



Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan (Submission Version)

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report

September 2019

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report has been prepared by Heslington Parish Council in conjunction with the City of York Council (CYC) in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) and Habitats Directive to support the Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan (HPNP).
- 1.2 The aim of this Screening Report is to assess whether there are likely to be significant effects on the qualifying features of European Designated Sites as a result of the emerging policies set out in the HPNP that would necessitate the production of a full Habitats Regulations Appropriate Assessment.
- 1.3 This report assesses, as far as practical, whether there are likely to be any significant effects on European Designated Sites within or relatively proximate to the approved Heslington Neighbourhood Plan area.

Legislative Basis

- 1.4 Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive states that:
“Any plan or project not directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of the [European] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In the 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 having 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.”
- 1.5 The purpose of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is therefore to ensure the protection of European Designated Sites (Natura 2000) wherever practicable. European Designated Sites are designed to form an ecologically coherent network of designated spaces across Europe.
- 1.6 European Designated Sites (Natura 2000) include **Special Protection Areas (SPAs)** and **Special Areas for Conservation (SAC)**. As a matter of policy, the government also expects authorities to treat **Ramsar sites**, **candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC)** and **proposed Special Protection Areas (pSPA)** as if they are European Designated Sites for the purpose of considering development proposals that may affect them.

1.7 Definitions (taken from the DEFRA- Joint Nature Conservation Committee):

- **Special Protection Areas (SPAs)** are strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Birds Directive, which came into force in April 1979. They are classified for rare and vulnerable birds and for regularly occurring migratory species.
- **Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)** are strictly protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive. Article 3 of the Habitats Directive requires the establishment of a European network of important high-quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the 189 habitat types and 788 species. The listed habitat types and species are those considered to be most in need of conservation at a European level (excluding birds).
- **Ramsar sites** are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention.

1.8 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), state that submitted Plans need to be accompanied by a statement explaining how the proposed Plan meets the ‘basic conditions’ set out in Schedule 4B of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act. These basic conditions include a requirement to demonstrate how the Plan is compatible with EU obligations, which include the need to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment.

1.9 In April 2018, a notable judgment by the European Court of Justice gave its ruling on the *People Over Wind*¹ case, which provided a new interpretation of when and how mitigation measures should be considered in an HRA. In departing from previous decisions, it clearly identifies that measures designed specifically to avoid or reduce likely significant effects should not be evaluated at the screening stage but reserved for the appropriate assessment.

Subsequently, the Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (Various Amendments) (England and Wales) Regulations 2018, which came into force on 28 December 2018, amend the basic condition relating to Neighbourhood Plans prescribed in Regulation 32 and Schedule 2 (Habitats) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), substituting a new basic condition which states: “The making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017”.

It is considered that the Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan (HPNP) and this HRA Screening Report complies with latest legislation.

¹ *Case C/323-17 People Over Wind*, Court of Justice of the European Union

Planning Context

- 1.10 The HPNP, once adopted, will present planning policy and guidance for the neighbourhood area.
- The HPNP is being prepared in the context of the emerging City of York Local Plan, which was submitted for independent examination on 25th May 2018. The Local Plan will, when adopted, provide a strategic framework for how future development across the City of York will be planned and delivered and will be fully compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019)².
- 1.11 Until such time as the City of York Local Plan is adopted, there is a range of relevant planning policy applicable. The saved Yorkshire and Humber RSS policies referring to York's Green Belt, including the associated proposals map, set the strategic context for the general extent of the Green Belt around York to six miles from the city centre. As part of the proposed new Local Plan, the City of York will be defining the detailed Green Belt boundaries around the city.
- 1.12 In the context of Neighbourhood Planning, this provides scope for the HPNP to meet community aspirations for the Neighbourhood Area whilst also helping to shape the Local Plan's main objectives, i.e. housing, employment and good transport links for the City.
- 1.13 A Habitats Regulations Assessment was submitted alongside the City of York Local Plan (2018) for independent examination. This concluded that the plan would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of European designated nature conservation sites. However, following correspondence from Natural England in June 2018 in relation to evidencing the potential for recreational pressure at European designated sites as a result of growth proposed in the Local Plan, City of York Council commissioned two visitor surveys, one for Strensall Common (SAC) and a second for the Lower Derwent Valley (SPA) and Skipwith Common (SAC).
- 1.14 Most relevant to the HPNP are the survey results in relation to the Lower Derwent Valley (LDV), which is the closest European designated site to the neighbourhood plan area. The report considers that the closest points of open access on to the LDV from York are well managed and likely to attract people specifically interested in wildlife. Although the report states that there is likely to be significant effects from development, there is mitigation presented in the report. This is deemed sufficient to rule out adverse effects on the integrity with respect to recreation for any single development alone, unless within 1km. It also is able to rule out adverse effects on the integrity, in relation to recreational pressure, for the quantum of development as a whole (in-combination). The report considers that monitoring and review should be included within the York Local Plan. The outcomes of the survey report concur with the conclusions in the submitted HRA for the York Local Plan.

² References were made throughout the Pre-Submission version to NPPF 2012 to add useful context. In February 2019 an updated NPPF was released by government. In line with CYC guidance, the Submission version of the plan and its supporting documents is written to reference NPPF 2019.

- 1.15 However, the results of the Strensall Common visitor survey concluded a 24% uplift in recreational pressure as a result of proposed development within close proximity to the site. Consequently, the revised Habitat Regulation Assessment (2019)³, which takes account of the survey results, concluded that two sites should be removed from the plan in order to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of the Common; Site ST35: Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall and Site H59: Howard Road, Strensall. Proposed modifications to the Local Plan, including the removal of these sites, were considered by City of York Council Executive on 7 March 2019 wherein Members approved their submission for consideration by the Planning Inspectors examining the York Local Plan. At the time of writing, the York Local Plan examination is ongoing. It is considered that the changes proposed in Strensall do not impact the Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

³ <https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s130554/Annex%20C%20-%20Habitat%20Regulation%20Assessment%20Feb%202019.pdf>

2. Methodology

Identifying European Sites and their qualifying features

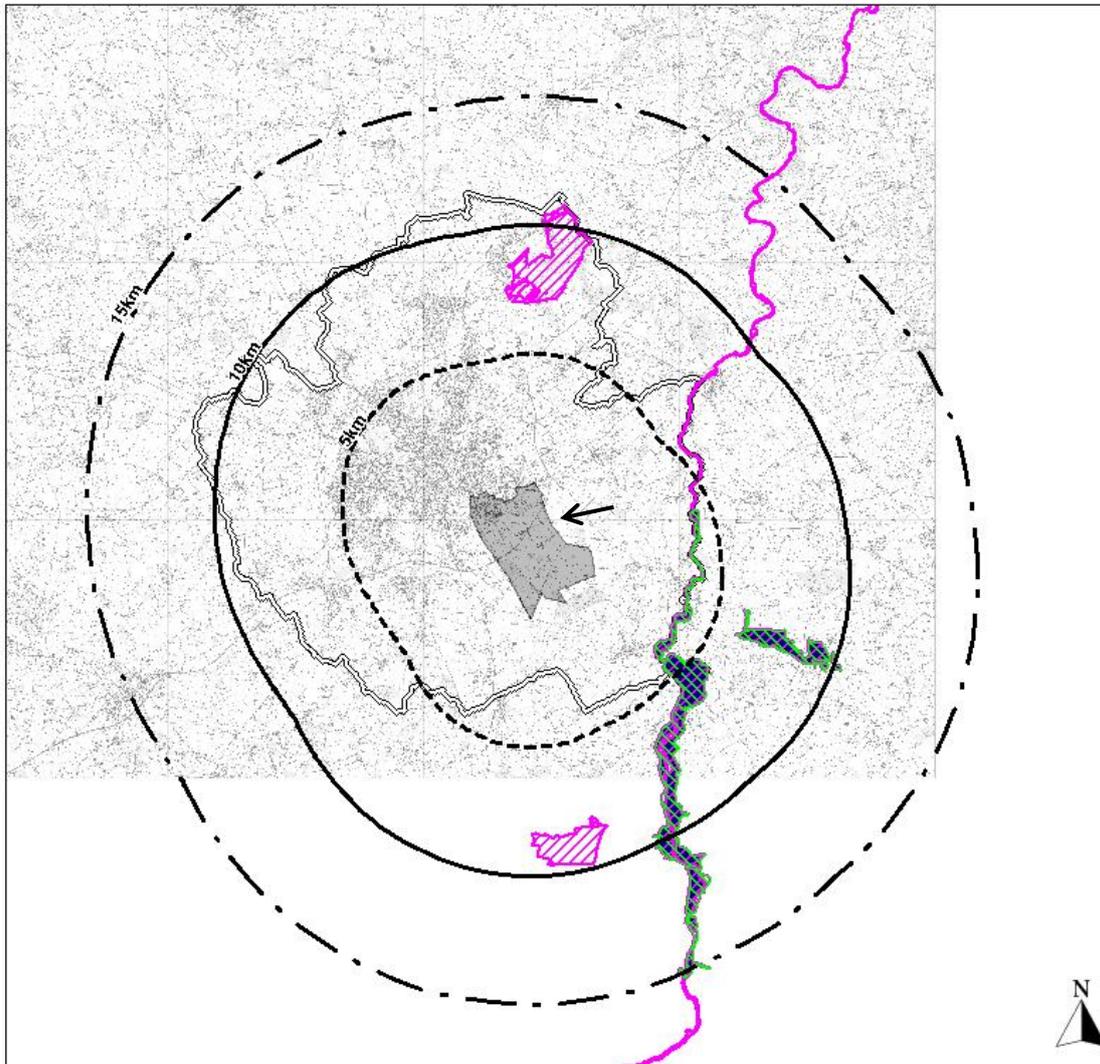
- 2.1 The first stage of preparing this Screening Report is identifying the European Designated Sites within the Neighbourhood Plan area or in close proximity to it.
- 2.2 This study considers potential effects on all European sites within 15km of the HPNP area boundary, together with any additional downstream sites that may be hydrologically linked to the plan's zone of influence. This is considered to be a suitably precautionary starting point for the assessment of the plan and is consistent with the draft HRA prepared for the emerging Local Plan.
- 2.3 European Designated Sites have been identified using data from Natural England (see Figure 1, page 8). This identifies the following sites for consideration within the assessment:

Site name	Designation	Closest Distance (approx.)
Strensall Common	SAC	11km
Skipwith Common	SAC	12km
River Derwent	SAC	6km
Lower Derwent Valley	SAC, SPA, Ramsar	5km
Humber Estuary	SAC, SPA, Ramsar	Approximately 30km downstream via River Ouse

- 2.4 Table 1 below (see page 9), sets out an outline of the qualifying features of the identified European Sites and a summary of impacts likely to affect the integrity of the protected sites. More detailed information regarding the designation of each site is set out in Annex 1.

Figure 1

Identifying European Designated Sites with 15km of Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan Area



Source: Natural England Spatial Data Catalogue, 2017

- City of York Council Boundary
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- Ramsar
- Potential Special Protection Area (pSPA)
- Possible Special Area of Conservation (pSAC)
- Heslington Neighbourhood Plan Boundary

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Qualifying features of the identified European Sites and summary of impacts

Table 1

Site	Qualifying Features	Summary of current threats and potential vulnerabilities to outcomes of the Plan
Strensall Common SAC	<p>H4010. Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath</p> <p>H4030. European dry heaths</p>	<p>Approximately 570ha site supporting extensive areas of wet and dry heath (M16 <i>Erica tetralix</i> – <i>Sphagnum compactum</i> wet heath and H9 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> dry heath), with complex mosaics of wet heath and transition habitats. The site is used for training by the MOD, but this is not thought to compromise the interest of the site. The main issue currently affecting habitats is a lack of management and hence scrub encroachment; this is being controlled through management agreements with the MOD and their tenants. Public access via PROWs and Permissive Paths is permitted when training is not taking place, and is subject to an integrated management plan agreed between the MOD, NE and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. The absence of open access limits the exposure of the interest features to effects associated with visitor pressure.</p>
Skipwith Common SAC	<p>H4010. Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>; wet heathland with cross-leaved heath (or 'wet heath')</p> <p>H4030. European dry heaths (or 'dry heath').</p>	<p>Skipwith Common supports extensive areas of both wet and dry heath, with rush pasture, mire, reedbed, open water and woodland. The entire European site is managed as a National Nature Reserve by Natural England, grazed with cattle and sheep and has been dedicated as open access land under CROW. The number of visitors is thought to be increasing causing some erosion and disturbance of grazing animals and the heathland could be vulnerable to nitrogen deposition. The site remains both fragile and vulnerable.</p> <p>The underpinning Skipwith Common SSSI was assessed by Natural England to be in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition in 2014. The corresponding Site Improvement Plan (SIP) for the European site identifies, inter alia, a number of threats including public pressure, air pollution and drainage.</p>
River Derwent SAC	<p>H3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation ('Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot')</p>	<p>The River Derwent SAC is primarily designated for its population of river lamprey: only the lower reaches between Ryemouth and the confluence with the Ouse are designated, reflecting the spawning distribution of this species in the Derwent system. However, the designated section supports diverse communities of aquatic flora and fauna also, including flora uncommon</p>

Site	Qualifying Features	Summary of current threats and potential vulnerabilities to outcomes of the Plan
	S1095 Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	in Northern Britain and a diverse fish community. River and sea lamprey populations spawn in the lower reaches. The main issues affecting the SAC have been identified as excess fine sedimentation, physical modification, lack of shading and shelter in the river and its bankside and barriers to migratory fish passage. The Environment Agency and Natural England are developing a restoration plan to help the River Derwent SSSI move towards favourable condition. This includes a range of actions including fencing off sections trampled by stock to allow vegetation growth, investigation into the potential for fish passes and improving riparian and marginal habitats by increasing tree cover. A ramp is being installed at Barmby Barrage to help lamprey movement into the river.
Lower Derwent Valley SAC	H6510. Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) H91E0. Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>); Alder woodland on floodplains S1355. <i>Lutra lutra</i> ; Otter	The floodplain of the lower reaches of the River Derwent SAC is dominated by the Lower Derwent Valley SAC, Lower Derwent Valley SPA and Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar. The Lower Derwent Valley SAC supports the largest area of high-quality traditionally managed lowland hay meadows (mainly corresponding to MG4 <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> – <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> grassland) in the UK. 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, and there is an area of damp alder woodland at Thornton Ellers adjoining marsh and tall fen communities.
Lower Derwent Valley SPA	A037 <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> ; Bewick's swan (Non-breeding) A050 <i>Anas penelope</i> ; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding) A052 <i>Anas crecca</i> ; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding) A056 <i>Anas clypeata</i> ; Northern shoveler (Breeding) A140 <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ; European golden plover (Non-breeding) A151 <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> ; Ruff (Non-breeding) Waterbird assemblage.	The traditionally managed lowland hay meadows of the Lower Derwent Valley SAC, the River Derwent SAC, and the associated wetland habitats (including fens, swamps, valley mires, wet woodland and other freshwater habitats lying adjacent to the River Derwent, Pocklington Canal and The Beck support a diverse range of waterbirds throughout the year, and these sites are partly or entirely co-incident with the Lower Derwent Valley SPA. In winter the site supports large numbers of swans, ducks and waders, as well as Bittern, whilst in summer the floodplain supports breeding waders, Corncrake and Spotted Crake. The character and species composition of the grassland, fen and swamp communities is largely controlled by topography, differences in the extent of winter flooding and
Lower Derwent Valley	Criterion 1: One of the most important examples of traditionally managed	

Site	Qualifying Features	Summary of current threats and potential vulnerabilities to outcomes of the Plan
<p>Ramsar</p>	<p>species rich alluvial flood meadow in the UK.</p> <p>Criterion 2: Rich assemblage of wetland invertebrates including 16 species of dragonfly and damselfly; 15 British Red Data Book species; and (uniquely in the UK) the leafhopper <i>Cicadula ornata</i>.</p> <p>Criterion 4: Important site for passage migrants in spring, notably Ruff and Whimbrel.</p> <p>Criterion 5: Assemblages of international importance: 31942 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99- 2002/2003) in winter.</p> <p>Criterion 6: Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance: Wigeon, Teal.</p>	<p>by the type of agricultural management.</p> <p>The Ramsar site is coincident with the Lower Derwent Valley SAC (i.e. it does not include the River Derwent itself) and most of the interest features are effectively the same as those of the SPA and SAC (with the exception of the invertebrate interest).</p> <p>The designated sites of the Derwent system have been historically affected by water level issues (due to abstraction and control regimes) and water quality. The main threats to the Lower Derwent Valley SAC are associated with management and water levels / flooding: although most MG4 lowland hay meadow communities are associated with floodplains, they are not inundation communities and excess water associated with high water tables is considered a greater threat to the community than soil dryness (Wheeler <i>et al.</i> 2004). Water levels in general are an issue in the Valley and this is being addressed by a collaborative project between Natural England, the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water. Proposals are being developed to change river flows to improve the operation of Barmby Barrage on the River Derwent, which are aimed at improving drainage from the SACs during medium to high flows and improving passage for lamprey species.</p> <p>Recreational disturbance is also identified as a potential issue for the SPA due to increased house building adjacent to the site. There is an extant planning permission for the extraction of coal by deep mining, which has been reviewed 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.</p> <p>Trials are in progress on East Cottingwith flood meadow that will help to inform any management changes required to protect the integrity of the lowland hay meadows. The site will be sensitive to a range of issues although the main current concerns are water quantity (flooding); water level management; habitat management; water quality and recreational pressure.</p> <p>Draft Supplementary Advice for Conserving and Restoring Site Features at the Lower Derwent</p>

Site	Qualifying Features	Summary of current threats and potential vulnerabilities to outcomes of the Plan
		<p>Valley SAC were published by Natural England in June 2016. This provides more detail on the conservation objectives and the range of ecological attributes which are most likely to contribute to a site's overall integrity and the minimum targets each qualifying feature needs to achieve in order to meet the site's objectives.</p>
<p>Humber Estuary SAC</p>	<p>H1110. Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Subtidal sandbanks H1130. Estuaries H1140. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats H1150. Coastal lagoons H1310. <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand H1330. Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) H2110. Embryonic shifting dunes</p>	<p>The Humber is a muddy, macro-tidal estuary, fed by a number of rivers including the Rivers Ouse, Trent and Hull. It is the second largest coastal plain Estuary in the UK and supports a full range of saline conditions from the open coast to the limit of saline intrusion on the tidal rivers of the Ouse and Trent. Suspended sediment concentrations are naturally high and are derived from a variety of sources, including marine sediments and eroding boulder clay along the Holderness coast. Wave exposed sandy shores are found in the outer/open coast areas of the estuary.</p> <p>With regard to the SAC features, the primary features (Estuaries and Intertidal mudflats and sandflats) are found throughout the main body of the estuary, along with other estuarine features (Subtidal sandbanks; Atlantic salt meadows). The inner estuary supports extensive areas of reed bed with areas of mature and developing saltmarsh backed by grazing marsh in the middle and outer estuary. The dune features are largely found in the outer estuary. The fish species include river lamprey and sea lamprey which breed in the River Derwent; Grey seals are largely restricted to the outer estuary and breeding colonies at Donna Nook.</p>
<p>Humber Estuary SPA</p>	<p>A021 <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>; Great bittern (Non-breeding) A021 <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>; Great bittern (Breeding) A048 <i>Tadorna</i>; Common shelduck (Non-breeding) A081 <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>; Eurasian marsh harrier (Breeding) A082 <i>Circus cyaneus</i>; Hen harrier (Non-breeding) A132 <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>; Pied avocet (Non-breeding) A132 <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>; Pied avocet (Breeding) A140 <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>; European golden plover (Non-breeding) A143 <i>Calidris canutus</i>; Red knot (Non-breeding) A149 <i>Calidris alpina</i>; Dunlin (Non-breeding) A151 <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>; Ruff (Non-breeding) A156 <i>Limosa islandica</i>; Black-tailed godwit</p>	<p>Approximately one-third of the estuary is exposed as mud or sand-flats at low tide and these support a range of benthic communities that are an important feeding resource for wintering birds and passage migrants (especially geese, ducks and waders). The extensive reed beds of the inner estuary provide breeding habitat for Bittern and Marsh harrier; the outer estuary supports large tern colonies in the summer.</p> <p>The Ramsar site is largely coincident with the SAC and/or SPA and the interest features are effectively the same as those of the SAC and SPA</p>

Site	Qualifying Features	Summary of current threats and potential vulnerabilities to outcomes of the Plan
	(Non- breeding) A157 <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ; Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding) A162 <i>Tringa totanus</i> ; Common redshank (Non- breeding) A195 <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ; Little tern (Breeding) Waterbird assemblage	(with the exception of natterjack toad in the outer dunes). The Humber Estuary is subject to the impacts of human activities (past and present) as well as ongoing processes such as sea level rise and climate change. Key issues include coastal squeeze, impacts on the sediment budget and geomorphological structure and function of the estuary (due to sea level rise, flood defence works, dredging and the construction, operation and maintenance of ports, pipelines and other infrastructure), changes in water quality and flows, pressure from additional built development and damage and disturbance arising from access, recreation and other activities. Coastal squeeze is being addressed through the development and implementation of the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy. Diffuse pollution is being addressed through a range of measures including implementation of the Waste Water Framework Directive and Catchment Sensitive Farming initiatives.
Humber Estuary Ramsar	Criterion 1: Representative example of a near-natural estuary with dune systems and humid dune slacks, estuarine waters, intertidal mud and sand flats, saltmarshes, and coastal brackish/saline lagoons. Criterion 3: Supports second largest grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> colony in England at Donna Nook. The dune slacks at Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe are the most north-easterly natterjack toad <i>Bufo calamita</i> breeding site in the UK. Criterion 5: 153,934 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1996/97-2000/01). Criterion 6: Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance: Bartailed godwit; Golden plover; Shelduck; Dunlin; Knot; Black-tailed godwit; Redshank. Criterion 8: Important migration route for river lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> and sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> between coastal waters and their spawning areas.	Supplementary Advice on Conserving and Restoring Site Features in the SAC was published by Natural England in March 2017. This supplementary advice to the Conservation Objectives describes in more detail the range of ecological attributes on which the qualifying features will depend and which are most likely to contribute to a site's overall integrity. It sets out minimum targets for each qualifying feature to achieve in order to meet the site's objectives.

Appraisal of Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.5 The next stage of the Screening is to understand the extent to which the HPNP could have a significant effect on the European Designated Sites. Specifically, the assessment considers any potential effect that the policies may have on the 'qualifying features' and vulnerabilities of each European Designated Site.
- 2.6 All proposed policies and any site allocations included within the Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan are therefore to be appraised against identified site's features and vulnerabilities. Cumulative effects have also been considered within the assessment to understand whether the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant effects in combination with other plans or programmes.
- 2.7 Section 3 of this report sets out the findings of this appraisal split into:

Part 1: Assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan

Part 2: Cumulative effects of the Neighbourhood Plan.

3. Screening Assessment

Part 1 Assessment of the Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan

- 3.1 The table below provides an assessment of any likely significant effect of each Neighbourhood Plan policy on the European Designated Sites. For the purposes of this assessment the policies appraised are those that were issued in the Heslington Neighbourhood Plan Submission version. The Full policies referred to are included in Annex 4.

Key to the Screening Assessment

No likely significant effect (NLSE) on the site's qualifying features

Likely significant effect (LSE) on the site's qualifying features

Uncertain whether it is NSLE or LSE

Policy	Policy intention and commentary	European sites								
		Strensall Common SAC	Skipwith Common SAC	River Derwent SAC	Lower Derwent Valley SAC	Lower Derwent SPA	Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar	Humber Estuary SAC	Humber Estuary SPA	Humber Estuary Ramsar
HES 1: MAIN STREET – CHANGE OF USE	<p>The purpose of this Policy area is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote employment opportunities in Heslington that help to create sustainable life-work balance To maintain and enable a balanced range of local community facilities to meet local need <p>Importantly, the current mixed commercial and residential character of Main Street [South] should be preserved and any development proposals, while being sensitive to the needs of local farmers and residents, should not reduce the amenity value for residents.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>This policy will not affect the Designated Sites' vulnerabilities and therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated to result from this policy.</i></p>	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE
HES 2: NEW BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT	<p>The purpose of this Policy area is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote employment opportunities in Heslington that help to create sustainable life-work balance To maintain and enable a balanced range of local community facilities to meet local need <p>This policy recognises the strategic importance of</p>	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE

Policy	Policy intention and commentary	European sites								
		Strensall Common SAC	Skipwith Common SAC	River Derwent SAC	Lower Derwent Valley SAC	Lower Derwent SPA	Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar	Humber Estuary SAC	Humber Estuary SPA	Humber Estuary Ramsar
	<p>the science parks and the farming community. It enables employment close to new housing, to provide local opportunities and create more sustainable work-life patterns. The policy also enables farm diversification.</p> <p>The locations supported for development are in existing areas (University of York Campuses) and within Strategic sites identified through the York Draft Local Plan and farmsteads within the Parish. The HPNP does not allocate development sites as they are to be determined through the York Draft Local Plan. No individual assessment of these sites is therefore included in this assessment as this will be dealt with through the York Draft Local Plan HRA. See individual site assessments for the Science Park and University of York campuses.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>In general, this policy will not affect the Designated Sites' vulnerabilities and therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated to result from this policy.</i> <i>See also individual site assessments below.</i></p>									

Policy	Policy intention and commentary	European sites								
		Strensall Common SAC	Skipwith Common SAC	River Derwent SAC	Lower Derwent Valley SAC	Lower Derwent SPA	Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar	Humber Estuary SAC	Humber Estuary SPA	Humber Estuary Ramsar
HES 3: AGRICULTURE AND RURAL ENTERPRISE	<p>The purpose of this policy is to support the working farms in Heslington Parish as viable, thriving businesses, whilst making a positive contribution to the Parish’s green infrastructure. Application of this policy ensures that the operational requirements of farms and rural businesses are considered when development is proposed for the rural parts of the Parish. The Policy sets out the criteria wherein new development would be supported but does not identify the specific locations at which this may be relevant. As such, case-by-case future assessment may be required to understand whether the proposed activity has direct or indirect impacts on Designated Sites.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>This policy will not affect the Designated Sites’ vulnerabilities and therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated to result from this policy.</i></p>	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE
HES 4: SUSTAINABLE DESIGN	<p>The purpose of this policy is to ensure that development is designed to be sustainable and inclusive. As part of the development process, rigorous analysis of the site and context is essential. This includes:</p>	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE

Policy	Policy intention and commentary	European sites								
		Strensall Common SAC	Skipwith Common SAC	River Derwent SAC	Lower Derwent Valley SAC	Lower Derwent SPA	Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar	Humber Estuary SAC	Humber Estuary SPA	Humber Estuary Ramsar
	<p>a) Complementing the surrounding character areas in terms of scale, height, massing, spacing, urban grain and set-back from street frontages;</p> <p>b) Providing active frontages to streets and public spaces, so as to provide natural surveillance;</p> <p>c) Providing a clear separation between private spaces (rear gardens) and public spaces and streets;</p> <p>d) Creating attractive, safe, permeable and convenient pedestrian environments, linking to the surrounding footpath network;</p> <p>e) Using permeable materials for hard surfaces;</p> <p>f) Providing a range of parking solutions as an integral part of layout, ensuring that parking does not dominate the street scene.</p> <p>Application of this policy seeks to ensure that development proposals are designed to be sustainable and inclusive. It seeks to promote sustainability by addressing local character, amenity, safety and pedestrian convenience.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>This policy will not affect the Designated Sites' vulnerabilities and therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated to result from this policy.</i></p>									

Policy	Policy intention and commentary	European sites								
		Strensall Common SAC	Skipwith Common SAC	River Derwent SAC	Lower Derwent Valley SAC	Lower Derwent SPA	Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar	Humber Estuary SAC	Humber Estuary SPA	Humber Estuary Ramsar
HES 5: CRIME PREVENTION AND REDUCTION	<p>The purpose of this policy is to ensure that development is designed to be sustainable and inclusive.</p> <p>The policy ensures development proposals are designed to create safe communities and reduce the likelihood and fear of crime.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>This policy will not affect the Designated Sites' vulnerabilities and therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated to result from this policy.</i></p>	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE
HES 6: URBAN CHARACTER	<p>The purpose of this policy is to ensure that new development complements the local and historic character of Heslington.</p> <p>It seeks to protect the particular features that contribute to the area's distinctive character. High quality contemporary design is entirely appropriate in historic settings and will be considered for approval where it complements the qualities of the site and its context.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>This policy will not affect the Designated Sites' vulnerabilities and therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated to result from this policy.</i></p>	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE

Policy	Policy intention and commentary	European sites								
		Strensall Common SAC	Skipwith Common SAC	River Derwent SAC	Lower Derwent Valley SAC	Lower Derwent SPA	Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar	Humber Estuary SAC	Humber Estuary SPA	Humber Estuary Ramsar
HES 7: CONVERSION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS	<p>The purpose of this policy is to ensure that conversion or extensions to existing buildings are of a scale that is subservient to the original building and are sited so as not to dominate the original.</p> <p>This policy supports building conversions and extensions which complement the vernacular forms, scale and character of buildings.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>This policy will not affect the Designated Sites' vulnerabilities and therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated to result from this policy.</i></p>	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE
HES 8: NEW HOUSING	<p>This purpose of this policy is to ensure that new housing development is sustainable and meets local need. The policy supports new housing development in the following locations: Beyond the strategic development site allocations and the development boundary of the existing university campuses, infill housing development proposals will be supported, providing they:</p> <p>a) Comprise infill development within an existing housing row or cluster; b) Avoid the creation or extension of 'ribbon development';</p>	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE

Policy	Policy intention and commentary	European sites								
		Strensall Common SAC	Skipwith Common SAC	River Derwent SAC	Lower Derwent Valley SAC	Lower Derwent SPA	Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar	Humber Estuary SAC	Humber Estuary SPA	Humber Estuary Ramsar
	<p>The York Draft Local Plan retains Heslington’s status (including the village but excluding parts of the University of York campuses) within the general extent of the Green Belt. The proposed Green Belt is a material consideration that underpins this policy. The HPNP does not designate specific sites for development and therefore no effects can be attributed at this stage. As such, case-by-case future assessment may be required to understand whether the proposed activity has direct or indirect impacts on Designated Sites. It is anticipated that regardless of the location within the Parish itself, there would be no likely significant effects as a result of development.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>This policy will not affect the Designated Sites’ vulnerabilities and therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated to result from this policy.</i></p>									
HES 9: HOUSING MIX AND AFFORDABILITY	<p>This purpose of this policy is to ensure that housing development on sites designated by the York Draft Local Plan is sustainable, includes a balanced mix of house types and meets local need. It seeks to ensure affordable housing is located within the York Draft Local Plan development sites, so as to meet local needs.</p>	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE

Policy	Policy intention and commentary	European sites								
		Strensall Common SAC	Skipwith Common SAC	River Derwent SAC	Lower Derwent Valley SAC	Lower Derwent SPA	Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar	Humber Estuary SAC	Humber Estuary SPA	Humber Estuary Ramsar
	<p>Housing schemes should provide a scale and variety of housing that reflects and encourages a diverse social mix.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>This policy will not affect the Designated Sites' vulnerabilities and therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated to result from this policy.</i></p>									
HES: 10 HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION	<p>This purpose of this policy is to ensure that housing development is sustainable, includes a balanced mix of house types and meets local need.</p> <p>The policy supports development proposals that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Would not harm the character and appearance of the building, adjacent buildings or the local landscape context; b) The design, layout and intensity of use of the building would not have an unacceptable impact on neighbouring residential amenities; and c) Internal and external amenity space, refuse storage and car and bicycle parking is provided at an appropriate quantity and is of a high standard so as not to harm visual amenity. <p>The policy is based on the York Draft Local Plan Policy H8.</p>									

Policy	Policy intention and commentary	European sites								
		Strensall Common SAC	Skipwith Common SAC	River Derwent SAC	Lower Derwent Valley SAC	Lower Derwent SPA	Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar	Humber Estuary SAC	Humber Estuary SPA	Humber Estuary Ramsar
	<p>Conclusion</p> <p><i>This policy will not affect the Designated Sites' vulnerabilities and therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated to result from this policy.</i></p>									
HES 11: HOUSING AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES	<p>This purpose of this policy is to ensure that new proposed strategic development sites are sustainable and meet local need by incorporating community facilities as part of the mix of uses, to support the additional needs of the new residential population. This includes recreational facilities, convenient paths and green spaces to encourage healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>The policy seeks to ensure that the large-scale housing development envisaged through the York Draft Local Plan strategic housing site allocations does not comprise single use development, but includes the mix of uses necessary to support new residents, such as shops, medical, sports and recreational facilities. It encourages provision of dog walking facilities on the strategic development sites.</p> <p>This policy supports the approach in the York Draft Local Plan wherein timely provision of community and recreational facilities is supported on strategic allocations to ensure sustainable sites are delivered with commensurate facilities according to the scale</p>	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE

Policy	Policy intention and commentary	European sites								
		Strensall Common SAC	Skipwith Common SAC	River Derwent SAC	Lower Derwent Valley SAC	Lower Derwent SPA	Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar	Humber Estuary SAC	Humber Estuary SPA	Humber Estuary Ramsar
	<p>and phasing of development. The provision of recreational facilities particularly encourages on-site recreational behaviour rather than travelling to alternative sites. Recreational pressure is identified through the Local Plan HRA as having a potential adverse impact on designated sites. However the appropriate assessment undertaken (HRA, 2019) concludes there is not likely to be adverse effects on integrity, based upon the policies included in the Local Plan and modifications submitted as part of the examination (on 26 March 2019). It is considered that this HPNP policy is in accordance with emerging Local Plan policy and national guidance and therefore through provision of facilities on site, would be positive in discouraging increases in recreational pressure at Designated Sites.</p> <p>This policy approach does not allocate land or specific locations for facilities. Further case-by-case assessment may be required subject to the location and development of sites.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>This policy will not affect the Designated Sites' vulnerabilities and therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated to result from this policy.</i></p>									

Policy	Policy intention and commentary	European sites								
		Strensall Common SAC	Skipwith Common SAC	River Derwent SAC	Lower Derwent Valley SAC	Lower Derwent SPA	Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar	Humber Estuary SAC	Humber Estuary SPA	Humber Estuary Ramsar
HES 12: PURPOSE BUILT STUDENT ACCOMMODATION	<p>This policy seeks to ensure new purpose built student residential accommodation will be developed within the University of York campuses. It is essential that student accommodation and housing be kept in balance, so that the population mix is not distorted and so that no part of the village becomes predominantly a home for a transitory population.</p> <p>This policy approach does not allocate land or specific locations for student accommodation on either campus. Further case-by-case assessment may be required subject to the location and development of sites. See also individual site assessments for the University Campuses.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>This policy will not affect the Designated Sites' vulnerabilities and therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated to result from this policy.</i></p>	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE
HES 13: LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION	<p>The purpose of this policy is to protect the open character and community value of Local Green Space.</p> <p>Designated Local Green Spaces must remain as open community spaces except in very special circumstances.</p>	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE

Policy	Policy intention and commentary	European sites								
		Strensall Common SAC	Skipwith Common SAC	River Derwent SAC	Lower Derwent Valley SAC	Lower Derwent SPA	Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar	Humber Estuary SAC	Humber Estuary SPA	Humber Estuary Ramsar
	<p>The policy designates spaces as Local Green Spaces. It does allow for small-scale development proposals to support the community use of the space, where they meets all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The open and green character of Green Space is not compromised; b) They provides facilities to support the community use of space; and c) Community, wildlife, amenity or other values as a Local Green Space are preserved or enhanced. <p>Designated Local Green Spaces is listed at <i>Annex 2: Designated Local Green Spaces and Significant Green Spaces</i>.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>This policy will not affect the Designated Sites' vulnerabilities and therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated to result from this policy.</i></p>									
HES 14: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE	<p>The purpose of this policy is to protect and enhance the whole of Heslington's environment for current and future generations. It supports development which can be shown to avoid significant harm to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Hedgerows, trees, ditches, grass field margins, 	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE

Policy	Policy intention and commentary	European sites								
		Strensall Common SAC	Skipwith Common SAC	River Derwent SAC	Lower Derwent Valley SAC	Lower Derwent SPA	Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar	Humber Estuary SAC	Humber Estuary SPA	Humber Estuary Ramsar
	<p>flora and fauna; and</p> <p>b) Local wildlife habitats and protected landscapes, including the Common Land and SSSI.</p> <p>Where significant harm cannot be avoided it must be adequately mitigated, or as a last resort, compensated for in line with the mitigation hierarchy as detailed in the York Draft Local Plan and the NPPF (2019). Opportunities to incorporate improvements for green infrastructure in and around developments are supported.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>This policy is likely to have a positive effect in seeking to only support development where it is shown to avoid, mitigate and as a last resort, compensate harm to the environment of Heslington as a whole. As a result of this, it is concluded that no likely significant effects will result from this policy.</i></p>									

Policy	Policy intention and commentary	European sites								
		Strensall Common SAC	Skipwith Common SAC	River Derwent SAC	Lower Derwent Valley SAC	Lower Derwent SPA	Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar	Humber Estuary SAC	Humber Estuary SPA	Humber Estuary Ramsar
HES 15: SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT PROVISION	<p>The purpose of this policy is to ensure that development proposals for the new strategic site allocations are supported by a balanced mix of sustainable transport options and do not have an adverse impact on traffic safety and congestion. It seeks to ensure these sites include balanced and sustainable transport provision, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Public transport facilities, including new bus stops; b) A layout providing convenient pedestrian links to footpaths, bus stops and community facilities; c) Strong cycle and pedestrian links on any new access roads to the A64, University and other local major roads. <p>The policy supports preparation of a transport masterplan, where a site is to be developed incrementally, showing links to adjacent sites and the surrounding area.</p> <p>This policy supports the policies set out in the York Draft Local Plan regarding connectivity and does not allocate land for transport development. Likely impacts may result depending on the transport route(s) proposed, which should be assessed in detail at the application stage. Case-by-case</p>	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE

Policy	Policy intention and commentary	European sites								
		Strensall Common SAC	Skipwith Common SAC	River Derwent SAC	Lower Derwent Valley SAC	Lower Derwent SPA	Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar	Humber Estuary SAC	Humber Estuary SPA	Humber Estuary Ramsar
	<p>assessment may be required subject to the location and development of sites.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>This policy will not affect the Designated Sites' vulnerabilities and therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated to result from this policy.</i></p>									
HES 16: VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC	<p>The purpose of this policy is to ensure that development proposals support a balanced mix of sustainable transport options and do not have an adverse impact on traffic safety and congestion. This policy seeks to ensure that the strategic allocation housing site (ST15) is fully served by a new principal access road to A64, bypassing the village and immediate locality to avoid any significant increase in traffic, which could cause significant harm in terms of road safety, congestion, local character and residential amenity, including the Tillmire SSSI.</p> <p>Local roads should not be linked in any way to the new strategic allocation sites.</p> <p>In general, this policy supports the transport and strategic site policies set out in the York Draft Local Plan regarding connectivity. The HPNP is advocating a new route be provided but does not allocate land for transport development. Impacts may result</p>	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE

Policy	Policy intention and commentary	European sites								
		Strensall Common SAC	Skipwith Common SAC	River Derwent SAC	Lower Derwent Valley SAC	Lower Derwent SPA	Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar	Humber Estuary SAC	Humber Estuary SPA	Humber Estuary Ramsar
	<p>depending on the transport route(s) proposed and these should be assessed in detail at the application stage once this has been determined.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>This policy will not affect the Designated Sites' vulnerabilities and therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated to result from this policy.</i></p>									
HES 17: TRAFFIC IN HESLINGTON CONSERVATION AREA	<p>The purpose of this policy is to ensure that:</p> <p>a) Development is supported by a balanced mix of flexible, sustainable transport options; and b) Development does not have a significant adverse impact on the Conservation Area status, road safety, congestion and amenity of residents and businesses.</p> <p>It also seeks to ensure that the impacts and the cumulative impacts of adjacent or nearby new strategic developments are carefully considered in relation to preserving the character of the local routes. This policy does not allocate land for development and would become relevant should new development proposals come forward.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>This policy will not affect the Designated Sites'</i></p>	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE

Policy	Policy intention and commentary	European sites								
		Strensall Common SAC	Skipwith Common SAC	River Derwent SAC	Lower Derwent Valley SAC	Lower Derwent SPA	Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar	Humber Estuary SAC	Humber Estuary SPA	Humber Estuary Ramsar
	<i>vulnerabilities and therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated to result from this policy.</i>									
HES 18: PATHS AND OTHER RIGHTS OF WAY	<p>The purpose of this policy is to ensure that development is supported by a balanced mix of sustainable transport and travel options. This policy seeks to protect the existing routes of footpaths, bridleways, cycle paths and byways.</p> <p>It also seeks to ensure that the impacts and the cumulative impacts of adjacent or nearby new strategic developments are carefully considered in relation to preserving the character of the local routes. This policy does not allocate land for development and would become relevant should new development proposals come forward.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>This policy will not affect the Designated Sites' vulnerabilities and therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated to result from this policy.</i></p>	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE
HES 19 : UNIVERSITY OF YORK	<p>The purpose of this policy is:</p> <p>a) To enable the ongoing sustainable development of the University of York as a major educational, cultural, social and economic asset;</p> <p>b) To support exceptional design and</p>	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE

Policy	Policy intention and commentary	European sites								
		Strensall Common SAC	Skipwith Common SAC	River Derwent SAC	Lower Derwent Valley SAC	Lower Derwent SPA	Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar	Humber Estuary SAC	Humber Estuary SPA	Humber Estuary Ramsar
	<p>environmental quality, creating an environment with a distinctive sense of place, helping to attract students nationally and internationally; and</p> <p>c) To reconcile the development of the campuses with protection of the character, setting and amenities of Heslington village.</p> <p>The policy seeks ensure the continued development of the University meets outline permissions and good practice standards, whilst ensuring the village identity is not lost. See also the individual site assessments for each university campus.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>This policy will not affect the Designated Sites' vulnerabilities and therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated to result from this policy.</i></p>									
University of York West Campus	<p>This is an existing University of York campus located adjacent to Heslington village encompassing education buildings, halls of residence and York Science Park.</p> <p>The HPNP recognises the importance of the university under <i>Policy HES: 2</i> wherein the existing science and knowledge-related business park and</p>	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE

Policy	Policy intention and commentary	European sites								
		Strensall Common SAC	Skipwith Common SAC	River Derwent SAC	Lower Derwent Valley SAC	Lower Derwent SPA	Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar	Humber Estuary SAC	Humber Estuary SPA	Humber Estuary Ramsar
	<p>campuses are supported for business and employment development. Further, this seeks to ensure the protection of the green open space ‘buffer zone’ landscape setting between Heslington village and Badger Hill.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>This policy will not affect the Designated Sites’ vulnerabilities and therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated to result from this policy.</i></p>									
University of York East Campus	<p>This is an existing University of York campus located adjacent to Heslington village encompassing education buildings, halls of residence and ancillary uses to the university. The HPNP recognises the importance of the university under <i>Policy HES: 2</i> wherein the existing science and knowledge-related business park and campuses are supported for business and employment development. Further, the HPNP seeks to ensure the protection of the green open space ‘buffer zone’ landscape setting between Heslington village and Badger Hill.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>This policy will not affect the Designated Sites’ vulnerabilities and therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated to result from this policy.</i></p>	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE

Policy	Policy intention and commentary	European sites								
		Strensall Common SAC	Skipwith Common SAC	River Derwent SAC	Lower Derwent Valley SAC	Lower Derwent SPA	Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar	Humber Estuary SAC	Humber Estuary SPA	Humber Estuary Ramsar
York Science Park	<p>York Science Park is acknowledged to be an existing business and employment location. Under <i>Policy HES: 2</i>, the present science and knowledge-related business park location is supported for continuation of this use.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>This policy will not affect the Designated Sites' vulnerabilities and therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated to result from this policy.</i></p>	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE	NLSE

Part 2 Cumulative effects of the Neighbourhood Plan

- 3.2 It is necessary to understand whether the HPNP is likely to have significant effects in combination with other relevant plans or programmes.
- 3.3 It is most likely that in-combination effects will occur with strategic plans in place in York and adjacent authorities. The table below provides an assessment of any likely significant effects of each Neighbourhood Plan policy on the European Designated Sites in-combination with the emerging City of York (CYC), Harrogate and Selby Local Plans.

Plan/ Programme	Comments	Impact
<p>City of York Local Plan</p>	<p>CYC is currently preparing a Local Plan for the city. This will set out the policies and site allocations to meet the city’s needs over the next 20 years. A Local Plan Publication draft (2014) was halted from going to consultation following decision of Members at Full Council (October 2014) to undertake further work in relation to housing demand. Subsequently, the Local Plan underwent a Preferred Sites Consultation (2016), Pre-Publication Consultation (Regulation 18) Consultation (2017) and its final Publication (Regulation 19) consultation from 21st February – 4th April 2018.</p> <p>The Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination on 25th May 2018. The plan includes policies on housing, employment, recreation, biodiversity and transport. At the time of writing, the York Local Plan examination is ongoing.</p> <p>A Local Plan HRA dated April 2018 was submitted alongside the York Draft Local Plan for examination. This version of the HRA takes forward several issues to Appropriate Assessment (AA). The issues included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recreational pressure, change to the hydrological regime and the effect of air pollution on Strensall Common SAC • recreational pressure at the Lower Derwent Valley SPA and the impacts on the bird communities that also utilise land beyond the European site. <p>Appropriate Assessment concluded that City of York Council could ascertain that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of Strensall Common in terms of air pollution and effects in the aquatic environment without the need for further mitigation, other than mitigation in relation to recreational pressure provided for by minor modification to clarify wording to Local Plan Policies SS13, SS18, SS19 and EC1. There were no residual effects and no need for an in-combination assessment. However, following correspondence from Natural England in June 2018 in relation to evidencing the potential for recreational pressure at European designated sites as a result of growth proposed in the Plan, City of York Council commissioned two visitor surveys, one for Strensall Common (SAC) and a second for the Lower Derwent Valley (SPA) and Skipwith Common (SAC).</p>	<p>NLSE</p>

	<p>Most relevant to the HPNP are the survey results in relation to the Lower Derwent Valley, which is the closest European designated site to the neighbourhood plan area. The report considers that the closest points of open access on to the LDV from York are well managed and likely to attract people specifically interested in wildlife. Although the report states that there is likely to be significant effects from development, there is mitigation presented in the report. This is deemed sufficient to rule out adverse effects on the integrity with respect to recreation for any single development alone, unless within 1km. It is also be able to rule out adverse effects on the integrity, in relation to recreational pressure, for the quantum of development as a whole (in-combination). The report considers that monitoring and review should be included within the plan. The outcomes of this report concur with the conclusions in the submitted HRA for the Local Plan.</p> <p>However, the results of the Strensall Common visitor survey concluded a 24% uplift in recreational pressure as a result of proposed development within close proximity to the site. Consequently, the revised Habitat Regulation Assessment (2019), which takes account of the survey results, concluded that two sites should be removed from the plan in order to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of the Common; Site ST35: Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall and Site H59: Howard Road, Strensall. Proposed modifications to the York Local Plan, including the removal of these sites, were considered by Executive on 7 March 2019 wherein Executive Members approved their submission for consideration by the Planning Inspectors examining the York Local Plan.</p> <p>At the time of writing, the York Local Plan examination is ongoing but the proposed changes at Strensall do not impact the HPNP. Following adoption of the Plan, the HPNP should be reviewed in the context of the adopted Local Plan and re-assessed for any in-combination effects.</p> <p>The policies set out in the HPNP are consistent with the emerging York Local Plan policy at the neighbourhood level. For example, policies in relation to Green Infrastructure accord with strategic policies set out in the York Draft Local Plan (2018) but add detail at the neighbourhood level.</p> <p>The social, community, economic and environmental benefits of Heslington’s green infrastructure help make the Parish environmentally sustainable. The policies in this section aim to protect and enhance the green infrastructure for current and future generations.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>It is therefore concluded that there are not likely to be any significant effects to the European Designated Sites as a result of in-combination effects between the emerging York Local Plan and HPNP at this stage.</i></p>	
<p>Harrogate Local Plan</p>	<p>Harrogate Borough Council is currently preparing a Local Plan. The Publication Draft (January 2018) sets out strategic policies and allocations, including options for a settlement. The</p>	<p>NLSE</p>

	<p>publication Draft is accompanied by an HRA (January 2018) that does not identify likely significant impacts as a result of the draft strategy on any of the European sites identified in this report.</p> <p>One of the options for a new settlement is at Green Hammerton along the A59 which is approximately 20km from the boundary of the Heslington Parish Neighbourhood area. It is unlikely that there would be in-combination significant effects as a result of this on the sites identified due to proximity.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>It is therefore concluded that there are not likely to be any significant effects to the European Designated Sites as a result of in-combination effects between the Harrogate Local Plan and HPNP at this stage.</i></p>	
<p>Selby Local Plan</p>	<p>Selby District Council (SDC) adopted their Core Strategy in October 2013. This set out their strategic ambitions, policies and strategic development sites. Several of the policies of the Submission Draft Core Strategy were identified at the screening stage to have the potential to affect <i>Natura 2000</i> sites. The designations potentially affected were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lower Derwent Valley SAC, Ramsar and SPA designations • Skipwith Common SAC • The Humber Estuary SAC, Ramsar and SPA designations <p>The potential impacts arising from the Core Strategy were identified as being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in housing allocations situated within 5km which could lead to increased visitor pressure to countryside sites including those covered by the <i>Natura 2000</i> designations listed above • An increase in economic activities that would encourage tourism generally and hence have the potential to indirectly result in increased visitor pressure to countryside sites, including the sites covered by the <i>Natura 2000</i> designations listed above • If wind energy sites are encouraged (as per CP14) and are situated in areas where they could affect bird populations, which are designated features of the above <i>Natura 2000</i> sites, this may have the potential to result in adverse effects. <p>It was concluded that the strategy was unlikely to have significant adverse effects on the issues raised above as a result of policy amendments made and it was considered unlikely that a large increase in numbers would visit the sites from the new housing and economic growth. Further work was recommended in relation to visitor survey at the Lower Derwent Valley for the purposes of future monitoring of recreational pressure.</p> <p>SDC are currently working towards their Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) which will set out their detailed portfolio of sites for development. This is subject to its own HRA process to be completed in due course, which will also consider the Visitor Survey results for the Lower Derwent Valley (SPA) and Skipwith Common (SAC).</p>	<p>NLSE</p>

	<p>Conclusion <i>It is concluded that there are not likely to be that significant effects to the European Designated Sites as a result of in-combination effects between the Selby Local Plan and the HPNP at this stage.</i></p>	
<p>Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan</p>	<p>North Yorkshire County Council, the City of York Council and the North York Moors National Park Authority are working together to prepare a Joint Minerals and Waste Plan (JMWP) to provide for minerals and waste developments up to 2030. This plan covers the whole of the HPNP area. The joint councils have recently submitted the Joint Plan and produced an HRA to assess both policies and the preferred sites. The HRA has identified a proposed new extraction site for sand and gravel at Kirk Deighton and recommends an Appropriate Assessment is undertaken to assess the site's impact on the nearby Kirk Deighton SAC. The Appropriate Assessment will focus on the possible hydrological impact of the new extraction site and given the restricted groundwater availability of the area (Nidd Magnesian Limestone Groundwater Resource Area) it will also consider in-combination impacts with the draft Harrogate Local Plan. At the time of writing the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan examination is ongoing.</p> <p>Conclusion <i>It is therefore concluded that there are not likely to be any significant effects to the European Designated Sites as a result of in-combination effects between the JMWP and HPNP at this stage.</i></p>	<p>NLSE</p>

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Consultation is an important part of the HRA process to ensure that the process is robust and supports the plan development process.
- 4.2 The HRA Screening Report was subject to consultation with Natural England, the Environment Agency, Historic England, CYC and the neighbouring authorities of East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Harrogate Borough Council, as several of the identified Designated Sites lie within their authorities. The responses received through consultation and issues raised have been addressed in finalising the HPNP HRA.
- 4.3 Natural England's response to the draft HPNP HRA highlighted the complexity of producing a Neighbourhood Plan with proposed strategic allocations within the plan area as included in the Local Plan (2018). This was raised particularly in relation to ST15: Land to the West of Elvington Lane and its impact on the Heslington Tillmire SSSI and Lower Derwent Valley SPA. On this basis Natural England recommended that *"the Neighbourhood Plan could proceed if it focuses on setting out Development Management policies for shaping whatever comes forward in the Neighbourhood Plan and is clear that it is not promoting the site[s] in any way. In this case no assessment of the site[s] would be necessary. However, it would still be prudent to review the Neighbourhood Plan when the Local Plan is adopted."*
- 4.4 The HPNP has taken into consideration the comments by Natural England and includes explanatory text to ensure it is clear that the HPNP is seeking to shape development within the Parish as opposed to allocating any sites for development.

NOTE:

The Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land for housing or other forms of development and does not amend or introduce defined Limits to Development.

- 4.5 Following the ongoing consultation on the emerging Local Plan, City of York Council also published and submitted to their Planning Inspector a revised Habitat Regulation Assessment³. The HPNP HRA Screening Report has been updated to take account of the revised CYC Assessment.
- 4.6 Neighbourhood planning documents sent out to consultation may be viewed via CYC Neighbourhood Plan webpage: www.york.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning.
- 4.7 All previous HPNP documents which have been consulted on can be found at: <https://www.heslington.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 On the basis of the Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan Habitats Regulation Screening Assessment the conclusion is that there are not likely to be significant (adverse) effects as a result of the Plan and that it is not necessary to continue to the next stage of the HRA process, an Appropriate Assessment.
- 5.2 The main reasons for this are:
- a) The Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England agree with the conclusions which have been reached in this HRA, that there are not likely to be significant (adverse) effects as a result of the HPNP. CYC concur with this conclusion;
 - b) Section 3 of this report ascertains that none of the policies in the HPNP are identified to have likely significant impacts on the European Designated Sites within 15km of the HPNP area; and
 - c) The report also identifies that no cumulative effects as a result of this plan are identified.
- 5.3 For the avoidance of doubt, it is confirmed that the HPNP is not seeking to allocate sites and has updated the HRA Screening report in line with latest guidance from CYC.
- 5.4 Under Regulation 11 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (2004) relevant statutory consultation bodies (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) were notified of the outcome of the screening determination process.
- 5.1 It is intended that the HPNP will be progressed to the next stage of the Neighbourhood Plan submission process.

Annex 1: European Designated Sites Qualifying Features and Conservation Objectives

Strensall Common SAC Site size: 569.63 ha Source: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6310049894891520?category=5758332488908800		Site Ref: UK0030284
Qualifying Features/Habitats	Site Description	Conservation Objectives
<p>The site is designated under article 4(4) of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H4030: European dry heaths. • H4010: Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> (wet heathland with cross-leaved heath). 	<p>Strensall Common is an example of acidic lowland heath represented predominantly by <i>Erica tetralix</i> – <i>Sphagnum compactum</i> wet heath, although its extent has been reduced by drainage. It is a noted locality for marsh gentian <i>Gentiana pneumonanthe</i>, narrow buckler-fern <i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i> and the dark-bordered beauty moth <i>Epione vespertaria</i> as it is associated with creeping willow <i>Salix repens</i> on the wet heath.</p> <p>There is also a complex mosaic of wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> and dry heath elements. The <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> dry heath is noted for petty whin <i>Genista anglica</i> and bird's-foot <i>Ornithopus perpusillus</i>.</p>	<p>With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change; Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats, and, • The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely <p>This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying <i>Supplementary Advice</i> document, which provides more detailed advice.</p>

Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan Habitats Regulation Screening Report

Constituent SSSIs: Strensall Common

Area: 578.75 ha

Condition:

	% meeting area of favourable or unfavourable recovering	Favourable	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable - No change	Unfavourable - Declining	Partially destroyed	Destroyed	Not Assessed
Area (ha)	572.80	184.51	388.28					
Percentage	100.00%	32.21%	67.79%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Skipwith Common SAC Site Size: 29.2ha Source: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5391567648980992?category=5758332488908800		Site Ref: UK0030276
Qualifying Features/Habitats	Site Description	Conservation Objectives
<p>The site is designated under article 4(4) of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European dry heaths • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>. (Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath) 	<p>The wet heath at Skipwith Common is the most extensive of its type in the north of England. The <i>Erica tetralix</i> – <i>Sphagnum compactum</i> community is dominated by cross-leaved heath <i>Erica tetralix</i> and purple moor-grass <i>Molinia caerulea</i>. There is a small population of marsh gentian <i>Gentiana pneumonanthe</i>. The wet heath is part of transitions from open water, fen, reed and swamp to dry heaths and other habitats. The dry heath element is a representative of <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> heath dominated by heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>.</p>	<p>With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;</p> <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats and, • The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely <p>This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying <i>Supplementary Advice</i> document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.</p>

Constituent SSSIs:

Skipwith Common

Area: 295.3 ha

Condition:

Source:

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportUnitCondition.aspx?SiteCode=S1003243&ReportTitle=Skipwith%20Common%20SSSI>

	% meeting area of favourable or unfavourable recovering	Favourable	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable - No change	Unfavourable - Declining	Partially destroyed	Destroyed	Not Assessed
Area (ha)	295.3	141.6	153.7					
Percentage	100.00%	47.96%	52.04%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

River Derwent SAC Site Size: 411.23 ha Source: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4824082210095104?category=5758332488908800		Site Ref: UK0030253
Qualifying Features/Habitats	Site Description	Conservation Objectives
<p>Qualifying habitats: The site is designated under article 4(4) of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation. (Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot) <p>Qualifying species: The site is designated under article 4(4) of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following species listed in Annex II:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> 	<p>The Yorkshire Derwent is considered to represent one of the best British examples of the classic river profile.</p> <p>This lowland section, stretching from Ryemouth to the confluence with the Ouse, supports diverse communities of aquatic flora and fauna. Fed from an extensive upland catchment, the lowland course of the Derwent has been considerably diverted and extended as a result of glacial action in the Vale of Pickering.</p> <p>The river supports an aquatic flora uncommon in Northern Britain. Several species, including river water-dropwort <i>Oenanthe fluviatilis</i>, flowering rush <i>Butomus umbellatus</i>, shining pondweed <i>Potamogeton lucens</i>, arrowhead <i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i>, opposite-leaved pondweed <i>Groenlandia densa</i> and narrow-leaved water-parsnip <i>Berula erecta</i> are more typically found in lowland rivers in southern England.</p> <p>The Derwent is noted for the diversity of its fish communities, which include river <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> and sea lampreys <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> populations that spawn in the lower reaches, as</p>	<p>With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;</p> <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the

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	<p>well as bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i>. The diverse habitats also support otters <i>Lutra lutra</i>.</p>	<p>habitats of qualifying species rely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The populations of qualifying species and, <p>The distribution of qualifying species within the site. This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying <i>Supplementary Advice</i> document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.</p>
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Constituent SSSIs:								
River Derwent SSSI								
Area: 407.84 ha								
	% meeting area of favourable or unfavourable recovering	Favourable	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable - No change	Unfavourable - Declining	Partially destroyed	Destroyed	Not Assessed
Area (ha)	406.24	25.72	380.53	1.60				
Percentage	99.61%	6.31%	93.30%	0.39%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

<p>Lower Derwent SAC Site Size: 915.91 ha Source: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5660734323163136?category=5758332488908800</p>		<p>Site Ref: UK0012844</p>
Qualifying Features/Habitats	Site Description	Conservation Objectives
<p>Qualifying habitats: The site is designated under article 4(4) of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>). (Alder woodland on floodplains)* • Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>). <p>Qualifying species: The site is designated under article 4(4) of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following species listed in Annex II:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> <p>Annex I priority habitats are denoted by an asterisk (*).</p>	<p>The Lower Derwent Valley 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 <i>Oenanthe silaifolia</i> 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. Additionally there is an area of damp alder woodland at Thornton Ellers adjoining marsh and tall fen communities.</p>	<p>With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change; Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site. <p>This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying <i>Supplementary Advice</i> document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.</p>

Lower Derwent SPA		Site Ref: UK9006092
Source: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5660734323163136?category=5758332488908800		
Qualifying Features/Habitats	Site Description	Conservation Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A037 <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>; Bewick's swan (Non-breeding) • A050 <i>Anas penelope</i>; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding) • A052 <i>Anas crecca</i>; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding) • A056 <i>Anas clypeata</i>; Northern shoveler (Breeding) • A140 <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>; European golden plover (Non-breeding) • A151 <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>; Ruff (Non-breeding) • Waterbird assemblage 	<p>The Lower Derwent Valley covers an area of 1089.4ha and consists of extensive areas of traditionally managed species rich, alluvial flood meadow of a kind now restricted in the UK.</p> <p>The boundaries of the SPA are coincident with the constituent SSSIs apart from the exclusion of the sections of the River Derwent SSSI north of Newton Mask SSSI and south of Brighton Meadows SSSI.</p> <p>The site qualifies under Article 4.1 by regularly supporting nationally important winter numbers of the Annex 1 species: <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>; Bewick's swan; A140 <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>; European golden plover (Non-breeding); A151 <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>; Ruff (Non-breeding).</p> <p>The site qualifies under Article 4.2 for regularly supporting breeding population of <i>Anas clypeata</i>; Northern shoveler (Breeding).</p> <p>The site qualifies under Article 4.2 as an area for of international importance to waterfowl by regularly supporting over 20,000 waterfowl in winter, including <i>Anas penelope</i>; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding) and <i>Anas crecca</i>; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding). The site also supports nationally important migratory species.</p>	<p>With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;</p> <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 population of each of the qualifying features, and, • The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

Constituent SSSIs:

Derwent Ings SSSI

Area: 666.18ha

Condition:

	% meeting area of favourable or unfavourable recovering	Favourable	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable - No change	Unfavourable - Declining	Partially destroyed	Destroyed	Not Assessed
Area (ha)	666.18	397.68	268.50					
Percentage	100.00%	59.70%	40.30%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Brighton Meadows SSSI

Area: 38.39 ha

Condition:

	% meeting area of favourable or unfavourable recovering	Favourable	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable - No change	Unfavourable - Declining	Partially destroyed	Destroyed	Not Assessed
Area (ha)	38.39	35.65	2.74					
Percentage	100.00%	92.86%	7.14%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Melbourne and Thornton Ings SSSI

Area: 200.37 ha

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Condition:

	% meeting area of favourable or unfavourable recovering	Favourable	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable - No change	Unfavourable - Declining	Partially destroyed	Destroyed	Not Assessed
Area (ha)	200.37	84.58	115.79					

Percentage	100.00%	42.21%	57.79%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
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Newton Mask SSSI

Area: 17.78 ha

Condition:

	% meeting area of favourable or unfavourable recovering	Favourable	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable - No change	Unfavourable - Declining	Partially destroyed	Destroyed	Not Assessed
Area (ha)	17.78	17.78						
Percentage	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Humber Estuary SAC Site size: 36,657.15 ha Source: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5009545743040512?category=5758332488908800		Site Ref: UK00300170
Qualifying Features/Habitats	Site Description	Conservation Objectives
<p>Qualifying habitats: The site is designated under article 4(4) of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) • Coastal lagoons* • Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> • Embryonic shifting dunes • Estuaries • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide • Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes')* • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand • Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes') 	<p>The Humber is the second largest coastal plain Estuary in the UK, and the largest coastal plain estuary on the east coast of Britain. The estuary supports a full range of saline conditions from the open coast to the limit of saline intrusion on the tidal rivers of the Ouse and Trent. The range of salinity, substrate and exposure to wave action influences the estuarine habitats and the range of species that utilise them; these include a breeding bird assemblage, winter and passage waterfowl, river and sea lamprey, grey seals, vascular plants and invertebrates. The Humber is a muddy, macro-tidal estuary, fed by a number of rivers including the Rivers Ouse, Trent and Hull. Suspended sediment concentrations are high, and are derived from a variety of sources, including marine sediments and eroding boulder clay along the Holderness coast. This is the northernmost of the English east coast estuaries whose structure and function is intimately linked with soft eroding shorelines. The extensive mud and sand flats support a range of benthic communities, which in turn are an important feeding resource for birds and fish. Wave exposed sandy shores are found in the outer/open coast areas of the estuary. These change to the more moderately exposed sandy shores and then to sheltered muddy shores within the main body of the estuary and up into the tidal rivers. Habitats within the Humber Estuary include Atlantic salt meadows and a range of sand dune types in the outer estuary, together with</p>	<p>With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change; Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species • The structure and

<p>Qualifying species: The site is designated under article 4(4) of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following species listed in Annex II:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> • River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> • Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> <p>• Annex I priority habitats are denoted by an asterisk (*)</p>	<p>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time, extensive intertidal mudflats, <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand, and Coastal lagoons. As salinity declines upstream, reedbeds and brackish saltmarsh communities fringe the estuary. These are best- represented at the confluence of the Rivers Ouse and Trent at Blacktoft Sands.</p> <p>Upstream from the Humber Bridge, the navigation channel undergoes major shifts from north to south banks, for reasons that have yet to be fully explained. This section of the estuary is also noteworthy for extensive mud and sand bars, which in places form semi-permanent islands. The sand dunes are features of the outer estuary on both the north and south banks particularly on Spurn peninsula and along the Lincolnshire coast south of Cleethorpes. Examples of both Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (`grey dunes`) and Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (`white dunes) occur on both banks of the estuary and along the coast. Native sea buckthorn Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> also occurs on both sides of the estuary. Significant fish species include river lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> and sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> which breed in the River Derwent, a tributary of the River Ouse. Grey seals <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> come ashore in autumn to form breeding colonies on the sandy shores of the south bank at Donna Nook.</p>	<p>function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site. <p>This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying <i>Supplementary Advice</i> document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.</p>
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Humber Estuary SPA (Including Humber Estuary Ramsar)		Site Ref: UK9006111
Source: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5382184353398784?category=5758332488908800		
Qualifying Features/Habitats	Site Description	Conservation Objectives
<p>The site qualifies under article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the Great Britain populations of the following species listed in Annex I in any season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A021 <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>; Great bittern (Non-breeding) • A021 <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>; Great bittern (Breeding) • A048 <i>Tadorna</i>; Common shelduck (Non-breeding) • A081 <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>; Eurasian marsh harrier (Breeding) • A082 <i>Circus cyaneus</i>; Hen harrier (Non-breeding) • A132 <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>; Pied avocet (Non-breeding) • A132 <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>; Pied avocet (Breeding) • A140 <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>; European golden plover (Non-breeding) • A143 <i>Calidris canutus</i>; Red knot (Non-breeding) • A149 <i>Calidris alpina</i>; Dunlin (Non-breeding) • A151 <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>; Ruff (Non-breeding) 	<p>The Humber Estuary is located on the east coast of England, and comprises extensive wetland and coastal habitats. The inner estuary supports extensive areas of reed bed, with areas of mature and developing saltmarsh backed by grazing marsh in the middle and outer estuary. On the north Lincolnshire coast, the saltmarsh is backed by low sand dunes with marshy slacks and brackish pools. Parts of the estuary are owned and managed by conservation organisations. The estuary supports important numbers of water birds (especially geese, ducks and waders) during the migration periods and in winter. In summer, it supports important breeding populations of bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>, marsh harrier <i>Circus</i></p>	<p>With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change; Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A156 <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding) • A157 <i>Limosa lapponica</i>; Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding) • A162 <i>Tringa totanus</i>; Common redshank (Non-breeding) <p>A195 <i>Sterna albifrons</i>; Little tern (Breeding)</p> <p>Assemblage qualification: The site qualifies under article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by over 20,000 waterbirds (waterbirds as defined by the Ramsar Convention) in any season: In the non-breeding season, the area regularly supports 153,934 individual waterbirds (five year peak mean 1996/97 – 2000/01), including dark-bellied brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>, shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>, wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>, teal <i>Anas crecca</i>, mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>, pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i>, scaup <i>Aythya marila</i>, goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i>, bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>, oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>, avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>, ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>, golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>, grey plover <i>P. squatarola</i>, lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>, knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>, sanderling <i>C. alba</i>, dunlin <i>C. alpina</i>, ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>, black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>, bar-tailed godwit <i>L. lapponica</i>, whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>, curlew <i>N. arquata</i>, redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>, greenshank <i>T. nebularia</i> and turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>. Non-qualifying species of interest: The SPA is used by non-breeding merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>, peregrine <i>F. peregrinus</i> and short-eared owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>, and breeding common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> and kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i> (all species listed in Annex I to the EC Birds Directive) in numbers of less than European importance (less than 1% of the GB population).</p>	<p><i>aeruginosus</i>, avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> and little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features • The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely • The population of each of the qualifying features, and, • The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. <p>This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying <i>Supplementary Advice</i> document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.</p>
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Constituent SSSIs:

Humber Estuary SSSI

Area: 37,000.60 ha

Condition:

	% meeting area of favourable or unfavourable recovering	Favourable	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable - No change	Unfavourable - Declining	Partially destroyed	Destroyed	Not Assessed
Area (ha)	36,536.67	2,789.45	33,747.22	61.45	402.46			
Percentage	98.75%	7.54%	91.21%	0.17%	1.09%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

North Killingholme Haven Pitts SSSI

Area: 21.63 ha

Condition:

	% meeting area of favourable or unfavourable recovering	Favourable	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable - No change	Unfavourable - Declining	Partially destroyed	Destroyed	Not Assessed
Area (ha)	16.08		16.08	5.55				
Percentage	74.35%	0.00%	74.35%	25.65%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Saltfleetby SSSI-Threddlethorpe Dunes SSSI

Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan Habitats Regulation Screening Report

Area: 971.86 ha

Condition:

	% meeting area of favourable or unfavourable recovering	Favourable	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable - No change	Unfavourable - Declining	Partially destroyed	Destroyed	Not Assessed
Area (ha)	971.86	765.61	206.25					
Percentage	100%	78.78%	21.22 %	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

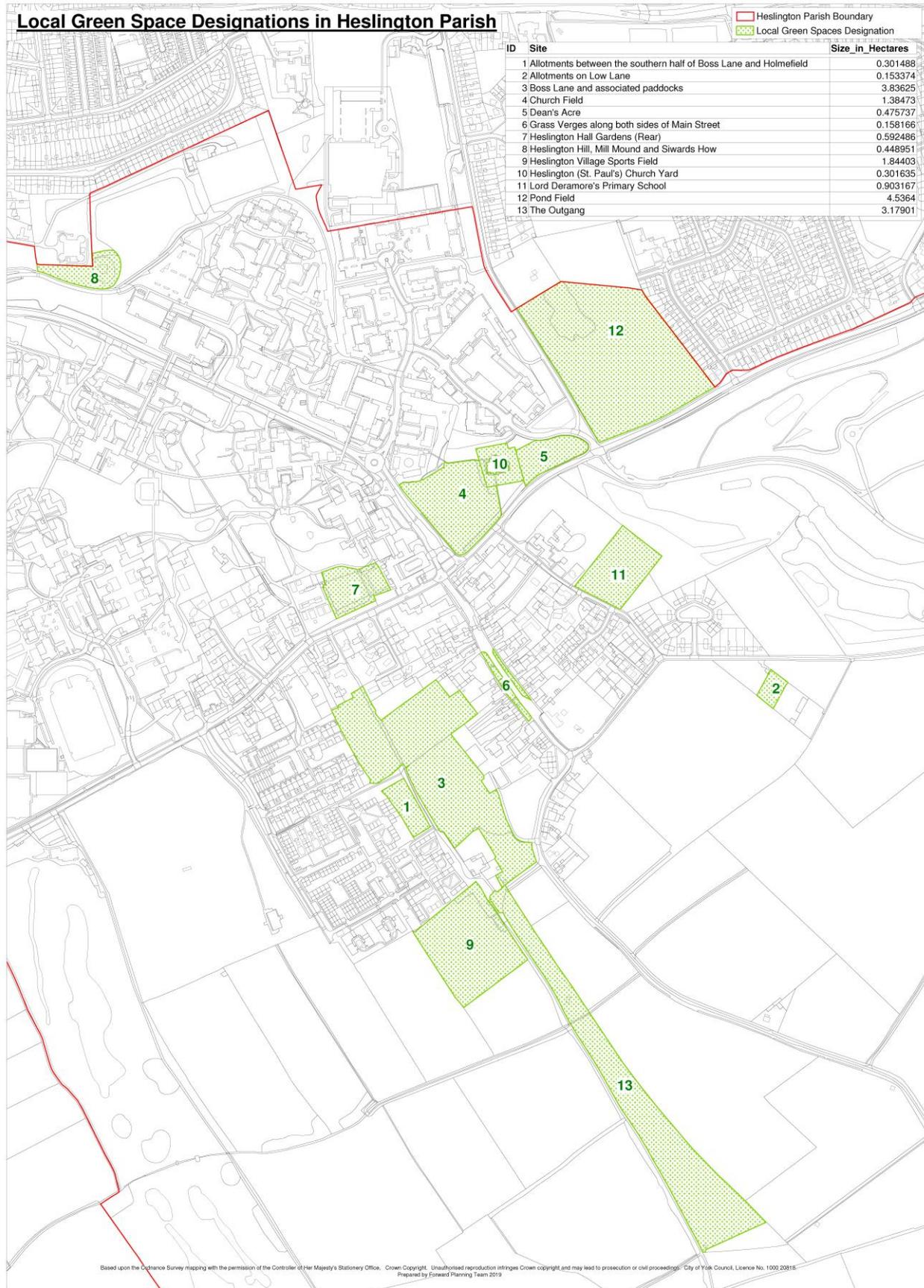
The Lagoons SSSI

Area: 70.19 ha

Condition:

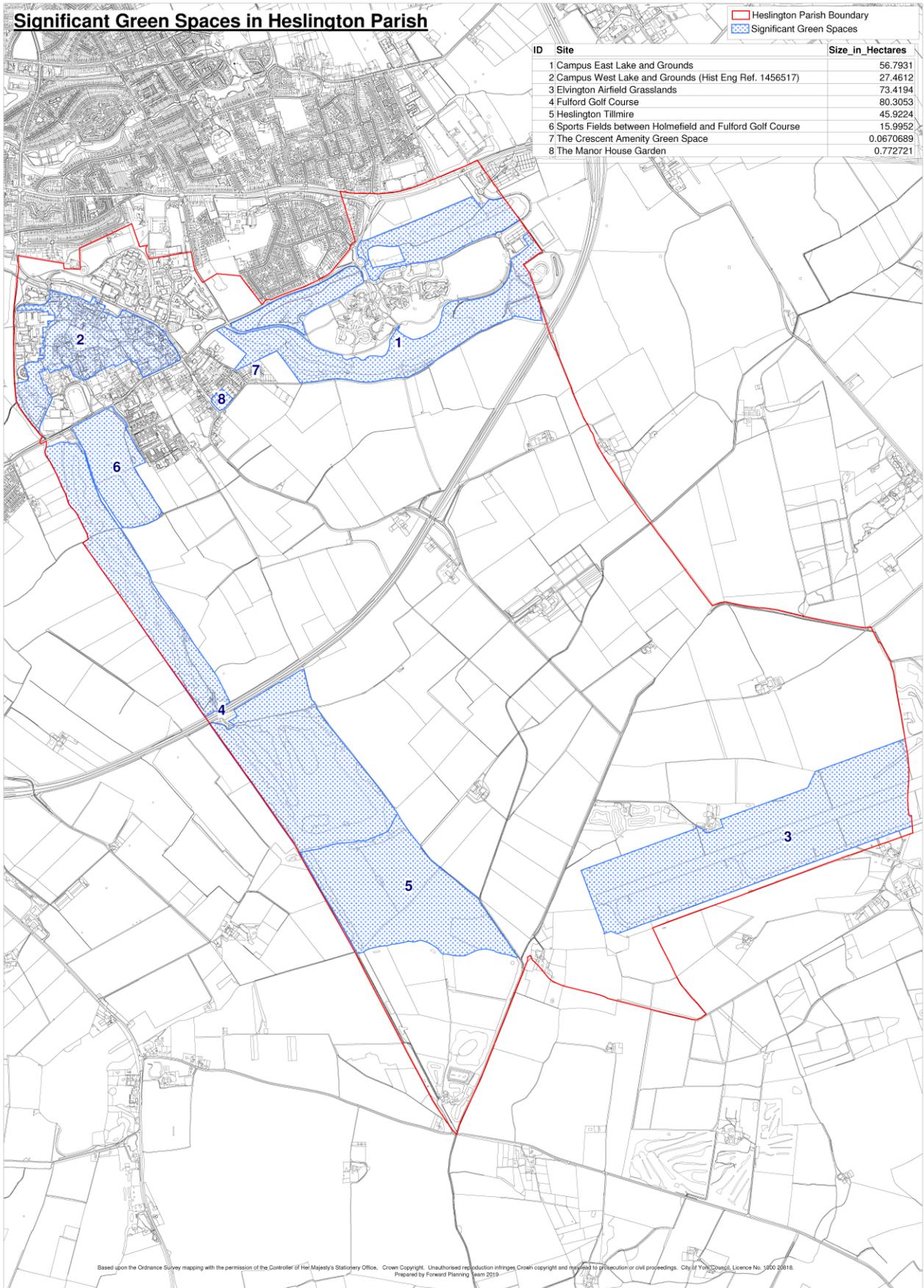
	% meeting area of favourable or unfavourable recovering	Favourable	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable - No change	Unfavourable - Declining	Partially destroyed	Destroyed	Not Assessed
Area (ha)	70.19		70.19					
Percentage	100.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Annex 2: Designated Local Green Spaces and Significant Green Spaces maps



1. Local Green Space designations

See Section 12: Designations Local Green Spaces in the HPNP Submission version for further details.



2. Significant Green Spaces

See Section 13: Green Infrastructure in the HPNP Submission version for further details.

Annex 3: Statutory Consultation bodies summary comments on HPNP Assessment

Environment Agency

“Having considered the nature of the policies in the Plan, we consider that it is unlikely that significant negative impacts on environmental characteristics that fall within our remit and interest will result through the implementation of the plan.”

Historic England

“On the basis of the information supplied, and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex 11 of 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concurs with the conclusion of the Heslington Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening Report, set out on pg. 21, para. 7.1, that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.”

Natural England

“... should you allocate sites within the plan (as opposed to shaping policies) Natural England advise that the Neighbourhood Plan is progressed post the adoption of the Local Plan. Natural England in their response advocate an approach that does not allocate development sites and advises the plan should implement Development Management style policies to shape development. If this is the contents of the plan, the response states that it is likely to not need to go forward to either HRA or SEA.”

CYC

“However, since the production of your SEA and HRA, we have completed a revised HRA³ for the Local Plan, which includes consideration of new evidence commissioned by the Council including a Visitor Survey for the Lower Derwent Valley Special Protection Area (SPA). We recommend that the HRA should be updated to reflect this latest evidence prior to submission and we would be pleased to advise you on the additional changes required.”

Annex 4: Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policies

Source: Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan (Submission Version)

POLICY HES: 1 MAIN STREET – CHANGE OF USE

Within the Main Street area, development proposals for change of use to Retail (A1)⁴, Food and drink (A3, A4) and Medical and other community facilities (D1) will be supported subject to:

- a) **There being no significant detrimental impact on traffic safety or capacity;**
- b) **There being no significant detrimental impact on the amenities of nearby residents e.g. by restricting the hours of operation; and**
- c) **There is no change of use involving the loss of retail, food and drink, business or community facilities in Main Street including changes of use of ground floors to residential use, unless it can be satisfactorily demonstrated that none of the above are viable uses.**

In addition:

- a) **Proposals to diversify the use of public houses will be supported, providing the use as a public house remains as part of the mix of uses.**

In the event of there being no demonstrable acceptable viable use, any alterations to Main Street premises must satisfy the requirements of Neighbourhood Plan policies HES 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Interpretation

The current mixed commercial and residential character of Main Street [South] should be preserved and any commercial development, while being sensitive to the needs of local farmers and residents, should not reduce the amenity value for residents.

POLICY HES: 2 NEW BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT

Development proposals for new business and employment will be supported in the following locations:

- a) **Existing science and knowledge-based business parks on University campuses;**
- b) **Within the strategic designated York Draft Local Plan housing site allocations to provide local facilities; and**
- c) **Within farm complexes, to support diversification, providing there is no significant adverse impact on traffic safety, congestion or residential amenity.**

Development for sports usage will be supported:

- d) **Where there is a proven local need and providing there is no significant adverse impact on traffic safety, congestion or residential amenity.**

Interpretation

⁴ Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended)

This policy recognises the strategic importance of the science/business park and the farming community. It enables employment close to new housing, to provide local opportunities and create more sustainable work-life patterns. The policy also enables farm diversification and, if justified, the provision for sports usage.

POLICY HES: 3 AGRICULTURE AND RURAL ENTERPRISE

Development proposals will be supported where they:

- a) **Are sited and designed to support and acknowledge the working farms and rural businesses;**
- b) **Ensure that farm traffic is accommodated; and**
- c) **Avoid compromise to farming activities.**

Interpretation

Application of this policy ensures that the operational requirements of farms and rural businesses are fully considered when development is proposed and there is no significant adverse impact on traffic safety, congestion or residential amenity.

POLICY HES: 4 SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

Development proposals will be supported where they use high quality design incorporating key principles from the Design Council's *Building for Life 12*⁵ and based on sustainable urban design principles. This includes:

- a) **Complementing the surrounding character areas in terms of scale, height, massing, spacing, urban grain and set-back from street frontages;**
- b) **Providing active frontages to streets and public spaces, so as to provide natural surveillance;**
- c) **Providing a clear separation between private spaces (rear gardens) and public spaces and streets;**
- d) **Creating attractive, safe, permeable and convenient pedestrian environments, linking to the surrounding footpath network;**
- e) **Using permeable materials for hard surfaces;**
- f) **Providing a range of parking solutions as an integral part of layout, ensuring that parking does not dominate the street scene; and**
- g) **Development proposals will be particularly supported where high speed broadband facilities are provided.**

Creative and innovative design solutions are welcomed, especially where they incorporate superior environmental performance.

Interpretation

Application of this Policy seeks to ensure that development is designed to be sustainable and inclusive. It seeks to promote sustainability by addressing local character, amenity,

⁵ *Building for Life 12* is a tool for assessing the quality of homes, developed by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment. A government endorsed industry standard

safety and pedestrian convenience. As part of the development process, rigorous analysis of the site and context is essential.

Although the policy applies to all scales of development, a proportionate approach is necessary as recognised in NPPF (2019) paragraph 126, which has a requirement for: *“...creating distinctive places, with a consistent and high quality standard of design. However their level of detail and degree of prescription should be tailored to the circumstances in each place, and should allow a suitable degree of variety where this would be justified.”*

The term ‘active frontages’ means elevations containing windows and doors, so that they overlook the public realm, providing natural surveillance.

Car parking may comprise a mix of garages, driveway space, on street and other provision, depending on the location. The aim is to ensure that the public realm is not dominated by parking.

Separation of public and private space involves layouts where rear gardens are located away from road frontages. This avoids the need for high fencing or walls next to roads, which would create dead frontages and a poor quality public realm.

Development proposals for major sites should make clear how NPPF’s policy for community engagement has been met, recognising that this is a material consideration. Community engagement should be focused on the pre-design stage, so that the community’s knowledge informs the design process. Late stage engagement, focused on narrow and subjective aesthetic matters, offers little opportunity to influence the fundamental characteristics of a scheme.

The City of York Council’s Statement of Community Involvement⁶ (adopted Dec 2007) further underpins and supports this.

High speed broadband is an essential tool in running a business or farm. The York Draft Local Plan aims to “expand and continue the development of York’s world-class ultrafast connectivity “and it is vital to offer high-speed internet access as York continues to be promoted as a vanguard ‘Digital City’.

POLICY HES: 5 CRIME PREVENTION AND REDUCTION

Development proposals will be supported where they:

- a) Are designed to create safe communities and reduce the likelihood and fear of crime; and**
- b) Incorporate the principles of ‘Secured by Design’⁷ (SBD) to ensure that a safe and sustainable community is maintained.**

Interpretation

Good design can help ensure crime and the fear of crime does not compromise quality of

⁶ https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/1287/statement_of_community_involvement

⁷ <https://www.securedbydesign.com/>

life for those who live, work, study and do business in the Parish. The best design advice, incorporating community based views to inhibit and remedy the causes and consequences of criminal, intimidatory and anti-social behaviour, should be adopted.

SBD⁷ is a police initiative that improves the security of buildings and their immediate surroundings to provide safe places to live, work, shop and visit.

<https://www.securedbydesign.com/>

With respect to NPPF (2019) paragraph 127f states:

“Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments: create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future use; and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion”

The York Draft Local Plan Policy HW7: **Healthy Places** states:

“Proposals for residential developments must provide a statement, proportionate to the size of the development, showing how the following design principles have been adequately considered and incorporated into plans for development: e.g. considerations for how the design may impact on crime or perception of safety”

The York Draft Local Plan Policy D1: **Placemaking** states:

“Development proposals should adhere to the following detailed design points:

- *designed to reduce crime and the fear of crime and promote public safety throughout the day and night.”*

POLICY HES: 6 URBAN CHARACTER

Development proposals and extensions to existing buildings will be supported where they complement the local character of Heslington, including:

- a) **Respecting the vernacular forms and scale;**
- b) **Enhancing and protecting the character and setting, including the medieval pattern of long, narrow burgage plots in Main Street;**
- c) **Preserving gardens and open spaces behind and between the houses and only allowing sub-division of such gardens and open spaces where the resulting layout would maintain the character and amenity value of the village;**
- d) **Maintaining historic paths and routes;**
- e) **Maintaining key views and the setting of local landmarks to help orientation and provide local distinctiveness;**
- f) **Having regard to the diverse character of the historic environment, based on variety in styles and construction methods, including use of materials that respect and are sympathetic to the context and building traditions;**
- g) **Within the Conservation Area, retaining wide green verges, without further crossways;**
- h) **Within the Conservation Area, wherever practical, taking every opportunity to re-route or install underground existing overhead electricity and telephone/data cabling services; and**
- i) **Within the Conservation Area, reinstating original features where inappropriate modern materials or other external features have been introduced to listed buildings or elsewhere.**

Interpretation

This policy highlights particular characteristics that contribute to the village's distinctive character. The impact on these characteristics will need careful consideration to ensure that development is sustainable and appropriate to the local context.

High quality contemporary design is entirely appropriate in historic settings and is encouraged where it complements the qualities of the site and its context.

POLICY HES: 7 CONVERSION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS

Beyond the strategic development site allocations and the existing development boundary of the university campuses, development proposals will be supported where they:

- a) **Complement the vernacular forms, scale and character of local buildings; and**
- b) **Avoid dominating the parent building in terms of scale or siting.**

Interpretation

This policy ensures that conversions or extensions to existing buildings are of a scale that

is subservient to the original parent building and are sited so as not to dominate the original. In most instances, this means that extensions should be set back from the front building line of any property.

POLICY HES: 8 NEW HOUSING

Beyond the strategic development site allocations and the boundaries of the existing university campuses, infill housing development proposals will be supported, providing they:

- a) Comprise infill development within an existing housing row or cluster;**
- b) Avoid the creation or extension of ‘ribbon development’;**

Development proposals will be particularly supported if they:

- c) Maintain or enhance the amenities of existing residential properties;**
- d) Complement the character of the area, including complementing the spatial characteristics of existing housing in terms of setback, spacing and garden space;**
- e) Incorporate screened storage space for refuse bins and recycling bins; and**
- f) Incorporate enclosed, secure, covered storage for cycles.**

Interpretation:

Heslington village sits within the general extent of the Green Belt. The retention of this status within the York Draft Local Plan is a material consideration that underpins this policy. In general, the policy enables some minor infill rather than allowing more significant housing development in or around the village.

The requirements to avoid detriment to residential amenity and to complement the character of the village are intended to prevent inappropriate ‘cramming’ of housing development into sites that are not capable of accommodating it in a sustainable way.

The policy also ensures that each dwelling meets certain standards in terms of storage. Moreover, the policy also contributes to the local environment, by ensuring bins are screened from view.

In addition, the provision of cycle storage encourages and enables more sustainable travel.

POLICY HES: 9 HOUSING MIX AND AFFORDABILITY

Development proposals within the strategic development site allocations will be supported where:

- a) They Include a balanced mix of house types, to meet local needs and should as a minimum meet the Government’s Technical housing standards⁸;
- b) Affordable housing is provided on site and is not provided remotely through financial contributions; and
- c) Affordable housing is tenure blind, forming an integral part of any relevant scheme.

Interpretation

The policy does not seek to modify affordable housing requirements, which are a matter for the Local Plan, but to ensure that affordable housing is located within the York Draft Local Plan strategic development site allocations, so as to meet local needs.^{9,10}

Channelling of developer financial contributions elsewhere instead of providing affordable housing or adequate infrastructure is not supported.

The requirement for ‘tenure blind’ development means that housing of different tenures should be similar in appearance, rather than having obviously lower specification housing as the affordable element.

Housing schemes should provide a scale and variety of housing that reflects and encourages a diverse social mix.

POLICY HES: 10 HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Change of use to a house in multiple occupation (HMO) will be supported where:

- a) The proposal would not harm the character and appearance of the building, adjacent buildings or the local landscape context;
- b) The design, layout and intensity of use of the building would not have an unacceptable impact on neighbouring residential amenities;
- c) Internal and external amenity space, refuse storage and car and bicycle parking is provided at an appropriate quantity and is of a high standard so as not to harm visual amenity;
- d) The proposal would not cause unacceptable highway problems; and
- e) The proposal would not result in a contravention of the threshold ‘tipping points’ set out in the CYC Article 4 Direction.

Application for change of use from HMO back to dwelling house would be encouraged.

Interpretation

⁸ The Government’s Technical housing standards March 2015 (a nationally described space standard), sets out standard room sizes and will be taken into account (or any equivalent standard superseding and replacing that document)

⁹ https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/11251/strategic_housing_market_assessment_shma_2016
https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/14277/strategic_housing_market_assessment_update_2017

¹⁰ <https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s130692/Annex%20A%20-%20GL%20Hearne%20Housing%20Need%20Update%202019.pdf>

CYC state¹¹ that a “*House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) is defined in the Housing Act 2004, and includes houses occupied by 3 unrelated people who form 2 or more households. It is legal term and covers certain types of multi-occupied buildings as defined by the Act.*”

“A HMO must be licensed if it satisfies all of the following criteria:

The premises are occupied by 5 or more persons; and

The occupiers comprise 2 or more separate ‘households’; and

Share amenities such as bathrooms, toilets and /or cooking facilities; or

Where all units of accommodation are not fully self-contained”

The York Draft Local Plan seeks to deliver not only sufficient housing but also the right type and mix of housing to meet York’s needs. Many people, not only students, choose to live in the private rented sector, typically in HMOs. An historical mapping exercise set out in the Houses in Multiple Occupation Technical Paper (2011, updated 2014) indicates the number of HMOs has doubled or tripled in the ten year period. These are concentrated within certain areas. In 2012 CYC introduced an Article 4 Direction¹² in relation to HMOs. The Article 4 Direction removes permitted development rights for this type of development and requires a planning application to be submitted to change a property from a dwelling house into an HMO.

CYC has identified that “*a threshold based policy approach is considered most appropriate which identifies a ‘tipping point’ when issues arising from concentrations of HMOs become harder to manage and a community or locality can be said to tip from balanced to unbalanced. Under the threshold approach an assessment of the proportion of households that are HMOs is undertaken within a given area. Whilst there is no formal definition of what constitutes a balanced community, recently, for York, through consultation, a threshold of 10% of all properties being HMOs within 100m and 20% across a neighbourhood area have been established as the point at which a community can tip from balanced to unbalanced.*”¹³

This policy is based on the York Draft Local Plan Policy H8.

Whilst CYC has made an Article 4 Direction that restricts home owners’ permitted development rights to use their property as HMOs, consultation on the HPNP clearly evidenced that residents would want to support this position and reinforce the Article 4 Direction within the HPNP policies. This is particularly important, Heslington, in view of its close proximity to the University, in the event CYC choose to withdraw this Direction.

With the possibility of future expansion of the University of York and whilst pressure, generally, on available affordable housing continues in York this policy seeks to maintain a ‘balanced community’ within the Heslington Parish by adding weight to the existing CYC Article 4 Direction.

¹¹ https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/2889/hmo_licensing_-_application_form_guidance_notes

¹² https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/9549/hmo_article_4_direction_and_plan

¹³ https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/9547/houses_in_multiple_occupation_draft_spd

POLICY HES: 11 HOUSING AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Development proposals for housing on the strategic sites will be supported where they:

- a) Incorporate appropriate community facilities as part of the mix of uses, to support additional needs;**
- b) Include recreational facilities, convenient paths and green spaces to encourage healthy lifestyles; and**
- c) Submit and agree a masterplan design statement, if sites are developed incrementally, which includes the location of community facilities and satisfies the relevant requirements of Neighbourhood Plan policies HES 4, 5, 6, and 8.**

Interpretation

The policy seeks to ensure that the large-scale housing development envisaged through the York Draft Local Plan strategic site allocations does not comprise single use development, but includes the mix of uses necessary to support new residents, such as shops, medical, sports and recreational facilities. It should encourage provision of dog walking facilities on the development site to prevent encroachment on to the Tillmire SSSI.

POLICY HES: 12 PURPOSE BUILT STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

Development proposals for purpose built student residential accommodation will only be supported within the existing development boundaries of the University of York campuses.

Interpretation

The policy seeks to ensure that the York Draft Local Plan strategic housing sites contribute fully to meeting local housing needs and community needs. It is also essential that student accommodation and housing be kept in balance, so that no part of the village becomes predominantly a home for a transitory population.

POLICY HES: 13 LOCAL GREEN SPACES DESIGNATION

The spaces listed in section 12.3 and Figure 4 [see the full Plan supporting text] are designated as Local Green Spaces and must remain as open community spaces except in very special circumstances.

Small size, ancillary development proposals will be supported, providing they meet all of the following:

- a) The open and green character of the Green Space is not compromised;**
- b) They provide facilities to support the community use of space; and**
- c) Community, wildlife, amenity or other values as a Local Green Space are preserved or enhanced.**

Interpretation

This policy protects the open character and community value of Local Green Space. The policy does allow for small-scale development to support the community use of the space. Examples of small-scale development that could be supported include:

- A sports pavilion, to support the use of sports pitches
- Storage facilities for tools and equipment used for maintaining green space
- A small refreshment kiosk to support the recreational use of space

POLICY HES: 14 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Development proposals will be supported where they can be shown to avoid significant harm to the environment of Heslington Parish as a whole, including:

- a) Trees, woods, hedges, ditches, grass field margins, flora and fauna;**
- b) Local wildlife habitats and protected landscapes, including the Common Land and SSSI; and**
- c) Designated and significant Local Green Spaces as listed in paragraph 13.5 and Figure 6 [See full Plan supporting text].**

Where significant harm cannot be avoided, it must be adequately mitigated, or as a last resort, compensated for.

Opportunities to incorporate improvements for green infrastructure in and around developments are supported.

Interpretation

This policy seeks to conserve and protect the local rural identity and fulfil the obligations set out by those organisations and bodies with responsibility for supporting the historic and natural environments. It should consider the impact of cumulative small changes.

The 'rural feel' of Heslington, commented on and appreciated by a majority of residents, members of the University and local businesses is entirely dependent on the setting of the village within its largely agricultural hinterland and the green spaces within it, which in turn derive much of their character from the rich green infrastructure, which the HPNP seeks to protect and where possible enhance.

A major threat to UK biodiversity is the continual loss, degradation and fragmentation of sites of importance for wildlife. The HPNP seeks to prevent this erosion of sites and where possible enhance wildlife in the Parish, by promoting the green infrastructure and Local Green Spaces on which Heslington's wildlife depends.

POLICY HES: 15 SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT PROVISION

Development proposals on the strategic allocation sites will be supported where there is balanced and sustainable transport provision, including:

- a) Public transport facilities, including new bus stops;**
- b) A layout providing convenient pedestrian links to footpaths, bus stops and community facilities;**
- c) Strong cycle and pedestrian links on any new access roads to the A64, University and other major roads; and**
- d) Preparation of a transport masterplan, where a site is to be developed incrementally, showing links to adjacent sites and the surrounding area.**

Development proposals will be particularly supported where they deliver any of the following:

- e) **Less visually intrusive, safer and less polluting alternatives to the current traffic calming chicanes, which also take into account the needs of the disabled;**
- f) **Curtailed traffic pressure on the main village roundabout by Heslington Hall;**
- g) **Creation of safe school drop-off points;**
- h) **Improvements on Heslington Lane, Field Lane and University Road to provide well-designed, safe and fully-integrated cycleways, avoiding impractical cycle/pedestrian sharing;**
- i) **Improved frequency of *Park & Ride* services from Grimston Bar to the University and the village;**
- j) **Inclusion of Heslington within citywide safe cycle routes scheme; and**
- k) **Secure, unobtrusive cycle parking.**

Interpretation

The policy seeks to ensure that development proposals incorporate choice of modes of transport, including sustainable options.

The purpose of a transport masterplan for sites that are being developed incrementally is to ensure that sustainable transport is properly considered for the wider site and each development then fits in to that wider framework.

The Policy endorses NPPF (2019) paragraph 110 which states:

Applications for development should:

- a) *give priority first to pedestrian and cycle movements, both within the scheme and with neighbouring areas; and second – so far as possible – to facilitating access to high quality public transport, with layouts that maximise the catchment area for bus or other public transport services, and appropriate facilities that encourage public transport use;*
- b) *address the needs of people with disabilities and reduced mobility in relation to all modes of transport;*
- c) *create places that are safe, secure and attractive – which minimise the scope for conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, avoid unnecessary street clutter, and respond to local character and design standards.*

The policy should be applied with careful consideration of other policies in this plan, in particular design and natural environment policies.

POLICY HES: 16 VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

Development proposals will be supported where access to the strategic allocation sites is provided to safely accommodate the traffic generated and avoid additional movements through Heslington village. Achieving this would involve:

- a) **Providing the principal vehicular and pedestrian access from ST15 (Land West of Elvington Lane) to the A64; and**
- b) **Avoiding motor vehicle, cycle and pedestrian connections to local roads through Heslington village or to the access roads south of Heslington.**

Interpretation

This policy seeks to ensure that the strategic allocation housing site (ST15) is fully served by a new principal access road to A64, bypassing the village and immediate locality to avoid any significant increase in traffic, which could cause significant harm in terms of road safety, congestion, local character and residential amenity, including the Tillmire SSSI.

Local roads that should not be linked in any way to the new strategic allocation sites include: Low Lane, Ox Close Lane, Common Lane, Long Lane and Langwith Stray. Full access from these existing roads to existing residents and visitors, businesses and farms must continue. These roads, which are narrow with limited passing places, must be kept clear of any major increase in vehicular or pedestrian traffic that would interfere with local businesses and farming activities.

POLICY HES: 17 TRAFFIC IN HESLINGTON CONSERVATION AREA

Development proposals will be supported where;

- a) **Increase in traffic would cause no significant harm to the character or appearance of the Heslington Conservation Area, taking account of parking, movement and disturbance; and**
- b) **Associated highway improvements within the Heslington Conservation Area, preserve or enhance and cause no significant harm to the character or contribution made by the area.**

Interpretation

This policy seeks to protect the Conservation Area status, road safety and amenity of residents without compromising the provision of flexible, sustainable transport solutions.

Where a development proposal will lead to significant harm, it must be demonstrated that substantial public benefit clearly outweighs that harm.

POLICY HES: 18 PATHS AND OTHER RIGHTS OF WAY

Development proposals will be supported where they:

- a) **Do not obstruct or impinge on public footpaths, bridleways, cycleways or byways; and**
- b) **Preserve or enhance the distinctive character of nearby public footpaths, bridleways, cycleways and byways.**

Interpretation

This policy protects the route of footpaths, bridleways, cycleways and byways. It seeks to reinforce bridleways, which are available only to walkers, cyclists and horse riders. It also ensures that the impacts of adjacent or nearby development proposals are carefully considered.

POLICY HES: 19 UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Development proposals for the campuses will be supported, subject to:

- a) The green open space 'buffer zones' protecting the landscape settings of Heslington village and Badger Hill remaining undeveloped [see Figure 5 Green open space 'buffer zones (Landscape Reserved Matters) in full Plan supporting text]; and**
- b) Implementation of good practice development principles [see para. 15.4 in the full Plan supporting text].**

Interpretation

This policy and supporting text seeks to ensure the continued development of the University meets outline permissions and good practice standards, whilst ensuring the village identity is not lost.

COMMUNITY ACTIONS

HES: CA1 SIGNAGE, STREET FURNITURE AND LIGHTING IN CONSERVATION AREA

Where new signage or street furniture is proposed it should seek to:

- a) Reflect local materials and features evident in the immediate surrounding area.

Where new lighting is proposed it should be designed to:

- b) Avoid intruding into areas where darkness is a characteristic of the village; and
- c) Minimise impacts on adjacent rural habitats and wildlife.

Interpretation

- All road and business signage should be of a type that blends into the environment and is sensitive to the Conservation Area, consistent with statutory requirements and the need to reinforce the current village landscape
- A consistent and high quality design theme for street lamps, waste bins, benches, etc. should be maintained throughout the village
- Any advertising or signage should respect the context of the village. It should be low key (colour, size and lighting) and in keeping with a rural Conservation Area
- Care should be taken in the siting and design of bus shelters to ensure that they are appropriate to the historic setting
- Whilst advertisements play an important role in promoting economic vitality, and where well designed, they can make a positive contribution to the street scene. A proliferation of signs can be unsightly, distracting and damaging to the appearance of the area
- Lighting should respect the rural area and particularly the Conservation Area, maintaining dark skies and minimising light pollution. See: Institute of Lighting Professional Guidance: <https://www.theilp.org.uk/documents/obtrusive-light/>
- Obtrusive and excessive security lighting should not be permitted

The York Draft Local Plan Policy D2: **Landscape and Setting** states:

“Development proposals will be encouraged and supported where they:

- *conserve and enhance landscape quality and character and make a positive contribution to the character of streets, spaces and other landscapes*

*Elements such as street layout, architecture, materials, gardens, forecourts, verges, incidental spaces, village greens, boundary treatments, trees and other vegetation, **lighting and street furniture** can considerably influence landscape quality.”*

HES: CA2 BUILDING AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

A policy for long-term planting of trees, where appropriate, should be encouraged to replace those that will eventually become too old and unsafe.

Access for walkers, bird watchers, horse riders and those who appreciate the countryside should be maintained.

Interpretation

The York Draft Local Plan Policy D2: **Landscape and Setting** states:

“Development proposals will be encouraged and supported where they:

- *conserve and enhance **landscape quality** and character and make a positive contribution to the character of streets, spaces and other landscapes*

*Elements such as street layout, architecture, materials, gardens, forecourts, verges, incidental spaces, village greens, boundary treatments, **trees and other vegetation**, lighting and street furniture can considerably influence landscape quality.”*

HES: CA3 ELVINGTON AIRFIELD

Future development proposals for the airfield and operations at Elvington should not be consented to by CYC, or even considered, without there first being in place a masterplan or design statement for any airfield operations development. This should set any proposal in its wider context and identify its long-term objectives so that it can be subjected to a public consultation process.

Interpretation

Large parts of the airfield are designated within York Draft Local Plan Policy SS13: Land West of Elvington Lane.

However should an adopted Local Plan not include Policy SS13 then the above will apply.