors SPA and North York Moors SAC from increased recreation.</p> <p>Possible effects on River Derwent SAC from effluent discharge and from the need for flood defences as a result of increased surface water drainage.</p>
Scarborough Borough Local	Sets out the policies for	No	New housing, and tourism policies which seek to attract more visitors to Scarborough, could lead to more visitors in the National Park and effects of disturbance upon Arnecliffe

²³ Ryedale Local Plan Strategy (Ryedale District Council, September 2013)

Plan / Project	Purpose / Content	HRA carried out?	Effects on Natura 2000 Sites
Plan ²⁴	consideration of planning applications in Scarborough		<p>and Park Hole Woods SAC, Beast Cliff, Ellers Wood and Sand Dale SAC, Fen Bog SAC, North York Moors SAC and SPA and River Derwent SAC.</p> <p>A policy to protect European sites is included which would mitigate against direct effects but is unlikely to mitigate against indirect effects such as increased visitor pressure.</p>
North York Moors National Park Management Plan ²⁵	Sets out policies for the management of the National Park	Yes	<p>Should be no significant effects as HRA carried out.</p> <p>Prior to mitigation HRA identified effects relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in open space for golden plover to nest and forage in through reinstatement of landscape features (North York Moors SPA); • Loss of vegetation and habitat through archaeological works, geological promotion, species rich grassland creation, woodland planting and forestry works, storage of water, installation of renewable energy, overgrazing, new tracks and ponds, burning, new development, new mobile phone masts, upgrading rail infrastructure (all sites); • Disturbance to golden plover and merlin through the above works plus increased numbers of visitors, increased numbers of trains (North York Moors SPA); • Displacement of merlin and golden plover due to above works taking place in the nesting season, installation of wind turbines, (North York Moors SPA); • Trampling of vegetation and habitat through re-use of buildings, increased numbers of visitors, archaeological works, works to store water, (North York Moors SAC and North York Moors SPA); • Damage to vegetation from dust (North York Moors SAC); • Damage to vegetation from use of inappropriate modern machinery (North York Moors SAC); • Loss of foraging and foraging areas due to species rich grassland creation and restoration, woodland planting, (North York Moors SPA); • Drying out of peatlands (due to tree planting) (Fen Bog SAC and North York Moors

²⁴ Scarborough Borough Local Plan (Scarborough Borough Council, April 1999)

²⁵ North York Moors National Park Management Plan (North York Moors National Park Authority, June 2012)

Plan / Project	Purpose / Content	HRA carried out?	Effects on Natura 2000 Sites
			<p>SAC);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in chemical composition of the air through increased vehicle numbers and increased train journeys (Fen Bog SAC, North York Moors SAC and North York Moors SPA); • Increased run-off from roads due to increased visitor numbers (Fen Bog SAC and North York Moors SAC); • Loss of peat due to peat cutting (North York Moors SAC).
North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2016 ²⁶	Sets out long term objectives for transport across the county, and actions to be undertaken up to 2016.	Yes	<p>Should be no significant effects as HRA carried out.</p> <p>The HRA identified that uncertainty exists in relation to effects on Natura 2000 sites from highways maintenance in relation to Arnecliff and Park Hole Woods SAC, Beast Cliff – Whitby SAC, Eilers Wood and Sand Dale SAC, Fen Bog SAC, North York Moors SAC/SPA and River Derwent SAC.</p> <p>The HRA concludes that if North Yorkshire County Council adheres to the policies outlined in LTP 3 as well as following Planning Policy Guidance, best practice guidance and seeks advice from Natural England and specialists regarding biodiversity, habitats, air pollution impact modelling and maintenance personnel the North Yorkshire LTP3 should have no likely significant direct or indirect impacts on Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p><i>Detailed report 'North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 3 – Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report (North Yorkshire County Council, 2011)</i></p>
North Yorkshire Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan ²⁷	Sets the framework for the future management of the public rights	Yes	<p>Should be no significant effects as HRA carried out.</p> <p>Prior to mitigation HRA identified:</p> <p>The improvement to public rights of way could have effects of disturbance and physical</p>

²⁶ North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2006 – 2011 (North Yorkshire County Council, 2006)

²⁷ People, paths and places – The Rights of Way Improvement Plan for North Yorkshire 2007 – 2011 (North Yorkshire County Council, 2008)

Plan / Project	Purpose / Content	HRA carried out?	Effects on Natura 2000 Sites
	of way network in the part of the Park in North Yorkshire		loss (due to trampling) through increased use but could also have positive effects through ensuring a clear network of public footpaths which would reduce walking away from footpaths, to Arnecliff and Park Hole Woods SAC, Beast Cliff SAC, Ellers Wood and Sand Dale SAC and North York Moors SAC and SPA.
Yorkshire Derwent Catchment Flood Management Plan	Sets the framework for actions to address flooding in the River Derwent catchment, which covers the Ellers Wood and Sand Dale, Fen Bog and North York Moors SAC and SPA.	No	Potentially effects on water levels in the North York Moors SAC and SPA from the proposed actions to reduce run-off and create storage.
Humber River Basin Management Plan	The RBMP describes the RBD and the pressures that the water environment faces. It shows what this means for the current state of the water environment, and what actions will be taken to address the	Yes	Should be no significant effects as HRA carried out. No specific effects in relation to any of the Natura 2000 sites concerned in this HRA were identified and the HRA concluded that the RBMP is not likely to have any significant negative effects on any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. <i>Detailed report – Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Humber River Basin Management Plan for the Humber River Basin District (Environment Agency, 2009)</i>

Plan / Project	Purpose / Content	HRA carried out?	Effects on Natura 2000 Sites
	pressures. It sets out what improvements are possible by 2015 and how the actions will make a difference to the local environment.		
North York Moors Recreation and Access Strategy ²⁸	Sets out policies for providing opportunities for recreation and access.	Yes	The HRA identified potential effects from trampling and disturbance and physical loss and damage to Arnecliff and Park Hole Woods SAC, Beast Cliff SAC, Eilers Wood and Sand Dale SAC, Fen Bog SAC, North York Moors SAC and North York Moors SPA.

²⁸ North York Moors Recreation and Access Strategy (North York Moors National Park Authority, 2008)