

Habitat Regulations Assessment

Screening Assessment Report

To determine the requirement for an
Appropriate Assessment in relation to the
Craven District Council Local Plan, 2012-2032



Prepared by: David Feeney, B.E. (Environmental), MRUP, MSc

Prepared for: Craven District Council

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Notes

- (1.) A draft copy of this Screening Assessment was sent to Natural England on 31 May 2016 for their comments and any suggested changes. Natural England provided a written response on 02 September 2016, and their commentary and suggestions were then fully incorporated into this completed document;
- (2.) This Screening Report is based on the analysis of draft Craven Local Plan policies and spatial strategies at a time during 2016. As the draft plan process evolves, these policies and spatial strategies are subject to change in content, and with the policies, their order and numbering. An Appropriate Assessment report is suitable to analyse the updated policies and spatial strategies, as part of the continued interaction of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process with the evolving Local Plan.

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For comments or queries in relation to this document, please e-mail: localplan@cravenc.gov.uk.

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Contents

1. Legislation and Methodology.....	5
1.1 Background.....	5
1.2 Habitat Regulations Assessment.....	5
1.3 Methodology.....	6
2. The Craven Local Plan.....	7
2.1 Introduction.....	7
2.2 Settlement Hierarchy and Site Allocations.....	8
2.3 Set of Draft Policies.....	9
2.4 Neighbouring Local Authorities and Plans.....	10
3. Potentially Affected European and Ramsar Sites.....	10
3.1 List of Designated Sites.....	10
3.2 Interest Features and Conservation Objectives.....	11
3.3 The Likely Impact Pathways.....	11
3.4 In-combination effects.....	11
4. Review of Likely Significant Effects based on Policies and Allocations.....	11
4.1 Set of draft Policies.....	11
4.2 Spatial Strategy and Settlement Allocations.....	13
4.3 In-Combination Effects.....	15
5. Conclusions.....	15
Appendix 1: Review of draft Local Plan Policies with regards to potential effects on European and Ramsar sites.....	18
Appendix 2: Description of SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites and analysis of likely effects.....	64
Appendix 3: Assessment of Spatial Strategy, Proposed Settlement Growth and In-Combination Spatial Influences.....	88
Map of Local Plan area with SACs.....	96
Map of Local Plan area with SPAs & Ramsar sites.....	97
References.....	98

Tables

Table 1: Proposed Settlement Hierarchy in draft Craven Local Plan.....	9
Table 2: List of SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites assessed in this report.....	10
Table 3: Assessment of each Local Plan Policy in Appendix 2.....	12

Appendix Tables

Table A1: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan (South Pennine Moors SPA Phase II).....	20
Table A2: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan (South Pennine Moors SAC).....	27
Table A3: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan (North Pennine Moors SPA).....	30
Table A4: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan (South Pennine Moors SAC).....	35
Table A5: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan (Bowland Fells SPA).....	39
Table A6: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan (Leighton Moss SPA).....	41
Table A7: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan (Morecambe Bay SPA).....	45
Table A8: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan (Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC).....	48
Table A9: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan (Ingleborough Complex SAC).....	51
Table A10: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan (Craven Limestone Complex SAC).....	55
Table A11: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan (North Pennines Dales Meadows SAC).....	58
Table A12: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan (Malham Tarn RAMSAR).....	59
Table A13: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan (Leighton Moss RAMSAR).....	61
Table A14: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan (Humber Estuary RAMSAR).....	63

1. Legislation and Methodology

1.1 Background

Craven District Council is currently preparing a Local Plan for the part of Craven District outside of the boundaries of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The Local Plan's prime objective is to set out a suitable strategy for sustainable growth within Craven over the period 2012-2032. The specifics of the Local Plan which are relevant to the Screening Assessment will be described in detail in Chapter 2.

1.2 Habitat Regulations Assessment

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is a requirement of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended in 2011). This screening report assesses the potential impacts of the draft Local Plan policies and allocations on sites designated under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC, which together are referred to as 'the Habitats Directives'. The sites and species designated under The Habitats Directive are also known as the 'Natura 2000' sites, and include:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC);
- Special Protection Areas (SPA);
- Ramsar sites (which support internationally important wetland habitats listed under the Ramsar Convention).

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (as amended) 2010 [the Habitats Regulations] require that the HRA process is applied to all statutory land use plans in England and Wales. The objective of the HRA process is to assess the potential effects on sites of designated European and world importance. European sites are sites which are of exceptional importance in respect of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species within a European context.

They consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, and also Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated under Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds. Ramsar Sites (designated under the 1976 Ramsar Convention) are not European sites, but they are given the same level of protection under England's planning policy. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) gives the same protection to Ramsar sites as European protected sites in its Paragraph 18. The Habitats Directive includes a reference back to the Birds Directive, linking the two Directives together and ensuring that the requirements set out in the Habitats Directive relating to the SACs is also equally applicable to SPAs. Collectively they are referred to as the Habitats Directives.

Paragraph 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) specifically requires the appropriate assessment of local plans that are likely to significantly affect a site and not directly connected with the management of the site. Under Part IVA of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 as amended, a local authority must determine if the Local Plan is likely to have a significant (adverse) effect on a European or Ramsar site in Britain, or a European offshore marine site (where applicable), either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. If potentially significant negative effects are anticipated, then an Appropriate Assessment of the implications for the designated site with regard of its conservation objectives must be undertaken.

1.3 Methodology

The Department for Communities and Local Government issued “Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment – Guidance for Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents” in August 2006. This draft guidance recommends a three stage approach to undertaking Habitat Regulations Assessment of land use plans:

- **Stage 1 – Likely Significant Effects:** identifying if the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European or Ramsar site in Britain or a European offshore marine site either alone or in combination with other plans and projects through a Screening Assessment Report;
- **Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment:** if potentially negative significant effects are anticipated, identifying the implications of the plan on the integrity of the relevant European Sites in view of their conservation objectives. This stage is linked to Stage 3 because the adoption of mitigation measures will influence the conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment;
- **Stage 3 – Mitigation Measures and Alternative Solutions:** identifying mitigation measures to avoid adverse effects or developing alternative solutions in cases where it is not possible to avoid these effects.

If no alternative solutions exist, a plan can only be adopted if it is deemed to be for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest. In this case, it is necessary to consider compensatory measures.

The Habitats Directive applies the precautionary principle to protected areas. Projects and plans can only be permitted once it has been established that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of the designated site(s) under analysis. As referred to in the three stage process outlined above, plans and projects may still be permitted if there are no alternatives to them and there are Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) as to why they should go ahead. In such situations, compensation would be necessary to ensure the overall integrity of the site network in terms of its continued appropriate functioning.

All the European and Ramsar sites referred to in this document are shown in two accompanying maps towards the end of this report (after Appendix 3), with the sites overlaying a background of towns, road layouts and natural features in Craven and surrounding areas. The first map shows SACs and the second map displays SPAs and Ramsar sites.

In order to analyse whether or not site integrity will be affected, an Appropriate Assessment should be undertaken of the plan or project being studied. Habitats Directive 1992: Article 6(3) states that: *“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives.”*

Furthermore, the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) refers to the exercise of functions in accordance with the Habitats Directive, and under Part 1 (9), states that:

“The appropriate authority and the nature conservation bodies must exercise their functions under the enactments relating to nature conservation so as to secure compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.”

A Likely Significant Effect (LSE) is any effect that may reasonably be predicted as a consequence of a plan or project that may affect the achievement of conservation objectives of the features for which the site was designated. The policies and spatial strategies of a Local Plan must be examined, with the objective to avoid or sufficiently mitigate any Likely Significant Effects.

2. The Craven Local Plan

2.1 Introduction

The Craven Local Plan set out planning policies for the location of housing, employment space, and retail development in the District. The spatial strategy identifies the most appropriate locations for providing these new homes, in addition to employment, retail, community, visitor facilities and green space over the period of the Plan. Overall, the spatial strategy for Craven is designed according to long term objectives for the Craven plan area in relation to spatial growth patterns. The Craven Local Plan is currently at draft stage, and may be subject to some changes to its policies and its spatial strategy in terms of the distribution of growth in the Craven area. The draft Local Plan also put forward a pool of sites for residential development out to public and statutory body consultation, and a list of preferred sites will be chosen from this wider pool of sites in due course after further technical examination.

Currently, a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment report is being updated for the Craven area and its settlements to ensure appropriate selection of the preferred sites. An Infrastructure Delivery Report is also presently being undertaken to review and assess the current infrastructure capacity in the District and the infrastructure required in future to meet the preferred residential and employment allocations.

2.2 Settlement Hierarchy and Site Allocations

Craven's future development requirements will be distributed and accommodated in line with the spatial strategy, and on the basis of the settlement hierarchy for towns and villages in the plan area, which has previously agreed upon by elected Members of Craven District Council for consultation purposes. The proposed settlement hierarchy for towns and villages in the plan area is as follows:

Principal Town: Skipton;

Key Service Centre: Settle, Bentham (High & Low);

Local Service Centre: Ingleton, Gargrave, Glusburn & Cross Hills;

Service Village: Embsay, Giggleswick, Cononley, Clapham, Kildwick & Farnhill, Carleton, Bradley, Sutton-in-Craven, Hellifield, Cowling, Rathmell, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Long Preston* and Bolton Abbey**;

Other Settlements: Smaller villages which are not considered for a growth allocation as part of the spatial distribution strategy. These villages may get small 'windfall' sites during the time period of the Local Plan.

*Long Preston not to be allocated growth in the spatial strategy because the vast majority of the settlement is within the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and there is currently no land put forward for development in the small part of the village in the Craven local plan area.

**Bolton Abbey not to be allocated growth in the spatial strategy in view of the significance and sensitivity of its heritage assets.

Four scenarios of growth pattern within the Craven plan area that have emerged from engagement with stakeholders were selected as models to help to eventually determine a most suitable option. These scenarios were designed to provide four possible but predominately contrasting approaches to spatial growth in Craven. These four scenarios were each subject to Sustainability Appraisal to evaluate the positives and negatives of each spatial approach. From this work, a fifth spatial approach was based on bringing together the respective merits from each of the four scenarios evaluated, to form what is believed to be the most sustainable solution for development growth in Craven over the plan period. A Sustainability Appraisal was then undertaken for this preferred spatial option (shown in Table 1 below), and this is the spatial option which will be analysed in this Screening Assessment.

This preferred spatial option also gives a percentage of the overall growth to small site allowances for the southern and eastern area of Craven (Gargrave and south-eastwards) and the north and mid areas of the plan area (north and west of Gargrave). These small site allowances are also known as ‘windfall’ sites, because not all future housing land is allocated in forward planning documents such as local plans. These sites will come forward during the Local Plan period. These sites are assessed against planning policies at that time.

2.3 Policies

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local planning authorities to use their evidence base to ensure that their local plan meets the full, objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing in their area. The Council sought to develop an informed view of housing and future development in Craven and commissioned consultants to provide a range of demographic scenarios to inform the preparation of a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA). The SHMA contains an objective assessment of the total number of new homes needed in Craven that is free from policy influences. The changing demography (population, household size, age, structure etc.) of the district impacts strongly on the housing market and the type and quantity of housing required.

In order to address the full objectively assessed housing need (OAN) for the District, the Council is proposing in its draft Policy SP1 to have a housing target of 256 net additional dwellings per year to be provided in the Craven Local Plan area for the period 2012 to 2032. This is a total provision of 5,120 dwellings in the plan area over the plan period. The draft Local Plan has policies relating to (1.) Strategic Policies and Spatial Strategy; (2.) Environment; (3.) Housing; (4.) Economy; and (5.) Infrastructure, Services and Facilities. These policies within these sections are each assessed in this report.

Within this draft plan, a ‘pool of site options’ has been presented for consultation. This pool of sites is not the final list of preferred sites to be allocated, but instead a list of sites that the preferred sites are likely to be chosen from. The sites in this pool passed in terms of a Sustainability Appraisal undertaken for each site, and the Council are now examining which are the best sites from this pool to take forward based on a hierarchy of preferred criteria for each site, in addition to feedback from statutory bodies and the public during the Council’s consultation. It is this pool of sites which will be assessed in terms of the Screening Assessment in so far as possible at this stage, with the acknowledgment that any of these sites in the pool may potentially come forward at a later time.

Table 1: Proposed Settlement Hierarchy in draft Craven Local Plan

(continued on next page)

Tier	Settlement	Proportion of housing growth (%) at 256 net dwellings pa	Housing Provision (net dwellings pa)
No. 1	Skipton (PT)	50%	128
No. 2	Settle (KSC)	10.5%	27
No. 2	Low & High Bentham (KSC)	10.2%	26
No. 3	Glusburn & Crosshills (LSC)	5.1%	13
No. 3	Ingleton (LSC)	3.1%	8

No. 3	Gargrave (LSC)	2%	5
No. 4a	Burton-in-Lonsdale (VBS)	1.2%	3
No. 4a	Carleton (VBS)	1.2%	3
No. 4a	Cononley (VBS)	1.2%	3
No. 4a	Cowling (VBS)	0.8%	2
No. 4a	Farnhill & Kildwick (VBS)	0.8%	2
No. 4a	Hellifield (VBS)	0.8%	2
No. 4a	Low Bradley (VBS)	0.8%	2
No. 4a	Sutton-in-Craven (VBS)	2%	5
No. 4a	Rathmell (VBS)	0.8%	2
No. 4b	Bolton Abbey (VBS – NP)	0%	0
No. 4b	Clapham (VBS – NP)	0.8%	2
No. 4b	Embsay (VBS – NP)	1.2%	3
No. 4b	Giggleswick (VBS – NP)	0.8%	2
No. 4b	Long Preston (VBS – NP)	0%	0
No. 5	Other villages/open countryside	6.7%	18

Where PT = Principal Town, KSC = Key Service Centre, LSC = Local Service Centre, VBS = Villages with Basic Services, VBS – NP = Villages with Basic Services that are bisected by the National Park boundary.

2.4 Neighbouring Local Authorities and Plans

Harrogate Borough Council, Lancaster City Council, Ribbles Valley Borough Council, Pendle Borough Council, Bradford Metropolitan District Council, and Yorkshire Dales National Park Planning Authority have all planning jurisdictions and development plans adjoining the Craven Local Plan area. The local plans (or draft versions if currently in publication) associated with these planning jurisdictions will be examined with the draft Craven Local Plan in order to determine possible in-combination effects later in this Screening Assessment.

3. Potentially Affected European and Ramsar Sites

3.1 List of Designated Sites

The identification of European and Ramsar sites to be considered within the screening exercise was undertaken in consultation with Natural England. European sites are considered that lie wholly or partially within the Craven District administrative boundary and also those European sites outside the administrative boundary that may be affected by proposals in the plan. These designated sites are listed in Table 2 below. Information relating to the reasons for designation of the sites, their conservation objectives, requirements to maintain favourable condition status of the site and the key factors affecting site integrity are all set out in the accompanying Appendix 1.

Table 2: List of SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites assessed in this report

(continued on next page)

SPAs	SACs	Ramsar
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	South Pennine Moors	Leighton Moss
North Pennine Moors	North Pennine Moors	Malham Tarn
Bowland Fells	Ingleborough Complex	Humber Estuary
Leighton Moss	Craven Limestone Complex	

Morecambe Bay	Morecambe Bay Pavements	
	North Pennine Dales Meadows	

3.2 Interest Features and Conservation Objectives

Each designated site has a list of interest features and conservation objectives that affords the site sufficient conservation importance. Natural England advises on the conservation objectives for European sites. These are required to help public bodies comply with the law and to protect these special wildlife sites. This report examines the likely impact pathways with regard to these conservation objectives.

3.3 The Likely Impact Pathways

The relevant Site Improvement Plan (SIP) has been examined and researched for the European and Ramsar sites of significance to this Local Plan. The SIP provides a high level overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the Natura 2000 features on the site(s), and outlines the priority measures required to improve the condition of the features. The work produced in each SIP assisted in identifying the likely impact pathways that threaten their favoured conservation status from the perspective of the elements of this Local Plan. Analysis showing the Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) identified for each designated site and the elements of the draft Local Plan with which they could be associated is presented in the Appendices.

3.4 In-combination effects

As noted previously, the Craven Local Plan must be considered in combination with other relevant development plans in the proximity of the Craven area. This is because, although the spatial allocation of residential and other development in Craven alone may not cause significant negative effects on designated sites, it may do in combination with other spatial allocations in the wider region. Possible in-combination effects are examined in Appendix 3.

4. Review of Likely Significant Effects based on Policies and Allocations

4.1 Policies

The inclusion of each designated site's conservation objectives and the assessment of each policy's possible effect upon them are fundamental to the screening of LSE. This section summarises the conclusions within the screening matrices in Appendix 2. The determination of Likely Significant Effects (LSE) requires the screening of each policy against the conservation objectives of each European and Ramsar site. Appendix 2 provides an overview of the likelihood and potential severity of each policy in the draft Local Plan on the designated sites. This section includes recommendations for further examination

(Appropriate Assessment) or suggestions to re-word specific policies where they are thought to be required. Table 3 shows a breakdown of how each policy is assessed.

Table 3: Assessment of each Local Plan Policy in Appendix 2

<p>Key</p> <p>A: Policy will have no effect at all or only positive effects on the SAC/SPA/Ramsar site;</p> <p>B: Policy will have no significant adverse effect (alone or in combination) on the SAC/SPA/Ramsar site;</p> <p>C: Policy could be likely to have a significant effect alone on the SAC/SPA/Ramsar site;</p> <p>D: Policy could be likely to have a significant effect in combination on the SAC/SPA/Ramsar site;</p> <p>*E: Policy would have uncertain effects on the SAC/SPA/Ramsar site that should be addressed in a lower tier assessment including proposal specific appropriate assessment;</p> <p>*F: Impact on the SAC/SPA/Ramsar site depends on how the policy is implemented;</p> <p>*G: Impact on the SAC/SPA/Ramsar site can be sufficiently altered with suggested changes in wording of policy.</p>
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*E and *F: These options would only be appropriate where policy/allocation can be determined to have no likely significant effects but that details not available until planning application stage may alter this.

*G: This should be considered an assessment of likely significant effects with regards to the policy/allocation until avoidance/mitigation measures sufficient to determine no likely significant effects are put in place.

From an analysis of the draft Local Plan's policies, Appendix 2 shows that there is some uncertainty regarding the potential likelihood and severity of effects for some of these policies. This is mainly due to the fact that the preferred list of residential and mixed use sites has yet to be finalised from the larger pool of sites shown in the draft Local Plan. The list of preferred sites should be prudently picked with regard to the SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites detailed in this report, and the analysis and recommendations of this Screening Assessment will be used to feed back into this process. In addition, the success of the policies with regarding to the protection and safeguarding of the designated sites will also depend on the information produced in the updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Infrastructure Delivery Plan, both reports which are currently in the process of being completed. In Appendix 2, as noted there are also recommendations for additions to policy wording to help ensure that the policy in question will have an effective outcome in protecting designated sites.

For example, tourism related pressure and disturbance is identified as a possible impact pathway in the Appendix 2 assessments. The screening for the tourism policy (EC4) advises that *"There needs to be a more explicit mention of the protection of the environment in achieving sustainable tourism growth. Currently an uncertain outcome"*. Furthermore, the

screening assessment shows that the tourism policy which identifies specific locations for development may have some significant impacts and will require further examination.

There is also the possibility that tourism and housing policies may significantly affect sites in combination with others. There are noticeable groups of policies that can together act in combination to positively or negatively influence designated sites. One such group of policies is *SP1 Meeting Housing Need, SP4 Spatial Strategy and Housing Growth* and *SP12 Infrastructure, Strategy and Development Delivery*. The appropriate allocation of preferred sites, and the correct infrastructure to support them, is important so that these policies can effectively guide development to avoid significant negative impacts on these designated sites.

4.2 Spatial Strategy and Settlement Allocations

One of the key roles of a Screening Report is to consider the possible loss of functionally linked land and subsequent likely significant effects upon SPA, SAC and Ramsar interest features. The screening report should consider whether the housing growth allocation for each settlement can be accommodated without the loss of important off-site feeding habitats for wildlife (either alone or in combination with other settlements or plan frameworks). The loss of functionally linked land is a specific concern for those settlements in close proximity to the SPA (within approximately 2.5km).

There are a number of plans and projects which are considered in combination with Craven's Local Plan. Bradford's Core Strategy is considered to be the most relevant, given its proximity to Craven's highest population concentration in the east and south-east of the plan area, and possible in-combination effects with additional housing in Craven, which then requires further examination. Bradford's HRA process has identified a risk of adverse effects due to the distribution of housing in the Aire and Wharfe Valleys, and subsequent potential losses of functionally linked land and also increased recreational pressure. The Bradford Core Strategy intends to reduce these risks to an acceptable level with the assistance of their HRA process.

Craven District Council's draft Local Plan's housing target (and subsequent increase in residents) and their distribution will almost certainly make a contribution to these recreational disturbance effects. This is particularly the case in the eastern and south-eastern portion of the District where approximately 65% of the growth is intended to be allocated, subject to future public consultation outcomes and other external factors. This excludes small site windfall allocations throughout the District, wherever they arise.

The screening report also examines whether the European and Ramsar sites are potentially sensitive to reduced water quality and/or abstraction and that it is having an effect, before determining whether the Local Plan is likely to contribute to such an effect. Currently, the effects of the draft Local Plan on water quality and abstraction are not clear, and it is

advised that an Appropriate Assessment utilises the available information forthcoming from the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Report (currently in preparation). Research is required to determine if there are any wastewater treatment plants that flow into European sites and may be affected by allocations or other proposals in the Craven Local Plan. In addition, research is needed to determine whether the plan is likely to require more water abstractions, and whether there is any proposed water abstractions that may negatively affect European sites.

Natural England have advised that current levels of recreational pressures within the Ingleborough Complex SAC and North Pennine Moors SPA/SAC are currently being managed effectively and therefore not significantly affecting these sites. Of course, too much of and/or insensitively located development may alter this management. There is the potential for additional pressure upon the South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Phase 2). This is particularly the case on Rombalds Moor and Ilkley Moor where residents within Craven may access the site by car.

The evidence and approach taken by neighbouring authorities here should be considered in relation to the Craven Local Plan. In this regard, there are potential recreational pressures from increased urbanisation of Skipton and surrounding villages of Embsay and Carleton in terms of the existence of parking opportunities at the locations of Black Hill and Barden, or the Yorkshire Dales Cycle Way which leaves Skipton towards Barden. This aspect requires further investigation when the preferred sites are chosen in the plan area.

As a whole, Skipton would most likely present the greatest urbanisation effects on surrounding SAC or SPA sites, given its relatively large size compared to other settlements in the District. An Appropriate Assessment should include evidence of existing accessible greenspaces which provide alternatives to the SPA, SAC or Ramsar site to increase confidence that significant effects of recreational disturbance and trampling of habitat will be avoided.

There are identified potential air pollution effects in terms of nitrogen deposition on surrounding heathland from increased motor traffic. In addition to those impacts previously identified, urban edge effects also include pest predation (by rats and corvids) and invasive species (primarily through the inappropriate disposal of garden waste). Natural England advise that a distance of at least 400m between any allocation and the European site should be sufficient to avoid any urban edge effects. This distance should be considered when assessing the LSE of individual allocations in an Appropriate Assessment. This assessment should also identify a 7km buffer between a European site's boundary and any potential development to consider impacts on the South Pennine Moors and other European sites from housing.

4.3 In-combination effects

Appendix 3 has identified a range of potential in-combination effects which require further examination when the preferred sites are selected and once the updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Infrastructure Delivery Plan reports are finalised. These reports are important to consider, as a potential in-combination effect includes the impact of increasing water supply to neighbouring areas and concurrently to additional housing development within the plan area, which could cause changes in groundwater levels, potentially affecting SACs and SPAs. Increased air pollution, water quality effects, recreational disturbance, loss of supporting feeding sites, and possible pet & pest predation are other identified potential in-combination impacts which will require further assessment at Appropriate Assessment stage.

5. Conclusions

A Screening Report should consider all evidence readily available. If there is uncertainty of effects (in scale and/or possibility) due to information unavailable at present, it should be concluded that LSE cannot be ruled out and an Appropriate Assessment undertaken. This is the precautionary approach that this Screening Assessment has followed.

This HRA screening assessment has screened the draft Local Plan (see Appendices 2 and 3) and has identified risks of Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) or uncertainty relating to the designated sites in connection with increased recreational disturbance, loss of feeding areas, changes to water quality, alterations to water levels due to water supply, augmented air pollution levels from traffic, and increased pet predation of birds. Some of these effects may arise in combination with other neighbouring plans for some sites. However, it is certainly the case that not all of the LSEs affect all of the designated sites.

Following the identification of LSEs in relation to the draft Local Plan, a number of recommendations have been made for further work required in order to ensure that adverse effects on European designated sites are avoided. The further work would be undertaken as part of an Appropriate Assessment. The recommendations are as follows:

- Loss of supporting sites (particularly associated with the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA and the North Pennine Moors SPA): it is currently not known whether greenfield sites which provide supporting functions to the SPAs can be identified. The potential for supporting sites to exist would need to be investigated in consultation with Natural England. With regards to the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, it is advised that a similar approach be designed to that taken by other local authorities with regards to their Core Strategy HRAs (in this case, Bradford Council). For the North Pennine Moors SPA, a buffer distance should be determined within

which all allocations are considered for their potential to be functionally connected land for SPA birds;

- Recreation disturbance effects: Further investigation of existing recreation issues and management of, for example, the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, South Pennine Moors SAC, the North Pennine Moors SPA and the North Pennine Moors SAC is needed, as well as analysis of whether the other draft Local Plan policies are sufficient to safeguard against this effect occurring. The evidence collected and approach taken by neighbouring local authorities will be carefully considered regarding the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA. For the North Pennine Moors SPA, buffer distance should be determined within which all allocations are considered for their potential to be functionally connected land for SPA birds. Recreational impacts on other European sites will need investigation but are considered by Natural England to be less at risk;
- Hydrology and water quality: Further investigation is required to establish whether adverse effects may occur from increased water demand due to developments near to designated sites, particularly in the east and southeast of the plan area. The research required has been previously referred to, namely consultation with utility companies regarding the impact of growth on water abstraction rates and waste water treatment works. This is to analyse if residential and employment growth poses a resultant risk to European sites;
- Air quality effects: Further examination is required to ascertain whether Local Plan policies contain sufficient safeguards to protect against an air pollution effect occurring excessively on the designated sites which are particularly sensitive, and whether any specific sources of air pollution can be identified, such as increased traffic on A-roads lying within 200m of the designated site;
- Cat predation: Further analysis is needed to confirm whether new housing could be located within 400m of the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA and SAC, as this designated area has settlements which are closest to it of any designated site;
- Injury and mortality of birds from wind turbines: Local Plan Policy ENV9 (Renewable and Low Carbon Energy) may require strengthening in order to protect the birdlife associated with European sites.

In addition, recommendations are suggested for changes and additions to the wording of some other draft Local Plan policies, with the objective for these policies to provide more effective safeguarding against likely significant effects on the designated sites.

At this stage, it is therefore not possible to conclude that no adverse effects on European sites will occur as a result of the draft Local Plan. A Stage 2 of the HRA process (Appropriate Assessment) is required in order to understand whether there could be potential adverse effects on the integrity of the European sites alone, and/or in combination with other plans and projects. If potential effects on site integrity are identified, measures to avoid effects will need to be considered and incorporated into the plans. An Appropriate Assessment

Report will accompany the next draft of the Local Plan, along with the completion of key documents such as the updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

Craven District Council are also currently updating their Environmental Capacity Study for the larger settlements in the District as part of an analysis into the appropriate spatial directions for residential and employment growth in each of the settlements. Further information contained in this capacity study and the consideration of these constraints should be included within an assessment of the preferred site allocations.

Overall, the increased and completed evidence base to support the Sustainability Appraisal of the sites will be turn be very useful to inform the Appropriate Assessment analysis. A more detailed assessment of the effects of each settlement's set of preferred residential sites, alone and in combination with other settlements, would provide greater certainty that Likely Significant Effects can be ruled out. This analysis will be incorporated as part of the Appropriate Assessment stage.

APPENDIX 1 – Description of SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites, and analysis of likely effects

South Pennine Moors SPA Phase II

Reason for being identified

The site is partly within the Local Plan area. At its nearest point, the site is approximately 2km south of the settlement of Sutton-in-Craven, 3km south of Glusburn & Cross Hills, and 9km south of Skipton.

Introduction

The site covers an area of 64,983 hectares, of which only the northernmost tip is within the Craven Local Plan area. This site covers the key moorland blocks of the Southern Pennines. The moorlands are on a rolling dissected plateau formed from rocks of Millstone Grit, at altitudes of between 300m – 600m. The greater part of the gritstone is overlain by blanket peat, with the coarse gravelly mineral soils occurring only on the lower slopes. The moorlands as a whole support a breeding bird community of national and international importance.

The site also supports extensive areas of acid grassland largely derived from dry and wet heath. In the cloughs or valleys, which extend into the heather moorlands, a greater mix of dwarf shrubs can be found together with more lichens and mosses. The moors support a rich invertebrate fauna, especially moths, and important bird assemblages.

Features of Interest

This qualifies under the Directive - Qualification (2009/147/EC).

- Qualifying features include *Falco columbarius* Merlin, *Pluvialis apricaria* European golden plover and the breeding bird assemblage.

The site qualifies under the Directive (2009/147/EC) for supporting the following internationally important assemblage of breeding birds:

- *Actitus hypoleucos* Common sandpiper, *Calidris alpine schinzii* Dunlin, *Carduelis flavirostris* Twite, *Gallinago gallinago* Snipe, *Oenanthe oenanthe* Northern wheatear, *Saxicola rubetra* Whinchat, *Tringa totanus* Redshank, *Asio flammeus* Short eared owl, *Turdus torquatus* Ring ouzel, *Numenius arquata* Eurasian curlew, and *Vanellus vanellus* Northern lapwing.

Conservation Objectives

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:

- 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.

Vulnerabilities

The South Pennine Moors SPA Phase II is largely enclosed on two sides by large industrial urban areas, which means that high numbers of people use the area for recreational activities. Land management is primarily driven by agriculture, rough grazing for sheep, and grouse-shooting.

Priorities and issues include hydrological changes which is perceived as a threat to features such as A103(B) Peregrine, A140(B) Golden Plover, A222(B) Short-eared Owl, A466(B) Dunlin, and Breeding Bird assemblage. There is a requirement to restore site hydrology by implementing restoration plans. Managed rotational burning is a pressure on features A098(B) Merlin, A140(B) Golden Plover, A222(B) Short-eared Owl, A466(B) Dunlin, and the Breeding Bird assemblage. There is a need to research and implement alternative management and less intensive burning programmes. Planning permissions are also a pressure/threat, affecting features such as A098(B) Merlin, A103(B) Peregrine, A140(B) Golden Plover, and A222(B) Short-eared Owl. A more joined up approach across Local Authorities towards the larger planning applications in the vicinity may be required to be further developed.

Maintenance of the ecosystems relies primarily on appropriate grazing levels and burning regimes. There are a number of other key pressures upon the site; these include overgrazing by sheep, burning as a tool for grouse moor management and inappropriate drainage through moor-gripping. All these issues are being tackled, and an integrated management strategy and conservation action programme has been produced as part of an EU funded LIFE project for the area to the north of the Peak District National Park. Management of the site, especially north of the National Park, is further complicated by the large number of commons.

The former extensive cover of woodland has declined over many centuries to the point that it is fragmented, with no woodland included in the site to the north of the Peak District National Park.

Table A1: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan

Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	LSE due to draft Craven District Plan?	Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies	Assessment of significance and rationale for conclusion
<p>Loss of supporting feeding sites outside of the SPA associated with the following parts of the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The preferred spatial development option; • Draft Policy SP1: Meeting Housing Need; • Draft Policy SP2: Economic Activity and Business Growth; • Draft Policy SP4: Spatial Strategy and Housing Growth. 	<p>Uncertain. The draft Local Plan identifies residential and employment development in settlements close to this SPA. Any potential negative effects will depend on the specific preferred sites (taken from the current pool of site options).</p>	<p>Possible effects if other supporting sites in neighbouring Districts are lost to development.</p>	<p>Uncertain affects at present and an appropriate assessment will be required to examine the preferred sites selected. Greenfield developments could result in the loss of supporting sites to the SPA. Potential in-combination effect with development in neighbouring districts. Natural England advises that it would be useful to consult Bradford City Council regarding data they have collected and approach taken.</p>
<p>Inappropriate management</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No LSE. The draft Local Plan is unlikely to affect the habitat management regime of the site.</p>

<p>Changes in hydrology and water quality associated with the following policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The preferred spatial development option; • Draft Policy SP1: Meeting Housing Need; • Draft Policy SP2: Economic Activity and Business Growth; • Draft Policy SP4: Spatial Strategy and Housing Growth; • Draft Policy SP12: Infrastructure, Strategy and Development Delivery; • Draft Policy ENV8: Water Resources, Water Quality and Groundwater. 	<p>The potential for the housing and employment proposed in the Local Plan to affect the hydrology of the SPA is unknown. Development is proposed close to the boundary of the SPA, and it remains to be seen what sites are chosen for development. It is not known whether there are any issues relating to water supply and the delivery of the Local Plan. Further investigation and also consultation with Natural England is required to establish whether an adverse effect can occur and whether the draft Local Plan policies provide sufficient safeguards to protect the SPA.</p>	<p>Potential in combination effects of increased water demand from neighbouring districts. Natural England considers that impacts on water quality from the plan to be unlikely as proposals will not be upstream of the SPA. However, should the increase in housing require more water abstraction within or close to the SPA, then hydrological impacts would be possible.</p>	<p>Risk of LSE is unknown. On the basis of the precautionary principle, an LSE is identified because the draft Local Plan has directed development close to the boundaries of the SPA in its pool of sites for settlements close to the SPA. It is not known whether there are any issues relating to water supply and the delivery of the Local Plan. Further investigation and consultation with Natural England is required, particularly at a stage when the preferred sites list is chosen. Information gathered from the Council's upcoming Infrastructure Delivery Plan will also prove useful in further analysis. Consultation required with the relevant water utility companies on issues previously outlined.</p>
<p>Pet predation of ground nesting birds associated with housing (i.e. domestic cats) in connection with the pool of sites listed.</p>	<p>No. Housing development is directed to settlements in close proximity to the SPA, but from the pool of sites, there are currently no sites located within 400m of the SPA, a distance at which research suggests cats could roam.</p>	<p>There is potential for sites in Cross Hills & Glusburn, Sutton-in-Craven and Cowling to cause problems here, but the sites in the settlements are not located within 400m of the SPA.</p>	<p>No LSE. Housing developments are not located within 400m of the SPA and a potentially adverse effect on ground nesting birds from cat predation is not anticipated.</p>

<p>Recreation – trampling of vegetation/ disturbance of ground nesting bird species associated with the following policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The preferred spatial development option; • Draft Policy SP1: Meeting Housing Need; • Draft Policy SP2: Economic Activity and Business Growth; • Draft Policy SP4: Spatial Strategy and Housing Growth; • Draft Policy SP8: Strategy for Glusburn/Crosshills; • Draft Policy SP12: Infrastructure, Strategy and Development Delivery; • Draft Policy EC4: Tourism 	<p>Housing development and therefore growth in the population within the District and within certain settlements close to the SPA could result in increased recreational pressure on the site, particularly at Rombalds Moor which is surrounded by settlements and which is reportedly well used for recreation. The policies also promote tourism which may increase recreational pressure on the SPA.</p>	<p>Possibly in combination with population increases in surrounding Districts to the south and east of the District boundary.</p>	<p>LSE. Population increase in the District as a whole and in certain settlements may increase recreational pressure on the SPA, particularly on Rombalds Moor. Potential in-combination effect with development in neighbouring districts. Natural England advises that it would be useful to consult Bradford Council regarding data they have collected and the approach taken.</p>
<p>Population increase from housing development and associated increase in traffic causes eutrophication for wet and dry heaths due to air pollution and can hence affect bird populations. Associated with the following:</p>	<p>The Local Plan is planning for 5,120 new homes and employment development up to 2032 and this may result in increased traffic and air pollution, which could result in eutrophication of the wet and dry</p>	<p>A possible effect. The Bradford Core Strategy is proposing approximately 48,000 new homes and employment development up to 2028. Increased air pollution in neighbouring areas is hence possible although dispersed air</p>	<p>LSE. Potential eutrophication effect on South Pennine Moors SPA and its heath habitats from potential increases in traffic from growth proposed in the Local Plan. Roads within 200m of the European site should be</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Policy SP1: Meeting Housing Need; • Draft Policy SP2: Economic Activity and Business Growth; • Draft Policy SP4: Spatial Strategy and Housing Growth; • Draft Policy ENV7: Land and Air Quality. 	<p>heaths on the SPA.</p>	<p>pollution is a regional, if not, national issue.</p>	<p>considered with regards to the potential for increased traffic as a result of housing and employment growth proposed in the plan. There is a need to identify whether any roads within 200m of SPA will receive an increase in traffic as a result of growth proposed in the plan.</p>
<p>Renewable energy developments resulting in injury / mortality of birds.</p>	<p>Policy ENV9, Renewable and Low Carbon Energy, promote renewable energy developments. Wind turbines could be associated with bird injury/mortality. However, Policy ENV9 includes text requiring full assessment of wind turbine proposals and integration of measures to minimise adverse effects but this wording does not deal specifically with potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites.</p>	<p>It is unlikely that projects in neighbouring areas would be given planning permission which would also have this potential effect. No in-combination effects therefore identified.</p>	<p>LSE. In the interests of the precautionary principle an LSE is identified. Policy ENV9 may not adequately protect the SPA from potential adverse effects. Wording of Policy ENV9 should be tightened in order to avoid an effect on European designated sites.</p>

Recommendations:

Loss of supporting feeding sites: Greenfield developments could result in the loss of supporting sites to the SPA for wildlife. It is not currently known whether sites which provide supporting functions to the SPA have been identified. The potential for supporting sites to exist would need to be investigated through Appropriate Assessment.

Hydrology and water quality: Further investigation and consultation with Natural England is required to establish whether an adverse effect could occur and whether the Local Plan policies provide sufficient safeguards to protect the SPA.

Pet predation: From an analysis of the pool of sites, there are no sites proposed where new housing could be located within 400m of the SPA. A further check will be needed on any new sites which may come forward for consideration.

Recreation effects: Further investigation of existing recreation issues and management of the SPA is needed through Appropriate Assessment as well as whether the other Local Plan policies are sufficient to safeguard against this effect occurring.

Air quality effects: Further investigation is required to ascertain whether other Local Plan policies contain sufficient safeguards to protect against this effect occurring and whether any specific sources of air pollution can be identified, such as significantly increased traffic on roads lying within 200m of the SPA.

Injury and mortality of birds from wind turbines: Policy ENV9 should consider a tightening of its wording in terms of the avoidance of adverse effects on Special Protection Areas.

South Pennine Moors SAC

Reason for being identified

The site is partly within the Local Plan area. At its nearest point, the site is approximately 2km south of the settlement of Sutton-in-Craven, 3km south of Glusburn & Cross Hills, and 9km south of Skipton.

Introduction

The site is very large covering 64,983 hectares, of which only the northernmost tip is within the Craven Local Plan area. This site covers the key moorland blocks of the Southern Pennines. The moorlands are on a rolling dissected plateau formed from rocks of Millstone Grit at altitudes of

between 300m – 600m. The greater part of the gritstone is overlain by blanket peat with the coarse gravely mineral soils occurring only on the lower slopes. The moorlands as a whole support a breeding bird community of national and international importance.

The site also supports extensive areas of acid grassland largely derived from dry and wet heath. In the cloughs, or valleys, which extend into the heather moorlands, a greater mix of dwarf shrubs can be found together with more lichens and mosses. The moors support a rich invertebrate fauna, especially moths, and important bird assemblages.

Features of Interest

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

- European dry heaths (H4030)
- Blanket bogs (H7130)
- Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum (H91A0)

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

- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix (H4010)
- Transition mires and quaking bogs (H7140)

SSSI component sites

- Via Gellia Woodlands SSSI, The Dark Peak SSSI, Goyt Valley SSSI, Eastern Peak District Moors SSSI.

Conservation Objectives

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:

- 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

Vulnerabilities

The South Pennine Moors SAC is largely enclosed on two sides by large industrial urban areas, which means that large numbers of people use the area for recreational activities. Land management is primarily driven by agriculture, rough grazing for sheep, and grouse-shooting.

Access management has been a key issue, and with proposals under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, will continue as such. Mechanisms for addressing access management issues include a range of fora, research and the role of various organisations. Accidental fires can cause extensive damage to vegetation.

Maintenance of the ecosystems relies primarily on appropriate grazing levels and burning regimes. There are a number of key pressures upon the site; these include overgrazing by sheep, burning as a tool for grouse moor management and inappropriate drainage through moor-gripping. All these issues are being tackled, and an integrated management strategy and conservation action programme has been produced as part of an EU funded LIFE project for the area to the north of the Peak District National Park. Management of the site, especially north of the National Park, is further complicated by the large number of commons.

Atmospheric pollution over the last few hundred years has depleted the lichen and bryophyte flora and may be affecting dwarf-shrubs. The impact has arguably been greatest on blanket bog, wet heath and transition mire where the bog-building Sphagnum mosses have been largely lost. Combined with historical overgrazing, burning (accidental and deliberate), drainage and locally trampling, large areas of blanket bog have become de-vegetated and eroded. It is unclear at this stage whether the effects are irreversible. Attempts over recent decades to reverse these processes have achieved mixed and limited results. The combination of these effects means that most if not all of the blanket bog will not be classed as favourable. Whilst all efforts can be made to control current factors such as current grazing and burning patterns, current atmospheric pollutant levels and access impacts, it is unclear whether this can fully mitigate the long-term influence of the historical factors such as atmospheric pollution, past burning and overgrazing. The situation is further complicated by a view that some erosion features can be considered natural phenomena of intrinsic interest. It may not therefore always be appropriate to try and revegetate bare peat even if suitable techniques exist.

The former extensive cover of woodland has declined over many centuries to the point that it is fragmented, with no woodland included in the site to the north of the Peak District National Park.

Table A2: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan

Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	LSE due to draft Craven District Plan?	Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies	Assessment of significance and rationale for conclusion
Changes in hydrology and water quality affecting bogs, mires and heaths.	The potential for the housing and employment growth proposed within the draft Local Plan to affect the hydrology of the SPA is unknown. Development is proposed close to the boundary of the SAC particularly near Rombalds Moor. It is not known whether there are any issues relating to water supply and the delivery of the Local Plan. Further investigation and consultation with Natural England is required to establish whether an adverse effect may occur and whether the Local Plan policies provide sufficient safeguards to protect the SAC.	Potential in combination effects of increased water demand from neighbouring districts. The relevant water utility company will need to be consulted on the issues previously outlined.	Risk of LSE uncertain. On the basis of the precautionary principle, an LSE is identified because the draft Local Plan directs development close to the boundaries of the SAC. Natural England considers that impacts on water quality from the plan to be unlikely as proposals will not be upstream of the SAC. However, should the increase in housing require more water abstraction within or close to the SAC, then hydrological impacts would be possible.
Population increase from housing development and associated increase in traffic causes eutrophication for wet and dry heaths due to air pollution and	The Local Plan is planning for 5,120 new homes and employment development up to 2032. This can result in increased traffic and air pollution in the	Possibly, with increased air pollution in neighbouring areas although dispersed air pollution is a regional, if not, national issue.	LSE. Potential eutrophication effect on SAC heath habitats from increases in traffic from growth proposed in the draft Local Plan. Roads within 200m of the

can hence affect bird populations.	vicinity of a European site, which may result in eutrophication of the wet and dry heaths on the SAC.		European site should be considered with regards to the potential for increased traffic as a result of housing and employment growth proposed in the plan.
Recreation – trampling of vegetation/increased risk of fire setting, potentially associated with the policies.	Housing development and therefore growth in the population within the District and within certain settlements close to the SAC could result in increased recreational pressure on the site, particularly at Rombalds Moor which is surrounded by settlements and which is reportedly well used for recreation. The sub area policies also promote tourism which could increase recreational pressure on the SAC.	Possibly in combination with population increases in surrounding Districts to the south and west of the SAC/District boundary.	LSE. Population increase in the District as a whole and in certain settlements could increase recreational pressure on the SAC, particularly near Rombalds Moor. Potential in combination effect with development in neighbouring districts. Natural England advise consultation with Bradford Council regarding the data they collected and the approach taken in this regard.
Inappropriate management	None	None	No LSE. The Local Plan is unlikely to affect the habitat management regime of the site.

Recommendations:

Recreation effects: Further investigation of existing recreation issues and management of the SAC is needed through Appropriate Assessment as well as whether the other Local Plan policies are sufficient to safeguard against this effect occurring.

Air quality effects: Further investigation is required to ascertain whether Local Plan policies contain sufficient safeguards to protect against this effect occurring, and whether any specific sources of air pollution can be identified, such as increased traffic on A-roads lying within 200m of the SAC.

Hydrology and water quality: Further investigation and consultation with Natural England is required to establish whether an adverse effect could occur and whether the Core Strategy policies provide sufficient safeguards to protect the SAC.

North Pennine Moors SPA

Reason for being identified

The site lies within 1km of the Plan area boundary and within close proximity at its nearest point to the settlements of Embsay (1.4km south), Skipton (3.7km south), Gargrave (5.7km southwest) and Bolton Abbey (2.7km southeast).

Introduction

The North Pennine Moors SPA includes parts of the Pennine moorland massif between the Tyne Gap (Hexham) and the Ribble-Aire corridor (Skipton). It encompasses extensive tracts of semi-natural moorland habitats including upland heath and blanket bog. The southern end of the North Pennine Moors SPA is within 10 km of the South Pennine Moors SPA, which supports a similar assemblage of upland breeding species.

Features of Interest

This site qualifies under the Directive (2009/147/EC) by supporting populations of European importance of the species listed below on Annex I of the Directive.

During the breeding season:

- Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, Merlin *Falco columbarius*, and Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*.

This site also qualifies under the Directive (2009/147/EC) by supporting populations of European importance of the migratory species below.

The SPA is designated for its breeding populations of golden plover, hen harrier, merlin and peregrine, which are of European importance. In 2001, a review of Britain's SPA network carried out by the JNCC identified two further populations of international importance within the SPA – breeding curlew and dunlin.

Conservation Objectives

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:

- 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.

Table A3: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan

Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	LSE due to draft Craven District Plan?	Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies	Assessment of significance and rationale for conclusion
Water levels affected by increased water demand and flood risk management measures associated with the following policies.	The source of water for existing and new housing development and whether there are any issue associated with it are unknown, e.g. whether water demand for new housing can be accommodated within existing water abstraction consents or if alterations to existing infrastructure or additional infrastructure is required which	Potential in-combination effects of increased water demand from neighbouring districts.	Uncertainty regarding risk of LSE at present. Further investigation is required to ascertain whether water demand for new housing can be accommodated within existing water abstraction consents or if it requires the creation of new reservoirs on the SPA. The plan does not promote development on the SPA site itself and the closest

	<p>may directly affect the site. Natural England consider that impacts on water quality from the plan to be unlikely as proposals will not be upstream of the SPA. However, should the increase in housing require more water abstraction within or close to the SPA, then hydrological impacts would be possible.</p>		<p>development would be Emsay. No development is specifically promoted which requires large amounts of water. Consultation with the relevant water utility company will be useful on issues previously mentioned.</p>
Inappropriate management	None	None	No LSE. The draft Local Plan is unlikely to affect the habitat management regime of the site.
Recreation – trampling / disturbance of ground nesting bird species.	<p>Housing development and therefore growth in the population within the District and within certain settlements close to the SPA (i.e. Skipton, Gargrave, and Emsay) could result in increased recreational pressure on the site.</p>	<p>Possibly in combination with population increases in surrounding Districts such as Bradford Core Strategy and Harrogate Borough. To increase confidence that significant effects of recreational disturbance and trampling of habitat will be avoided, the AA report should provide evidence of existing accessible greenspaces which provide alternatives to the SPA.</p>	<p>LSE. Population increase in the District as a whole and in certain settlements may increase recreational pressure on the SPA. Natural England considers current levels of recreation managed but increases could be damaging.</p>
Population increase from housing development and associated increase in traffic causes eutrophication for heaths due to air pollution and hence affect bird	<p>The draft Local Plan is to accommodate for 5,120 new homes and employment development up to 2032 and this may result in increased traffic and</p>	<p>Possibly, with increased air pollution in neighbouring areas although dispersed air pollution is a regional, if not, national issue. Roads within 200m of the</p>	<p>LSE. Potential eutrophication effect on SPA heath habitats from potential increases in traffic from growth proposed in the draft Local Plan. There is a need to</p>

populations.	air pollution, which may result in eutrophication of the wet and dry heaths on the SPA.	European site should be considered with regards to the potential for increased traffic as a result of housing and employment growth proposed in the plan.	identify whether any roads within 200m of the SPA will receive an increase in traffic as a result of growth proposed in the plan.
Loss of supporting feeding sites outside of the SPA associated with new residential and employment development.	Yes. The draft Local Plan identifies possible housing and employment development in Skipton and Embsay, which are both situated close to the SPA. Development in these settlements may involve development of greenfield sites which could be providing a supporting function to the SPA.	Possibly if other supporting sites in neighbouring Districts are lost to development. There is a need to determine the distance within which SPA birds are likely to be affected. For example, Bradford Council used a distance of 2.5km for the South Pennine Moors.	LSE. Greenfield developments could result in the loss of supporting sites to the SPA. It is not known whether sites which provide supporting functions to the SPA have been identified. Potential in-combination effect with development in neighbouring district. Once a distance has been set regarding the potential effect on SPA birds using habitat mapping, consultation is required with local records centre and wildlife groups, aerial photography literature etc. as appropriate. Where the suitability for SPA birds cannot be ruled out, site surveys will be necessary.
Pet predation of ground nesting birds associated with housing (i.e. cats).	None.	None.	No LSE. The plan does not propose new housing developments which could be within 400m of the SPA boundary. The nearest

			settlements are approximately 1.5km from the SPA boundary.
Renewable energy developments resulting in injury/mortality of birds.	Unlikely due to the geography of the area. Policy ENV9, Renewable and Low Carbon Energy, includes text requiring full assessment of wind turbine proposals and integration of measures to minimise adverse effects but this wording does not deal specifically with potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites.	It is unlikely that projects in neighbouring areas would be given planning permission which would also have this potential effect. No in-combination effects therefore identified.	LSE. In the interests of the precautionary principle an LSE is identified. Policy Energy ENV9 may not adequately protect the SPA from potential adverse effects. Wording of Policy EN6 Energy should be tightened in order to avoid an effect on European designated sites.

Recommendations

Recreation effects: Further investigation of existing recreation issues and management of the SPA is needed through AA as well as whether the other draft Local Plan policies are sufficient to safeguard against this effect occurring.

Air quality effects: Further investigation is required to ascertain whether draft Local Plan policies contain sufficient safeguards to protect against this effect occurring and whether any specific sources of air pollution can be identified, such as increased traffic on A-roads lying within 200m of the SPA.

Loss of supporting sites: Greenfield developments could result in the loss of supporting sites to the SPA. It is currently not known whether sites which provide supporting functions to the SPA have been identified. The potential for supporting sites to exist would need to be investigated through an Appropriate Assessment.

Hydrology: Further investigation and consultation with Natural England is required to establish whether an adverse effect could occur and whether the draft Local Plan policies provide sufficient safeguards to protect the SPA.

Injury and mortality of birds from wind turbines: The wording of Policy ENV9, Renewable and Low Carbon Energy, should be tightened in order to avoid an effect on European designated sites.

North Pennine Moors SAC

Introduction

A vast European site covering 103109.42ha, stretching from Northumberland in the north to Skipton in the south. The North Pennine Moors hold much of the upland heathland of northern England. A significant proportion of the bog remains active with accumulating peat. Acidic rock outcrops and screes are well-scattered across the North Pennine Moors and support a range of lichens and bryophytes. The site also contains base-rich rocks that support calcicole crevice vegetation communities.

Features of Interest

North Pennine Moors SAC has the following qualifying features:

H4010. Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath

H4030. European dry heaths

H5130. *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands

H6130. Calaminarian grasslands of the *Violetalia calaminariae*; Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals

H6150. Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands; Montane acid grasslands

H6210. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco brometalia*); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone

H7130. Blanket bogs*

H7220. Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*); Hard-water springs depositing lime*

H7230. Alkaline fens; Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens

H8110. Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*)

H8210. Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks

H8220. Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Plants in crevices on acid rocks

H91A0. Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles; Western acidic oak woodland

S1528. *Saxifraga hirculus*; Marsh saxifrage

* denotes a priority natural habitat or species

Conservation Objectives

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:

- 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.

Table A4: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan

Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	LSE due to draft Craven District Plan?	Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies	Assessment of significance and rationale for conclusion
Changes to hydrology and erosion through cutting of drains	Possible effects due to the range of residential sites available in the pool of sites.	In combination effects less likely than the South Pennine Moors SAC, but still must be considered.	Possible LSE. The plan may affect the hydrology of the site, but not in terms of cutting of drains and

			erosion from this source.
Inappropriate management	None	None	No LSE. The plan will not affect the management of the site, especially in terms of grazing and burning regimes.
Water levels affected by increased water demand and flood risk management measures associated with numerous policies.	The source of water for existing and new housing development, and whether there are any issue associated with it are unknown e.g. whether water demand for new housing can be accommodated within existing water abstraction consents or if alterations to existing infrastructure or additional infrastructure is required which could directly affect the site.	Potential in-combination effects of increased water demand from neighbouring districts. Consultation will be required with the relevant water utility company as part of the AA preparation. Natural England consider that impacts on water quality from the plan to be unlikely as proposals will not be upstream of the SAC. However, should the increase in housing require water abstraction within or close to the SAC, then hydrological impacts would be possible.	Risk of LSE uncertain. Further investigation is required to ascertain whether water demand for new housing can be accommodated within existing water abstraction consents or if alternations to existing infrastructure or additional infrastructure is required which could directly affect the site. The plan does not provide development on the SAC site itself and the closest development would be at Embsay and Skipton. There is no development proposed for the nearby settlement of Bolton Abbey. No development is specifically promoted which requires large amounts of water.
Population increase from housing development and associated increase in traffic causes eutrophication for heaths due to air pollution.	The draft Local Plan is planning for 5,120 new homes and employment development up to 2032 and this could result in increased traffic and air pollution,	Possibly, with increased air pollution in neighbouring areas although dispensed air pollution is a regional, if not, national issue. Roads within 200m of the	LSE. Potential eutrophication effect on SAC heath habitats from potential increases in traffic from growth proposed in the draft Local Plan. To increase

	<p>which could result in eutrophication of the wet and dry heaths on the SAC.</p>	<p>European site should be considered with regards to the potential for increased traffic as a result of housing and employment growth proposed in the plan.</p>	<p>confidence that significant effects of recreational disturbance and trampling of habitat will be avoided, the AA report should include evidence of existing accessible greenspaces which provide alternatives to the SAC.</p>
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Recommendations

Recreation effects: Further investigation of existing recreation issues and management of the SAC is needed through AA as well as whether the other Local Plan policies are sufficient to safeguard against this effect occurring. Natural England considers current levels of recreation managed but increases could be damaging. To increase confidence that significant effects of recreational disturbance and trampling of habitat will be avoided, the Appropriate Assessment report should include evidence of existing accessible greenspaces which provide alternatives to the SAC.

Air quality effects: Further investigation is required to ascertain whether other draft Local Plan policies contain sufficient safeguards to protect against this effect occurring and whether any specific sources of air pollution can be identified, such as increased traffic on A roads lying within 200m of the SAC.

Hydrology: Further investigation and consultation with Natural England is required to establish whether an adverse effect could occur and whether the draft Local Plan policies provide sufficient safeguards to protect the SAC.

Bowland Fells SPA

Reason for being identified

The site lies within the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, 6.3km south of the settlement of High Bentham and 10.3km west of the village of Rathmell at its nearest point. The site is a major visitor attraction.

Introduction

Of exceptional nature and scientific importance for a range of bird species associated with blanket bog and heather moorland.

Features of Interest

This site qualifies under the Directive (2009/147/EC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

During the breeding season:

- Hen Harrier, *Circus cyaneus* and Merlin, *Falco columbarius*

This site also qualifies under the Directive (2009/147/EC) by supporting populations of European importance of the migratory species listed below.

During the breeding season:

- Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Larus fuscus*

Conservation Objectives

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:

- 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.

Vulnerabilities

The expansive blanket bog and heather dominated moorland provides suitable habitat for a diverse range of upland breeding birds. Favourable nature conservation status of the site depends on appropriate levels of sheep grazing, sympathetic moorland burning practice, sensitive water catchment land management practices and on-going species protection. Since designation as an SPA, many localised problems of over-grazing have been controlled through management agreements or the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. To date approximately 20 per cent of the SPA is under Section 15 management agreements and Countryside Stewardship to stimulate heather regeneration in order to produce better moorland for grouse and raptors alike. Burning plans and stocking levels have also been agreed for all other areas of the SPA through Site Management Statements, whilst problems of raptor persecution continues to be addressed by the RSPB in conjunction with North West Water, English Nature and Lancashire Constabulary.

Table A5: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan

Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	LSE due to draft Craven District Plan?	Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies	Assessment of significance and rationale for conclusion
Change in land management	None	None	No LSE. The draft Local Plan is unlikely to influence cutting, drainage and/or overgrazing of some of these areas which has reduced wintering habitat and may increase mortality of birds.
Inappropriate management	None	None	No LSE. The draft Local Plan is unlikely to affect the habitat management regime of the site.
Game management: grouse moors	None	None	No LSE. The draft Local Plan is unlikely to negatively influence activities in terms of consented culling.
Recreation – trampling /	Housing development and	Possibly in combination with	LSE. Population increase in the

disturbance of ground nesting bird species.	therefore growth in the population within the District and within certain settlements close to the SPA (i.e. Ingleton, Bentham, and Settle) could result in increased recreational pressure on the site.	population increases in surrounding Districts such as Bradford, Harrogate, Preston, Burnley, Blackburn & Lancaster.	District as a whole and in certain settlements could increase recreational pressure on the SPA Potential in-combination effect with development in neighbouring districts as noted.
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Recommendation

Recreation: Possibility of erosion and trampling of birds nesting sites through increased recreational pressure. Bowland Fells SPA is located in a relatively isolated part of the region, within the AONB, however further examination of these effects will be needed in terms of an Appropriate Assessment.

Leighton Moss SPA

Reason for being identified

The site lies within 20km of the plan area to the northwest of Burton-in-Lonsdale. The nearest point of the site is 17.3km from this settlement. The site is a major visitor attraction.

Introduction

This site contains the largest reed bed in northern England and the only large reed bed in Lancashire. Leighton Moss was originally an extensive peat moss area brought into agricultural use as arable land in the 19th century.

Features of Interest

This site qualifies under the Directive (2009/147/EC) by supporting populations of European importance of the species listed below on Annex I of the Directive.

During the breeding season:

- Bittern, *Botaurus stellaris* and Marsh Harrier, *Circus aeruginosus* (Over winter: Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*)

Conservation Objectives

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:

- 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.

Table A6: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan

Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	LSE due to draft Craven District Plan?	Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies	Assessment of significance and rationale for conclusion
Water Pollution	Potential impacts in terms of the possible contribution from the pool of sites in the draft Local Plan.	Possible impacts from in-combination effects to an already sensitive area.	LSE. Nutrient enrichment of groundwater from organic fertilisers (manure and slurry), inorganic fertilisers and septic tanks in the Leighton Moss catchment is an issue in the SPA.

Inappropriate water levels	None	None	No LSE. The draft Local Plan is unlikely to affect the high rainfall events and a constrained outflow.
Siltation	None	None	No LSE. The draft Local Plan is not likely to affect siltation of the reedbed and open water has resulted in the reedbed becoming drier and the water column in the pools becoming shallower.
Recreation – trampling / disturbance of ground nesting bird species.	Housing development and therefore growth in the population within the District and within certain settlements close to the SPA (i.e. Ingleton, Bentham, and Settle) could result in increased recreational pressure on the site.	Possibly in combination with population increases in surrounding Districts such as Bradford, Harrogate and Lancashire.	LSE. Population increase in the District as a whole and in certain settlements could increase recreational pressure on the SPA Potential in-combination effect with development in neighbouring districts as noted.

Recommendations:

Water Pollution: Further investigation will be required in the Appropriate Assessment as to the amount and type of sites allocated in the northwest Craven area.

Recreation: Proposed development in the northwest of the Craven Local Plan area, nearest to this site, is relatively low. Already, this is a small designated site in terms of area and is already quite sensitive in terms of water pollution effects. Further investigation is required.

Morecambe Bay SPA

Reason for being identified

Located off the coast of northwest England, the site lies downstream from the Rivers Greta and Wenning which run through the north of the Local Plan area. The site is located 13.6km east of Ingleton and 11.5km from Burton-in-Lonsdale.

Introduction

Morecambe Bay is formed by the estuaries of five rivers – the Lune, Keer, Kent, Wyre and Leven and the mudflats of Walney Island and Pie Channel. The area represents the largest continuous intertidal area in Britain.

Features of Interest

This site qualifies under the Directive (2009/147/EC) by supporting populations of European importance of the species listed below on Annex I of the Directive.

During the breeding season:

- Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*
- Over winter: Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* and Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

This site also qualifies under the Directive (2009/147/EC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

During the breeding season:

- Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*.
- Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance.

The area qualifies under the Directive (2009/147/EC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds. During the breeding season, the area regularly supports almost 62,000 individual seabirds (5 year peak mean for 1991/92 to 1995/96) including: Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*.

Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.

The area qualifies under the Directive (2009/147/EC) by regularly supporting a large number of individual waterfowl. Over winter, the area regularly supports waterfowl (5 year peak mean for 1991/92 to 1995/96) including: Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Eider *Somateria mollissima*, Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Sanderling *Calidris alba*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, and Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*.

Conservation Objectives

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:

- 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.

Vulnerabilities

The site is subject to a wide range of pressures such as land-claim for agriculture, overgrazing, dredging, overfishing, industrial uses and unspecified pollution. However, overall the site is relatively robust and many of those pressures have only slight to local effects and are being addressed through Management Plans. The breeding tern interest is very vulnerable and the colony has recently moved to the adjacent Duddon Estuary.

Positive management is being secured through management plans for non-governmental organisation reserves, English Nature Site Management Statements, European Marine Site Management Scheme, and the Morecambe Bay Partnership.

Table A7: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan

Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	LSE due to draft Craven District Plan?	Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies	Assessment of significance and rationale for conclusion
Public Access/Disturbance	None	Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies in the area.	Possible LSE. Further examination will be needed in terms of the amount and type of development in the settlements of northwest Craven.
Water Pollution	None	Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies in the area.	Possible LSE. The draft Local Plan and its allocations will need to be examined from the viewpoint of diffuse pollution and/or uncontrolled release of pollutants from terrestrial sources.
Inappropriate pest control.	None	None	No LSE. The draft Local Plan is not likely to effect the predation of nesting birds.

Recommendations

Public Access/Disturbance: Further investigation will be required on the preferred sites that come forward from the pool of sites stage to access any in-combination effects.

Water Pollution: Diffuse pollution and/or uncontrolled release of pollutants from terrestrial sources requires further examination in terms of the preferred list of sites chosen, particularly in the settlements of Ingleton and Bentham, situated to the northwest in the plan.

Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC

Reason for being identified

The site lies within 10km of the plan area boundary, with the nearest settlement being Burton-in-Lonsdale. Potential exists for impacts arising from recreational pressure.

Introduction

This site is perhaps the best example in England of lowland limestone pavements that range from low to moderate altitudes. Some of the pavements form woodland clearings that are sheltered and warm up quickly in spring.

Features of Interest

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

- Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp (H3140)
- Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands (H5130)
- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (H6210)
- Limestone pavements (H8240)

- Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines (H9180)
- Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles (H91J0)

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

- European dry heaths (H4030)
- Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae * Priority feature (H7210)
- Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles (H91A0)

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

- Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (S1014)

Conservation Objectives

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:

- 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.

Vulnerabilities

The SAC is subject to a number of problems related to the decline of traditional management practices. The under-grazing of grasslands and decline of traditional cattle grazing is leading to the loss of sward diversity and scrub encroachment problems. Localised overgrazing (sheep-dominated) has impoverished the pavement flora on one of the component sites. A decline of traditional coppice management has reduced

the interest of some of the woodland sites. The planting of non-native conifer crops on some of the sites has led to localised declines in condition. However, large parts of the site are nature reserves and are sensitively managed. A major restoration project funded by LIFE Nature is in progress to remove non-native conifer plantations and further other aspects of site restoration.

The problems are being addressed primarily through a series of management agreements. These include English Nature Wildlife Enhancement Schemes, Environmentally Sensitive Area Agreements, and Woodlands Grant Schemes.

Table A8: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan

Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	LSE due to draft Craven District Plan?	Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies	Assessment of significance and rationale for conclusion
Undergrazing	None	None	No LSE. The draft Local Plan is not likely to affect the problem of undergrazing.
Public Access/Disturbance	None	Possible in-combination effects in terms of existing recreational transport issues in and surrounding this site.	Possible LSE. The draft Local Plan has possible effects in terms of the existing problems of motorbike and off-road bikes are illegally accessing land and damaging small areas.
Water pollution	None	Possible in-combination effects in terms of the contributions of the settlements of Ingleton and Bentham.	Possible LSE. The draft Local Plan can present a problem for this site in terms of in-combination effects.
Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition.	None	None	No LSE. The draft Local Plan should not present any atmospheric nitrogen deposition effects.

Recommendations:

Public Access/Disturbance: There will be need to be a closer examination of the preferred sites list and the final distribution of growth when they come forward in terms of analysis of possible impacts.

Water Pollution: Careful consideration would need to be given to the settlements in the northwest of the Plan in terms of their potential contribution to water pollution episodes.

Ingleborough Complex SAC

Reason for being identified

The site is located 1.8km north east of Ingleton, and 6.6km north of Settle. The site may be affected by recreational pressure.

Introduction

Noted for its geological value as Britain's finest Karst area with limestone landforms formed under glacial conditions.

Features of Interest

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

- *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands (H5130);
- Alkaline fens (H7230);
- Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation (H8210);
- Limestone pavements (H8240).

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

- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (H6210);
- Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) (H6410);
- Blanket bogs (H7130);
- Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) (H7220);
- *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines (H9180).

Conservation Objectives

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:

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

Vulnerabilities

The diversity of interest of the limestone pavements, juniper and limestone rock habitats is dependent on there being a range of grazing intensities, from moderate to light to areas with no livestock grazing. Heavy livestock or rabbit grazing has been damaging and the Wildlife Enhancement Scheme and other forms of agri-environmental agreement are being used, successfully, to promote appropriate management. Removal of limestone pavement for sale as rockery stone and limestone quarrying have both caused problems in the past and are now addressed through Limestone Pavement Orders, the development planning process and the provisions for review of existing permissions under the Habitats Regulations.

The Site Improvement Plan (SIP) for Ingleborough Complex SPA highlights diffuse air pollution, specifically nitrogen deposition to be above critical levels for all habitats. Whilst the bulk of nitrogen is either in the form of ammonia or nitrous oxides and is probably from long distance

sources, there is the potential for some small increase from housing, transport or wastewater facilities in Ingleton being close to the nearest part of the Ingleborough Complex SAC.

Table A9: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan

Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	LSE due to draft Craven District Plan?	Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies	Assessment of significance and rationale for conclusion
Changes in hydrology and water quality affecting bogs, mires and heaths.	The potential for the housing and employment growth proposed within the draft Local Plan to affect the hydrology of the SPA is currently unknown. It is not presently known whether there are any issues relating to water supply and the delivery of the Local Plan. Further investigation and consultation with Natural England is required to establish whether an adverse effect may occur and whether the Local Plan policies provide sufficient safeguards to protect the SAC.	Potential in-combination effects of increased water demand from neighbouring districts. The relevant water utility company will need to be consulted on the issues previously outlined.	Risk of LSE uncertain. On the basis of the precautionary principle, an LSE is identified because the draft Local Plan directs development close to the boundaries of the SAC. It is not known whether there are any issues relating to water supply and the delivery of the Local Plan. Natural England considers that impacts on water quality from the plan to be unlikely as proposals will not be upstream of the SAC. However, should the increase in housing require more water abstraction within or close to the SAC, then hydrological impacts would be possible.
Population increase in terms of agriculture, housing, transport or sewage can cause increased impacts of nitrogen deposition.	Potential for effects on the Ingleborough Complex in terms of housing, transport or wastewater.	Possibly, with increased air pollution in neighbouring areas although dispersed air pollution is a regional, if not, national issue.	LSE. Potential nitrogen deposition from potential increases in agriculture from growth proposed in the Local Plan. The increase in nitrogen deposition may be

			significant relative to background levels. There is a need to identify whether any roads within 200m of SAC will receive an increase in traffic as a result of growth proposed in the plan.
Recreation – trampling of vegetation/increased risk of fire setting potentially associated with new residential development.	Housing development and therefore growth in the population within the District and within certain settlements close to the SAC could result in increased recreational pressure on the site. The sub area policies also promote tourism which could increase recreational pressure on the SAC.	Possibly in combination with population increases in surrounding Districts to the south and west of the SAC/District boundary.	LSE. Population increase in the District as a whole and in certain settlements could increase recreational pressure on the SAC. Potential in-combination effect with development in neighbouring districts. Natural England considers current levels of recreation managed but increases could be damaging. To increase confidence that significant effects of recreational disturbance and trampling of habitat will be avoided, the AA report should include evidence of existing accessible greenspaces which provide alternatives to the SAC.
Inappropriate management	None	None	No LSE. The Local Plan is unlikely to affect the habitat management regime of the site.

Recommendations

Air Pollution: The impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition in terms of development will need to be examined more closely when the preferred sites are selected. Roads within 200m of the European site should be considered with regards to the potential for increased traffic as a result of housing and employment growth proposed in the plan.

Hydrology and water quality: Further investigation and consultation with Natural England is required to establish whether an adverse effect could occur and whether the Local Plan policies provide sufficient safeguards to protect the SAC.

Recreation effects: Further investigation of existing recreation issues and management of the SAC is needed through Appropriate Assessment as well as whether the other Local Plan policies are sufficient to safeguard against this effect occurring. To increase confidence that significant effects of recreational disturbance and trampling of habitat will be avoided, the report should evidence of existing accessible greenspaces which provide alternatives to the SAC.

Craven Limestone Complex SAC

Reason for being identified

The site is located approximately 7km east of Settle at its nearest point. The site may be affected by local recreational or visitor pressure from within the Local Plan area. The site is a major visitor attraction, including Malham.

Introduction

The site includes the second most extensive area of calcareous grassland in Britain. The Complex is an important example of grassland-scrub transitions. The site supports a large mid-altitude limestone pavement. The Complex contains what are believed to be the largest expanses of purple moor-grass – marsh hawk's-beard (*Molinia caerulea* – *Crepis paludosa*) mire in Britain, amidst alkaline fens and active raised bog communities of the Malham Tarn area. Craven Limestone Complex is also the single remaining native site for Lady's-slipper orchid.

Features of Interest

Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site, and are listed as follows:

- Calcium-rich nutrient-poor lakes, lochs and pools (H3140)
- Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (H6210)
- Purple moor-grass meadows (H6410)
- Active raised bog (H7110)
- Hard-water springs depositing lime (H7220)
- Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens (H7230)
- Limestone pavements (H8240)

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

- Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals (H6130)
- Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes (H9180)

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

- White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish (S1092)
- Bullhead (S1163)
- Lady`s-slipper orchid (S1902)

Conservation Objectives

Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- 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.

Vulnerabilities

The diversity of interest of the limestone pavements, grasslands and springs is dependent on there being a range of grazing intensities, from moderate to light to areas with no livestock grazing. Heavy livestock or rabbit grazing has been damaging and the Wildlife Enhancement Scheme and other forms of agri-environmental agreement are being used, successfully, to promote appropriate management. Removal of limestone pavement for sale as rockery stone and limestone quarrying have both caused problems in the past but are now well controlled through Limestone Pavement Orders and the development planning process. The raised bog has suffered some past drainage but the hydrology has been made secure and the site is carefully managed. Malham Tarn is vulnerable to nutrient enrichment in the catchment and action has been taken to minimise such inputs.

Table A9: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan

Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	LSE due to draft Craven District Plan?	Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies	Assessment of significance and rationale for conclusion
Overgrazing	None	None	No LSE. The draft Local Plan is not likely to influence overgrazing by sheep, deer and/or rabbits.
Changes in species distributions	None	None	No LSE. The draft Local Plan should not negatively influence changes in species distributions.
Undergrazing	None	None	No LSE. The draft Local Plan should not present a problem in

			this regard.
Public Access/Disturbance	Possible effects in terms of public access/disturbance.	Possible in-combination effects.	Possible LSE. Public access causing erosion is one of the contributing factors to the lack of structure of the bank side/stream vegetation, and a closer study of the preferred sites will be required.

Recommendation:

Public Access/Disturbance: A closer examination of the preferred sites and the final distribution of residential growth allocation will be required when they are chosen to examine possible negative effects on public access and disturbance. To increase confidence that significant effects of recreational disturbance and trampling of habitat will be avoided, an Appropriate Assessment report should evidence of existing accessible greenspaces which provide alternatives to the SAC.

North Pennines Dales Meadows SAC

Reason for being identified

The site lies 9.5km southwest of Rathmell, which is the nearest settlement in the draft Craven Local Plan which is likely to be allocated development (this SAC is fragmented to cover various areas within proximity of the North Pennines across the north of England). Potential exists for impacts arising from recreational pressure.

Introduction

This site contains a series of isolated fields within several north Pennine and Cumbrian valleys, and encompasses the range of variation exhibited by mountain hay meadows in Britain. The grasslands included within the site exhibit very limited effects of agricultural improvement and show good conservation of structure and function.

Features of Interest

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

- Mountain hay meadows (H6520). This is one of only two known outstanding localities in Britain, which is considered to be rare as its total extent in Britain is estimated to be less than 1,000 hectares.

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

- Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils, *Molinion caeruleae* (H6410)

Conservation Objectives

Maintenance of the Annex I habitats are the main reason for selection of this site, in addition to the maintenance of non-primary habitats. There is a requirement to ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and to ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:

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

Vulnerabilities

These grasslands are dependent upon traditional agricultural management, with hay-cutting and no or minimal use of agrochemicals. Such management is no longer economic. Management agreements and financial payments are being used to promote the continuation of

traditional management. The refining of the prescriptions underpinning these schemes in the light of the findings of monitoring programmes is an important, and continuing, part of delivering favourable condition.

Table A11: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan

Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	LSE due to draft Craven District Plan?	Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies	Assessment of significance and rationale for conclusion
Inappropriate management	None	None	No LSE. The plan will not affect the management of the site. The component sites of the SAC are unlikely to be affected by development in the small settlement of Rathmell and the SAC is isolated from other major settlements in Craven.

Malham Tarn RAMSAR

Reason for Identification

The site lies 6km east of Settle. The site may be subject to recreational pressures as the site is a major visitor attraction.

Introduction

This is an important wetland of international significance, presenting areas of open water, fen, soligenous fen and raised bog. Rare plant species and wetland invertebrates exist here.

Features of Interest

Criteria for designation 1: It contains the highest marl lake in Britain, along acidophilous bog, calcareous fen and soligenous mire.

Nationally important species occurring on the site: fish – *Cuttos gobio* (bullhead), Invertebrates – *Austropotamobius pallipes* (freshwater crayfish).

Criteria designation 2: Nationally rare alpine Bartsia alpine and narrow small reed *Calamagrostis stricta* and seven nationally rare species. Malham Tarn supports five British Red Data Book invertebrates including the caddis fly *Agrypnia crassicornis*.

Vulnerabilities

Recreation – boat fishing is allowed on the tarn. A bird watching hide is situated on the north shore and it is open to visitors at all times. People walking along footpaths and bridleways, in addition to cycling and horse riding can present a recreational impact. The northeast shore is a popular picnic spot.

Table A12: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan

Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	LSE due to draft Craven District Plan?	Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies	Assessment of significance and rationale for conclusion
Changes in water chemistry	Natural England considers that impacts on water quality from the plan to be unlikely as proposals will not be upstream of the SAC. However, should the increase in housing require more water abstraction within or close to the SAC, then hydrological impacts would be possible.	None	LSE uncertain. There will be a need to discuss water hydrology and water quality issues with the relevant water utility company as previously referenced.
Recreation – trampling of vegetation and/or disturbance of ground nesting bird species may be associated with various draft policies.	Housing development, and therefore growth in the population within the District and within certain settlements close to the Ramsar site may result in	Possibly in combination with population increases in surrounding Districts to the south and east of the Craven District boundary.	LSE. Population increase in the District as a whole and in certain settlements may increase recreational pressure on the Ramsar site. Potential in-

	<p>increased recreational pressure on Malham Tarn, particularly as this is a relatively small site. The policies also promote tourism which may increase recreational pressure on the Ramsar site.</p>		<p>combination effect with development in neighbouring districts, as noted.</p>
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Recommendation

Recreational pressures: As Malham Tarn is a relatively small site, it would be sensitive to increases in residential development in the surrounding area, particularly in Giggleswick and Settle. Further investigation is required when the preferred sites are chosen. To increase confidence that significant effects of recreational disturbance and trampling of habitat will be avoided, an Appropriate Assessment report should include evidence of existing accessible greenspaces which provide alternatives to the Ramsar.

Leighton Moss RAMSAR

Reason for identification

The site lies within 20km of the Local Plan area, northwest of Burton-in-Lonsdale, and the site is a major tourist attraction.

Introduction

Leighton Moss is the largest reedbed in northwest England, and it is situated on the eastern edge of Morecambe Bay. Large areas of open water are surrounded by extensive reedbeds in which areas of willow scrub and mixed fen vegetation also occur. A typical and varied fen flora has developed in part, whilst the reedbed shows all stages of seral transition from open water through to woodland.

Features of Interest

This site is an example of large reedbed habitat, characteristic of the biogeographical region. The reedbeds are of particular importance as a northern outpost for breeding populations of great bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, Eurasian marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus* and bearded tit *Panurus biarmicus*.

The site supports a range of breeding birds including great bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, Eurasian marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus* and bearded tit *Panurus biarmicus*. Species occurring in nationally important numbers outside the breeding season include northern shoveler *Anas clypeata* and water rail *Rallus aquaticus*.

Vulnerabilities

Leighton Moss can receive large visitor numbers, particularly in summer, and hence there can be various recreational pressures.

Table A13: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan

Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	LSE due to draft Craven District Plan?	Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies	Assessment of significance and rationale for conclusion
Sedimentation/siltation	None	None	No LSE. The plan will not have an effect on the natural processes of sedimentation within Leighton Moss.
Water pollution	None as proposed development in west Craven is relatively low and at a sufficient distance from this site.	The contribution from the Local Plan in the western part of the District would be relatively low.	No LSE. The plan will not have an effect on increasing water pollution in Leighton Moss.

Humber Estuary RAMSAR

Reason for Identification

This estuary site is downstream of the Local Plan area, and it is situated on the northeast coast of England.

Introduction

The Humber Estuary is the largest macro-tidal estuary on the Britain's North Sea coast. It drains a catchment of some 24,240 square kilometres and is the site of the largest single input of freshwater from Britain into the North Sea. It has the second-highest tidal range in Britain (maximum of 7.4m), and approximately one-third of the estuary is exposed as mud or sand flats at low tide. The inner estuary supports extensive areas of reedbed with areas of mature and developing saltmarsh backed in places by limited areas of 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. The Estuary regularly supports internationally important numbers of waterfowl in winter and nationally important breeding populations in summer.

Features of Interest

The site is a 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.

It supports a breeding colony of Grey Seals *Halichoerus grypus* at Donna Nook. It is the second largest Grey Seal colony in England and the furthest south regular breeding site on the east coast of Britain. The dune slacks at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on the southern extremity of the Ramsar site are the most north-easterly breeding site in Britain of the natterjack toad *Bufo calamita*.

As mentioned above, the Humber Estuary supports populations of birds at levels of international importance. It acts as an important migration route for both River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* and Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* between coastal waters and their spawning areas.

Vulnerabilities

Water pollution from a variety of sources, including residential and agricultural, presents a continual risk.

Table A14: Assessment of significance of effects relating to the Craven Local Plan

Nature of potential effect (relating to site integrity)	LSE due to draft Craven District Plan?	Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies	Assessment of significance and rationale for conclusion
Water diversion for irrigation/domestic/industrial use	Unlikely.	Unlikely to result in significant water diversion, but further investigation may be required.	LSE unlikely. The plan is not likely to have an effect on water diversion.
Water pollution – domestic sewage	Unlikely but depends on wastewater treatment capacity.	The plan will not have an effect on domestic wastewater pollution, if wastewater treatment capacity exists to support proposed development of this plan in combination with other plans and programmes.	LSE unlikely. The plan will not have an effect on domestic wastewater pollution, if wastewater treatment capacity exists to support proposed development.
Water pollution – agricultural fertilisers	Unlikely.	LSE unlikely in combination with other plans.	LSE unlikely. The plan is not likely to have an effect on agricultural fertiliser pollution.

Appendix 2: Review of draft Local Plan Policies with regards to potential effects on European and Ramsar sites

Reference of policy option	Policy Summary	Relation to potential impact(s) on European and/or Ramsar sites	Assessment Category	Potential European Sites to be affected	Likelihood and Severity of Effects	Is an appropriate assessment required?
SP1 – Meeting Housing Need	The NPPF requires local planning authorities to use their evidence base to ensure that their local plan meets the full, objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing in their area.	This policy can steer development close to designated sites particularly at Skipton, Ingleton and Sutton. The policy identifies the south-east area of Craven as the main focus for growth. There are European sites contained within or close to this sub area (South Pennines SAC & SPA, and North Pennines Moors SAC & SPA). Allocations for new development within the settlements of Skipton, Embsay, Sutton and Cowling may raise effects including recreational pressures, noise, air and light pollution. Development at Settle, Clapham and Ingleton may also raise impacts in terms of recreational pressure, water quality and hydrological impacts, air and light pollution on the Inglebrough Complex SAC and North Pennines Dales Meadows SAC.	C & D	All sites, particularly those close to the southeast and northeast borders of the Craven District area where most of the development is intended to be located.	The strategy directs the vast majority of the growth towards larger settlements which would seem to be more sustainable in terms of services and transport than some of the village settlements. However, the likelihood and severity of effects from this spatial distribution of growth will need to be determined by an examination of the preferred sites and their location within the settlements, when this is decided. There is uncertainty regarding the likelihood and severity of effects until this is determined.	Uncertain effects at present; yes.

<p>SP2 – Economic activity and Business Growth</p>	<p>This policy aims to ensure that the local economy will grow, diversify and generate new employment and productivity opportunities.</p>	<p>The policy aims to diversify and generate new employment through supporting sustainable economic activity within towns, villages and the rural areas, and safeguarding existing employment land.</p>	<p>C & D</p>	<p>All the sites, particularly where employment pressure is highest in the southeast of the plan area.</p>	<p>Dependent on results of the consultation period to determine if all of the recommended new sites are to be brought forward and in what areas.</p>	<p>Uncertain effects at present; yes.</p>
<p>SP3 – Housing Mix</p>	<p>This policy aims to ensure the enhancement of the overall mix of housing types and sizes provided in the plan area.</p>	<p>Within the required residential numbers, this policy aims to diversify the overall mix of housing, with the possibility that less land will be taken overall, given the previous tendency of some development in the District to result in large properties on sites.</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>Possibility of positive effects as some larger sized residential housing may be avoided.</p>	<p>No or negligible effects foreseen.</p>
<p>SP4 – Spatial Strategy and Housing Growth</p>	<p>The policy seeks to deliver the spatial strategy and underpin sustainable growth within the plan area over the plan period.</p>	<p>The distribution of development will lead to greatest focus on the possible impacts in the south-east area of the Craven District Plan area (Gargrave and southeastwards) where over just 65% of the total growth is intended to be allocated.</p>	<p>C & D</p>	<p>All the sites, especially those sites which are close to the southeast sub-area of the Local Plan area.</p>	<p>The strategy directs the vast majority of the growth towards larger settlements which would seem to be more sustainable in terms of services and transport than some of the village settlements. However, the likelihood of effects from this spatial distribution of growth will need to be determined by an examination of the preferred sites and their location within the settlements. There is uncertainty regarding the likelihood and severity of</p>	<p>Presently uncertainty as to effects; yes. The in-combination impact of SP1 which includes the housing target and SP4 which directs housing growth would be a key element of the cumulative assessment.</p>

					effects until this is determined.	
SP5 – Strategy for Skipton; Tier 1	The policy identifies Skipton as the primary focus for growth and provision is made for site development.	Skipton has been allocated 50% (or 128 dwellings per year) of the proposed residential growth over the time period of the plan.	C, D, & E.	North Pennine Moors SPA & SAC & South Pennine Moors SAC & SPA Phase 2. Other sites also potentially affected.	The location of the preferred list of sites would need to be determined before an appropriate assessment of the likely impact is formed. Currently an uncertain outcome. For SP5 – SP11, certain issues such as loss of functionally connected land for SPA birds will depend on the location of allocations but issues like increased traffic within 200m of European sites and increased water abstraction impacting on European sites should be considered with regards to the cumulative impact of housing growth allocated to the various plan areas.	Uncertain; yes.
SP6 – Strategy for Settle; Tier 2	This policy identifies Settle as a secondary location for growth in the plan area, providing serviced employment land and housing	Settle has been allocated 10.5% (or 27 dwellings per year) of the proposed residential growth over the time period of the plan.	C, D, & E.	Ingleborough Complex SAC, Craven Limestone Complex SAC & Malham Tarn (Ramsar).	The location of the preferred list of sites would need to be determined before an appropriate assessment of the likely impact is formed. Currently an uncertain outcome.	Uncertain; yes.

	growth.					
SP7 – Strategy for Bentham; Tier 2	This policy identifies Bentham as a secondary location for growth in the plan area, providing serviced employment land and housing growth.	Bentham has been allocated 10.2% (or 26 dwellings per year) of the proposed residential growth over the time period of the plan.	C, D & E.	Leighton Moss SPA, Leighton Moss (Ramsar) and Morecambe Bay SPA.	The location of the preferred list of sites would need to be determined before an appropriate assessment of the likely impact is formed. Currently an uncertain outcome.	Uncertain; yes.
SP8 – Strategy for Glusburn & Crosshills; Tier 3	The policy identifies Glusburn & Crosshills as a local service centre, with a proportionate level of growth directed.	Glusburn & Crosshills has been allocated 5.1% (or 13 dwellings per year) of the proposed residential growth over the time period of the plan.	C, D, & E.	South Pennine Moors Phase 2 (SPA) and South Pennine Moors (SAC).	The location of the preferred list of sites would need to be determined before an appropriate assessment of the likely impact is formed. Currently an uncertain outcome.	Uncertain; yes.
SP9 – Strategy for Ingleton; Tier 3	The policy identifies Ingleton as a local service centre, with a proportionate level of growth directed.	Ingleton has been allocated 3.1% (or 8 dwellings per year) of the proposed residential growth over the time period of the plan.	C, D, & E.	Ingleborough Complex SAC, Morecambe Bay SPA, Leighton Moss (SPA) and Leighton Moss (Ramsar).	The location of the preferred list of sites would need to be determined before an appropriate assessment of the likely impact is formed. Currently an uncertain outcome.	Uncertain; yes.

<p>SP10 – Strategy for Gargrave; Tier 3.</p>	<p>The policy identifies Gargrave as a local service centre, with a proportionate level of growth directed.</p>	<p>Gargrave has been allocated 2% (or 5 dwellings per year) of the proposed residential growth over the time period of the plan.</p>	<p>C, D, & E.</p>	<p>North Pennine Moors SPA/SAC, Craven Limestone Complex SAC.</p>	<p>The location of the preferred list of sites would need to be determined before an appropriate assessment of the likely impact is formed. Currently an uncertain outcome.</p>	<p>Uncertain; yes.</p>
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<p>SP11 – Strategy for Tier 4A and 4B villages with basic services and bisected villages with basic services.</p>	<p>This policy identifies a range of Tier 4 settlements which receive a limited amount of growth that underpins their role and function as settlements with basic services and to ensure ongoing sustainability.</p>	<p>These settlements have been allocated a total of 9.6% (or 24 dwellings per year) of the proposed residential growth over the time period of the plan.</p>	<p>C, D, & E.</p>	<p>All of the sites as the Tier 4A and 4B villages are spread over the Local Plan area.</p>	<p>The location of the preferred list of sites in each of the villages would need to be determined before an appropriate assessment of the likely impact is formed. Currently an uncertain outcome.</p>	<p>Uncertain; yes.</p>
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<p>SP12 – Infrastructure, strategy and development delivery</p>	<p>This policy states that the Council will work with statutory undertakers, utility companies and other agencies to identify and deliver adequate infrastructure to serve the growth proposals and change set out in this plan, and to support local communities.</p>	<p>The Council will work to secure adequate mitigation and minimise any adverse impacts arising from the delivery of new infrastructure required to deliver the plan proposals. Decisions on the timing and phasing of infrastructure delivery will be tied to the timing and phasing of development delivery over the plan period.</p>	<p>D</p>	<p>All of the sites as infrastructure may need to be upgraded and improved throughout the Local Plan area.</p>	<p>At present, the Infrastructure Delivery Plan associated with the Local Plan process is in the process of preparation. The outcome of this delivery plan, in terms of (a) infrastructure requirements and (b) how and where this infrastructure will be implemented can determine any likely effects on sites of European and Ramsar importance.</p>	<p>Possible LSE at plan level. However, it will prove difficult to assess this policy at present without details of projects. There is potential for in-combination impacts with other policies/proposals which should be considered.</p>
<p>ENV1 – Countryside and Landscape</p>	<p>Sustainable growth will ensure that the quality of Craven's countryside and landscape is conserved for future generations to enjoy. Opportunities to restore and enhance the landscape are taken wherever possible.</p>	<p>This policy aims to influence new development proposals to respect, safeguard, and wherever possible, restore or enhance the landscape character of the area.</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>All of the sites (in a potentially positive way).</p>	<p>This is a policy which aims to enable settlements to grow in ways that respect their form, distribution and landscape setting. There should be no negative effects of such a policy on landscape designations. Furthermore, improving countryside locations may assist to decrease recreational pressure on European designated sites.</p>	<p>No.</p>

<p>ENV2 – Heritage</p>	<p>This policy states that Craven’s historic environment will be conserved and, where appropriate, enhanced and its potential to contribute towards the economic regeneration, tourism and education of the area fully exploited.</p>	<p>This policy aims to pay particular attention to the conservation of those elements which contribute most to the District’s distinctive character and sense of place.</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>This policy is not expected to result in any likely significant effects. There may be potential for this policy to provide alternative tourism locations to the designated sites and this can help to decrease tourism and recreational pressure on the designated sites in terms of walking and trampling issues, and hence erosion of key landscapes.</p>	<p>No or negligible effect foreseen.</p>
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<p>ENV3 – Good design</p>	<p>The policy states that good design will help to ensure that growth in Craven results in positive change, which benefits the local economy, environment and quality of life.</p>	<p>The policy aims to ensure that development should respond to the context and proposals should be based on a proper understanding and appreciation of environmental features, including both natural and built elements such as landscape, topography, vegetation, open space, microclimate, tranquillity, light and darkness.</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>This should be a beneficial policy for the natural environment. There is likely to be no significant negative effects.</p>	<p>No.</p>
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<p>ENV4 – Biodiversity</p>	<p>This policy states that growth in housing, business and other land-uses will be accompanied by improvements in biodiversity.</p>	<p>The policy aims to guide development towards making a positive contribution towards achieving a net gain in biodiversity and in particular will ensure that there is no adverse impact on any locally, nationally, or internationally designated sites, unless the benefit of the development clearly outweighs the impact of the designation.</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>All of the sites, but potentially positive contributions should be forthcoming.</p>	<p>An effective implementation of this policy should not lead to any negative impacts on the designated sites, and there should be some positive impacts from an adherence to this policy.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>ENV5 – Green Infrastructure</p>	<p>This policy states that Craven’s growth will include growth in green infrastructure and will help to create an improved and expanded green infrastructure network.</p>	<p>The policy aims to ensure that development proposals will avoid the significant loss of, or harm to, existing green infrastructure assets and the disruption or fragmentation of the green infrastructure network.</p>	<p>A, B</p>	<p>All of the sites in a potentially positive way.</p>	<p>An effective implementation of this policy should not lead to any negative impacts on the designated sites, and there should be some positive impacts from an effective implementation of this policy in terms of alternative places for recreation activities.</p>	<p>No</p>

<p>ENV6 – Flood Risk</p>	<p>The policy states that development growth in Craven will aim to avoid and alleviate flood risk using different methods.</p>	<p>The policy states that development will safeguard waterways and benefit the local environment (aesthetically and ecologically) by incorporating sustainable urban drainage systems where possible.</p>	<p>D</p>	<p>All of the sites.</p>	<p>An effective implementation of this policy should not lead to any negative impacts on the designated sites. However, an updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is currently in the process of being completed by the Council, and a further examination should be undertaken once this report is available, in order to assess the impacts of the preferred sites on flood risk.</p>	<p>LSE alone would be unlikely. However, there is potential for in-combination impacts with other policies/proposals and this should be considered.</p>
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<p>ENV7 – Land and air quality</p>	<p>The policy states that growth in Craven will help to safeguard and improve land quality using the methods mentioned. Growth in Craven will help to safeguard and improve air quality using the methods mentioned.</p>	<p>Development will avoid the plan area's best agricultural land (grade 3) wherever possible, unless the need for and benefit of development justifies the scale and nature of the loss. The location, layout and design of development will encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport, and green travel plans will promote reductions in car use.</p>	<p>A & B</p>	<p>All of the sites in a potentially positive manner.</p>	<p>An effective implementation of this policy should not lead to any negative impacts on the designated sites.</p>	<p>No.</p>
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<p>ENV8 – Water resources, water quality and groundwater</p>	<p>The policy states that growth in Craven will help to safeguard and improve water resources using the methods described.</p>	<p>Development will be served by adequate sewerage and wastewater treatment infrastructure, which matches the type, scale, location, and phasing of the development, and which safeguards surface and ground water resources.</p>	<p>A & B.</p>	<p>All of the sites.</p>	<p>An effective implementation of this policy should not lead to any negative impacts on the designated sites. Dependent on the Infrastructure Delivery Plan in terms of what infrastructure is required to come forward and where it is to be located, but the policy itself is aimed to be an effective safeguard.</p>	<p>No.</p>
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<p>ENV9 – Renewable and low carbon energy</p>	<p>The policy states that renewable and low carbon energy development will help to reduce carbon emissions and support sustainable development. There will be a move to avoid developments that may detract from the landscape and scenic beauty of the Forest of Bowland AONB or its setting and the setting of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.</p>	<p>One of the objectives of the policy is that renewable energy developments will have no significant adverse impacts on natural, built and historic assets and developments harmonise with the local environment, and respect the character of the immediate setting and wider landscape.</p>	<p>B.</p>	<p>None, subject to policy wording additions as described in the next column.</p>	<p>An effective implementation of this policy should not lead to any negative impacts on the designated sites, subject to additions to the wording of the policy to include avoiding the location of wind turbines close or in the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA and SAC which is partly located inside the Local Plan area boundary. Wind turbines can be associated with bird injury/mortality.</p>	<p>No, subject to additions to the wording of the policy as recommended.</p>
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<p>ENV10 – Designation and Protection of Local Green Space</p>	<p>The policy states that sites will be designated as Local Green Space where certain stated criteria within the Council’s Local Green Space Designation Assessment Methodology have been satisfied.</p>	<p>Sites can be designated as Local Green Space where there is clear supporting evidence provided which demonstrates that the site holds a particular local significance and value to the local community by virtue of the site’s beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity, richness of wildlife or other reason.</p>	<p>A & B</p>	<p>All of the sites may be affected in a positive manner.</p>	<p>An effective implementation of this policy should not lead to any negative impacts on the designated sites. Furthermore, effective and well located Local Green Space sites can act as alternative areas for recreational activities, taking some of the pressure off the designated sites. They can also act as parts of green infrastructure corridors in order to help and assist wildlife in the designated sites of importance.</p>	<p>No.</p>
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<p>H1 – New Homes on Unallocated Sites</p>	<p>Additional homes may be provided through the sustainable development of other unallocated sites put forward in planning applications.</p>	<p>Proposals for residential development on such sites, including the infilling, rounding off, or minor extension of settlements will be acceptable provided the proposal accords with various policies in the plan.</p>	<p>C & D</p>	<p>Potentially all.</p>	<p>There should not be a negative impact on European sites or Ramsar sites provided that the policy is effectively implemented. However a suggested addition to the policy can be to explicitly name protection of biodiversity areas of key importance (including European and Ramsar sites) as part of the overall objective to which this policy must accord with.</p>	<p>Possible LSE.</p>
<p>H2 – Affordable housing</p>	<p>This policy aims to ensure that the local affordable homes that are needed in the plan period are delivered.</p>	<p>The policy aims to ensure the delivery of affordable housing to implement a more balanced socio-economic outcome. This may have minor indirect positive effects for European and Ramsar sites as there may be less land take as affordable housing units tend to be smaller.</p>	<p>B.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>There should be no negative impacts on European and Ramsar sites from the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>No.</p>

<p>H3 – Gypsies, Travellers, Showmen and Roma.</p>	<p>The housing requirements of Gypsies, Travellers, Showmen, and Roma will be met by maintaining an adequate supply of private sites to occupy.</p>	<p>The policy states that any potential impacts on the environment can be avoided or adequately mitigated, and also have regard to the requirements relating to protecting the natural and built environment set out in other relevant local plan policies.</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>This policy should have no negative impacts provided that it is implemented with the environmental safeguards stated.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>H4 – Housing Density</p>	<p>To achieve an enhanced housing mix in accordance with Policy SP3, and to make efficient use of land, housing development proposals will achieve an indicative dwelling density of 40 dwellings to the hectare (net).</p>	<p>This is a high density target compared to previous planning history in Craven and would have a positive impact as less land would be taken up given the number of dwellings required.</p>	<p>B or D</p>	<p>None if a relatively high density can be achieved.</p>	<p>This policy target may be difficult to achieve as an indicative dwelling density is ultimately dependent on the preferred sites which come forward. There may need to be a revised (lower) density target given what has been achieved in Craven in the past.</p>	<p>Unlikely with this policy alone, but there is potential for in-combination impacts with other policies/proposals.</p>
<p>EC1 – Employment and Economic Development</p>	<p>Proposals for employment /economic development in existing employment areas (Policy EC2), on land allocated for employment / mixed use (SP5 to SP11), or in locations that accord with the Spatial Strategy (SP4) will be</p>	<p>Proposals for employment / economic development will be supported where they meet criteria listed under the policy.</p>	<p>B or D.</p>	<p>All of the sites.</p>	<p>More explicit representation of a criterion related to the protection of the environment and designated sites would be welcome here. Currently an uncertain outcome.</p>	<p>A LSE with this policy alone is unlikely. However, there is potential for in-combination impacts with other policies/proposals in the plan.</p>

	supported subject to compliance with certain criteria.					
EC2 – Safeguarding Existing Employment Areas	In order to ensure that there is an adequate supply of employment locations in Craven for 'B' Class Uses, existing sites and premises in 'B' Class use in established employment areas identified on the policies inset map will be safeguarded from non 'B' uses unless there are certain criteria met.	There are no direct impacts.	B	None.	There should be no direct impacts with the implementation of this policy.	No.
EC3 – Rural Economy	Craven's rural economy will be supported, so that it may grow and diversify in a sustainable way to provide long-term economic, environmental and social benefits for local communities.	Proposals of the type described above will be supported provided they accord with all relevant local plan policies and any relevant neighbourhood plan policies, and will help to achieve sustainable development.	C & D	All of the sites.	The policy could benefit from a more explicit mention of safeguarding of the environment in the support of Craven's rural economy. Currently an uncertain outcome pending on what preferred sites come forward in the smaller settlements such as the village of Rathmell.	Uncertain and also additional wording needed in the policy; yes.

EC4 - Tourism	The policy states tourism will grow in a sustainable way, so that it helps to improve the economy, environment and quality of life.	The intended growth in tourism will utilise the natural environment and urban realm as its principle forms of growth.	C & D	All of the sites.	There needs to a more explicit mention of the protection of the environment in achieving sustainable tourism growth. Currently an uncertain outcome.	Uncertain – additional policy wording needed, and local tourism effects will depend on the preferred sites brought forward which requires further analysis; yes.
EC5 – Town, District and Local Centres.	Proposals for the ongoing enhancement and focus of town and village centres as locations for commercial, retail, leisure and community activity will be supported in line with the stated urban hierarchy.	A designated urban hierarchy will be followed here in order to appropriately manage urban growth in the District.	Potentially A, B or D.	All of the sites.	The location of the preferred list of sites would need to be determined before an appropriate assessment of the likely impact is formed. Currently an uncertain outcome.	Uncertain; yes.
EC5A – Residential uses in town and village centres.	Within the primary shopping area of Skipton, as identified on the proposals map, the primarily retail function of this area will be safeguarded and protected.	No direct influence on European and Ramsar sites.	B	None.	No negative outcome envisaged.	No

<p>INF1 – Planning obligations</p>	<p>Where necessary, planning obligations will help to mitigate the impact of Craven’s growth, support the provision of local infrastructure, secure community benefits and achieve sustainable development.</p>	<p>Planning obligations will be required where the form of development needs to be prescribed or where proposed development needs to be accompanied by new or improved infrastructure, facilities or services or by environmental improvements.</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>All of the sites.</p>	<p>More explicit reference to safeguarding the environment would be welcome here. Currently an uncertain outcome pending more information forthcoming from the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.</p>	<p>There is unlikely to be a LSE with regards to this policy alone.</p>
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<p>INF2 – Community facilities and social spaces.</p>	<p>Craven's community facilities will be improved, and new ones will be created, to meet the needs of the local community as it grows and changes over time.</p>	<p>Where new community facilities or improvements to existing community facilities are proposed and where it can be demonstrated that there is a local need for the facility, encouragement and support will be given to development proposals that are of a scale that is in keeping with the location.</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>The proper safeguarding and creation of community space, including green infrastructure, should not result in a negative impact. Appropriate implementation of the policy can act as a positive impact as there can be a reduction in recreational pressure on European and Ramsar sites.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>INF3 – Sport, Open Space and Recreation facilities</p>	<p>Craven's growth will promote health, wellbeing and equality by safeguarding and improving sport, open space and built sports facilities.</p>	<p>Supporting proposals for the provision of new sport, open space and built sports facilities, or for the improvements of existing sport, open space and built sports facilities.</p>	<p>A & B</p>	<p>All of the sites.</p>	<p>No negative impacts are envisaged from the implementation of this policy, provided individual assessments can identify and protect important foraging areas for wildlife.</p>	<p>No.</p>

<p>INF4 – Parking Provision</p>	<p>Parking provision and management for cars and other vehicles will be important in making decisions on new developments to minimise congestion, encourage sustainable transport modes and reduce conflict between road users.</p>	<p>The incorporation of sustainable drainage systems, permeable surfacing materials and means of protecting water quality in drainage schemes, for example through oil interceptors, should be ensured.</p>	<p>D</p>	<p>All of the sites.</p>	<p>Uncertainties of effects until the preferred sites are identified.</p>	<p>Uncertain; yes.</p>
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<p>INF5 – Communication Infrastructure</p>	<p>The policy states that the expansion of communications infrastructure including Next Generation Access broadband will be supported.</p>	<p>This will be achieved by supporting the expansion of communications networks which use existing infrastructure, including masts and structures. The policy states that the location and design of proposals should avoid harm to sensitive areas or buildings/structures and accord with local plan Policies ENV1 (Countryside and Landscape), ENV2 (Heritage), and ENV4 (Biodiversity).</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>There is likely to be no significant effects if the policy is implemented efficiently.</p>	<p>No.</p>
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<p>SD1 – The presumption in favour of sustainable development.</p>	<p>The Craven Local Plan provides a positive planning framework for guiding development and change in Craven in line with national planning policy. At the heart of the local plan is the aim to deliver sustainable growth.</p>	<p>The Council will take a positive and proactive approach to the consideration of development proposals that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development that is contained in the NPPF.</p>	<p>C & D</p>	<p>All of the sites.</p>	<p>The success of this policy depends on the appropriate selection of preferred development sites.</p>	<p>Uncertain LSE with regards to this policy, depends on allocation of preferred sites.</p>
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Appendix 3 – Assessment of Spatial Strategy, Proposed Settlement Growth, and In-Combination Spatial Influences

The analysis of this section focuses on (a) the proposed internal distribution of residential growth in the Local Plan area, and (b) the proposed Local Plan pattern of residential growth in combination with neighbouring planning jurisdictions.

Part A: Internal Distribution of Residential Growth

The Craven District area (outside of the Yorkshire Dales National Park) has a long-standing higher concentration of population in its southern and eastern areas. By far the largest settlement in the District, Skipton, has a population of 14,500 and is relatively closely surrounded by other smaller towns and villages to the north, west and south, such as Embsay, Gargrave, Cononley, Sutton-in-Craven, Carleton and Glusburn & Crosshills.

In contrast, the north and west of the Local Plan area has traditionally a much less dense population base, and this area is dominated by the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and the Yorkshire Dales National Park to the north. Principal settlements in this area include High & Low Bentham, Settle, Ingleton and Burton-in-Lonsdale.

Despite occupying less than half of the Craven Local Plan area, the southeast portion of the District (including Gargrave and eastwards), is proposed to take 65.1% of the residential growth in Craven. This excludes 6.7% for a small sites allowance over the plan period, which is intended to be spread over the whole Local Plan area wherever such sites arise. The larger part of the Craven area (west of Gargrave) is scheduled to take the remainder of the residential growth, a percentage allocation of 28.2%. This distribution of residential growth is currently at draft stage, and is subject to possible changes pending the outcome of consultation feedback, and other influencing factors.

However, it can be clearly seen in this proposed spatial strategy that most of the residential and development pressure would be focused in the southeastern portion of the District as identified above. This proposed spatial strategy makes sense in socio-economic terms, with many key services located in Skipton and its surrounding towns. Concentration of much of the growth is also focused here because of the presence of the large urban areas of Leeds, Bradford and Harrogate to the southeast and east of the Local Plan area. It is therefore likely that the designated HRA sites in this area would come under the influence of most of the pressure from residential and employment development over the course of the plan period.

This section examines the likely impact pathways in terms of the designated sites' conservation objectives in each of the two sub-areas identified above.

1. Settlements in south-eastern sub-area of Craven Local Plan area

Principal Town Service Centre

(1) Skipton

Proportion of housing growth: **50%**; Housing Provision: **128 dwellings pa**

Likely European and/or Ramsar sites potentially affected by Skipton in isolation: **North Pennine Moors SAC & SPA, and to a lesser extent South Pennine Moors SAC & SPA, Craven Limestone Complex SAC and Malham Tarn Ramsar site.**

Local Service Centre

(2) Glusburn & Cross Hills

Proportion of housing growth: **5.1%**; Housing Provision: **13 dwellings pa**

Likely European and/or Ramsar sites potentially affected by Glusburn & Cross Hills in isolation: **South Pennine Moors SAC & SPA, North Pennine Moors SPA & SAC, Craven Limestone Complex SAC and Malham Tarn Ramsar site.**

Local Service Centre

(3) Gargrave

Proportion of housing growth: **2%**; Housing Provision: **5 dwellings pa**

Likely European and/or Ramsar sites potentially affected by Gargrave in isolation: **North Pennine Moors SAC & SPA, and to a lesser extent South Pennine Moors SAC, Craven Limestone Complex SAC and Malham Tarn Ramsar site.**

Villages with basic services

(4) Sutton

Proportion of housing growth: **2%**; Housing Provision: **5 dwellings pa**

Likely European and/or Ramsar sites potentially affected by Sutton in isolation: **South Pennine Moors SAC & SPA, and to a lesser extent North Pennine Moors SPA & SAC, Craven Limestone Complex SAC and Malham Tarn Ramsar site.**

Village with basic services

(5) Cononley

Proportion of housing growth: **1.2%**; Housing Provision: **3 dwellings pa**

Likely European and/or Ramsar sites potentially affected by Cononley in isolation: **South Pennine Moors SAC & SPA, and to a lesser extent North Pennine Moors SPA & SAC, Craven Limestone Complex SAC and Malham Tarn Ramsar site.**

Village with basic services

(6) Carleton

Proportion of housing growth: **1.2%**; Housing Provision: **3 dwellings pa**

Likely European and/or Ramsar sites potentially affected by Carleton in isolation: **North Pennine Moors SAC & SPA, and to a lesser extent South Pennine Moors SAC & SPA, Craven Limestone Complex SAC and Malham Tarn Ramsar site.**

Villages with basic services

(7) Low Bradley

Proportion of housing growth: **0.8%**; Housing Provision: **2 dwellings pa**

Likely European and/or Ramsar sites potentially affected by Low Bradley in isolation: **North Pennine Moors SAC & SPA, and to a lesser extent South Pennine Moors SAC & SPA, Craven Limestone Complex SAC and Malham Tarn Ramsar site.**

Villages with basic services

(8) Cowling

Proportion of housing growth: **0.8%**; Housing Provision: **2 dwellings pa**

Likely European and/or Ramsar sites potentially affected by Cowling in isolation: **South Pennine Moors SAC & SPA, and to a lesser extent North Pennine Moors SAC & SPA, Craven Limestone Complex SAC and Malham Tarn Ramsar site.**

Villages with basic services

(9) Kildwick & Farnhill

Proportion of housing growth: **0.8%**; Housing Provision: **2 dwellings pa**

Likely European and/or Ramsar sites potentially affected by Kildwick & Farnhill in isolation: **South Pennine Moors SAC & SPA, and to a lesser extent North Pennine Moors SPA & SAC, Craven Limestone Complex SAC and Malham Tarn Ramsar site.**

Settlements with basic services that are bisected by the national park boundary

(10) Embsay

Proportion of housing growth: **1.2%**; Housing Provision: **3 dwellings pa**

Likely European and/or Ramsar sites potentially affected by Embsay in isolation: **North Pennine Moors SAC & SPA, and to a lesser extent South Pennine Moors SAC & SPA, Craven Limestone Complex SAC and Malham Tarn Ramsar site.**

Settlements with basic services that are bisected by the national park boundary

(11) Bolton Abbey

Proportion of housing growth: **0.0%**; Housing Provision: **0 dwellings pa**

Likely European and/or Ramsar sites potentially affected by Bolton Abbey in isolation: **None under the current pool of sites process.**

Identified Impact Pathways:

Loss of supporting feeding sites outside of the designated sites: The draft Local Plan identifies housing and employment development, with some on greenfield sites, in settlements close to North Pennine Moors SPA & SAC and to South Pennine Moors SPA & SAC. Development here may also be on greenfield sites which may be providing a supporting function to the SPA. The settlements which require closer examination when preferred sites are decided on are Skipton (principally for its relatively large scale), Embsay, Sutton-in-Craven, Cowling, and Cross Hills & Glusburn.

Changes in groundwater levels and water quality from new residential and employment development: The risk of an LSE is uncertain. On the basis of the precautionary principle, an LSE is identified because the draft Local Plan directs development to settlements close to the boundaries of the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA and the South Pennine Moors SAC. It is not presently known if there are any particular issues relating to water supply and the delivery of the development proposed in these settlements.

Increased recreation pressure causing trampling of vegetation and disturbance to ground nesting birds: Population increase in this part of the District and in certain settlements such as Skipton could increase recreational pressure on North Pennine Moors SAC, and to a lesser extent South Pennine Moors SAC, Craven Limestone Complex SAC and Malham Tarn Ramsar site.

Renewable energy developments resulting in injury/mortality of birds: Possible risk of mortality of birds where any future windfarm developments are potentially located in or around South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC.

Population increase from housing development and associated increase in traffic causes eutrophication for wet and dry heaths due to air pollution: There is a potential LSE from housing development and associated increase in population and traffic, which requires further investigation when the list of preferred sites is made available.

2. Settlements in north-western sub-area of Craven Local Plan area

Key Service Centre

(12) Settle

Proportion of housing growth: **10.5%**; Housing Provision: **27 dwellings pa**

Likely European and/or Ramsar sites potentially affected by Settle in isolation: **Malham Tarn Ramsar site, Bowland Fells SPA, North Pennine Moors SAC & SPA, and to a lesser extent South Pennine Moors SAC & SPA, and Craven Limestone Complex SAC.**

Key Service Centre

(13) Low & High Bentham

Proportion of housing growth: **10.2%**; Housing Provision: **26 dwellings pa**

Likely European and/or Ramsar sites potentially affected by Low & High Bentham in isolation: **Bowland Fells SPA, Leighton Moss SPA & Ramsar, and to a lesser extent Morecambe Bay SPA.**

Local Service Centre

(14) Ingleton

Proportion of housing growth: **3.1%**; Housing Provision: **8 dwellings pa**

Likely European and/or Ramsar sites potentially affected by Ingleton in isolation: **Bowland Fells SPA, Leighton Moss SPA & Ramsar, and to a lesser extent Morecambe Bay SPA.**

Village with basic services

(15) Burton-in-Lonsdale

Proportion of housing growth: **1.2%**; Housing Provision: **3 dwellings pa**

Likely European and/or Ramsar sites potentially affected by Burton-in-Lonsdale in isolation: **Bowland Fells SPA, Leighton Moss SPA & Ramsar, and to a lesser extent Morecambe Bay SPA.**

Villages with basic services

(16) Hellifield

Proportion of housing growth: **0.8%**; Housing Provision: **2 dwellings pa**

Likely European and/or Ramsar sites potentially affected by Hellifield in isolation: **Malham Tarn Ramsar, North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC, and to a lesser extent North Pennine Moors SPA & SAC.**

Villages with basic services

(17) Rathwell

Proportion of housing growth: **0.8%**; Housing Provision: **2 dwellings pa**

Likely European and/or Ramsar sites potentially affected by Rathwell in isolation: **Bowland Fells SPA, North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC and Malham Tarn Ramsar.**

Settlements with basic services that are bisected by the national park boundary

(18) Clapham

Proportion of housing growth: **0.8%**; Housing Provision: **2 dwellings pa**

Likely European and/or Ramsar sites potentially affected by Clapham in isolation: **to a minor extent Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC, Bowland Fells SPA and North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC.**

Settlements with basic services that are bisected by the national park boundary

(19) Giggleswick

Proportion of housing growth: **0.8%**; Housing Provision: **2 dwellings pa**

Likely European and/or Ramsar sites potentially affected by Giggleswick in isolation: **Malham Tarn Ramsar site, Bowland Fells SPA, North Pennine Moors SAC & SPA, and to a lesser extent South Pennine Moors SAC & SPA, Craven Limestone Complex SAC.**

Settlements with basic services that are bisected by the national park boundary

(20) Long Preston

Proportion of housing growth: **0.0%**; Housing Provision: **0 dwellings pa**

Likely European and/or Ramsar sites potentially affected by Long Preston in isolation: **None under the present pool of sites.**

Identified Impact Pathways:

Loss of supporting feeding sites outside of the designated sites: The draft Local Plan identifies housing and employment development, potentially on greenfield sites, in settlements close to Bowland Fells SPA. This is particularly the case with proposed development in the settlement of High & Low Bentham. Development here may also be on greenfield sites which could be providing a supporting function to the SPA.

Changes in groundwater levels and water quality from new residential and employment development: The risk of an LSE is uncertain. On the basis of the precautionary principle, an LSE is identified because the draft Local Plan directs development to settlements close to the boundaries of Bowland Fells SPA. Malham Tarn Ramsar, although located over 6km from Settle, is vulnerable due to its relatively small size. It is not presently known if there are any particular issues relating to water supply and the delivery of the development proposed in these settlements.

Increased recreation pressure causing trampling of vegetation and disturbance to ground nesting birds: As noted, the population increase in this part of the District is not as high as

the south-eastern portion, but nevertheless as noted Malham Tarn Ramsar is vulnerable given its relatively small size. Furthermore, settlements like Ingleton and Settle host a considerable volume of tourists during the summer months and their influence on sites such as Malham Tarn and Bowland Fells SPA will be need to be further examined when preferred development sites are decided upon.

Eutrophication for wet and dry heaths due to air pollution: There is a potential Likely Significant Effect from housing development and associated increases in population, which can result in traffic causing eutrophication effects on wet and dry heaths, in Bowland Fells SPA in particular.

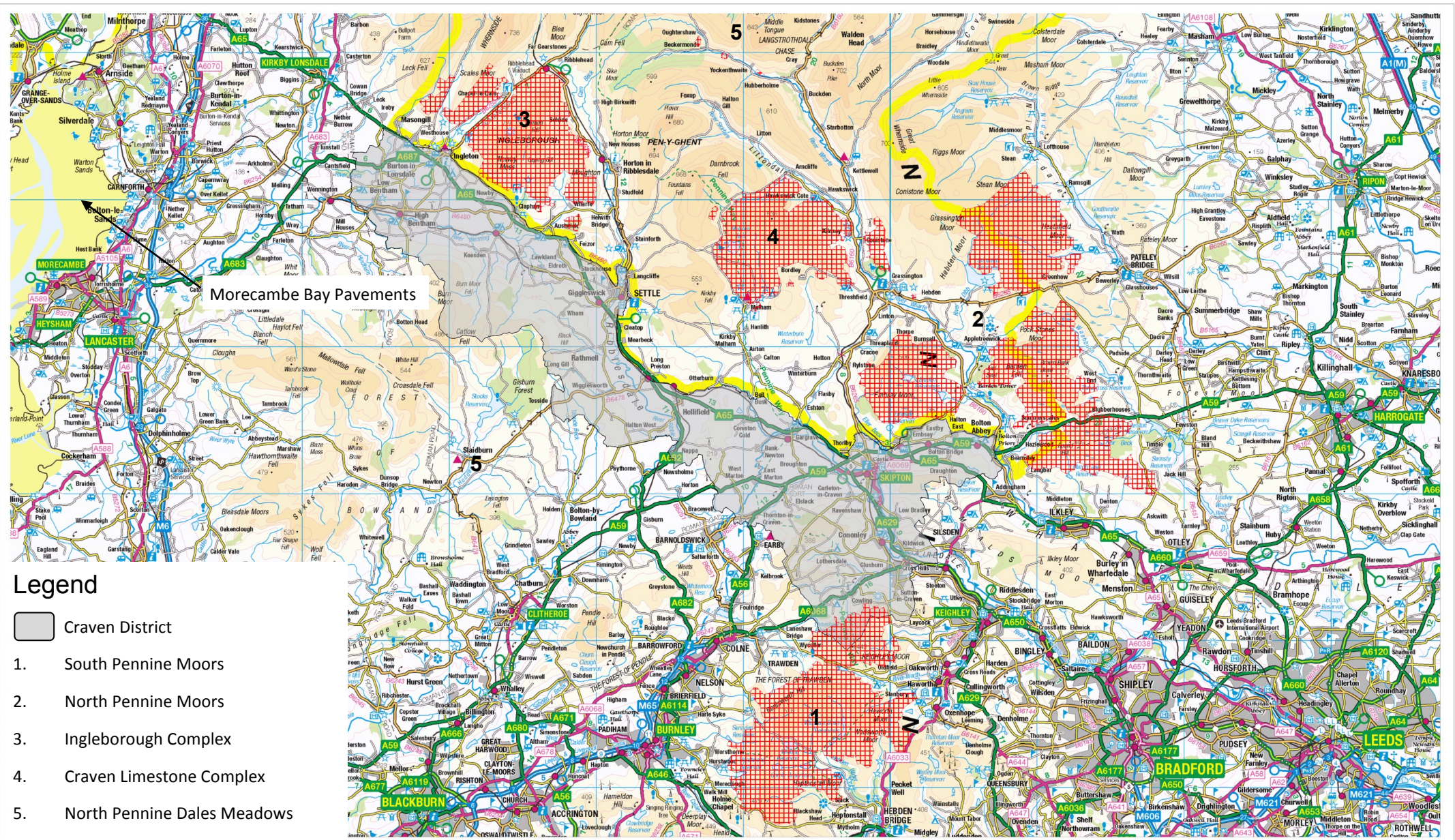
Part B: The Spatial Distribution of Residential Growth in Combination

The Craven Local Plan proposes a relatively modest residential growth of 256 homes per year, and over the 20 year period of the Local Plan, this equates to 5,120 dwellings. The draft plan for Bradford Council currently proposes 48,000 dwellings up to 2028. The neighbouring plans of Pendle, Lancaster, Harrogate, Yorkshire Dales and Ribblesdale also are required to be considered in terms of the housing numbers they propose, or are currently providing for, in combination with Craven's spatial distribution of growth. It is believed that Bradford's plan is of most significance, given the size of development it proposes, in addition to its plan area being adjacent to Craven's largest concentration of growth in its south-eastern area, as previously identified. In this regard, the effects on the South Pennine Moors SAC and Phase 2 SPA, in particular, need to be carefully considered once a preferred sites list for Craven has been identified.

Potential in-combination effects have been identified and are summarised as follows:

- Water supply to neighbouring areas combining with water supply of additional housing and economic development within the plan area could cause changes in groundwater levels potentially affecting the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, South Pennine Moors SAC, the North Pennine Moors SPA and the North Pennine Moors SAC;
- Increased air pollution from population and traffic increases in neighbouring areas, combined with increased air pollution from new development within the plan area potentially affecting the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, South Pennine Moors SAC, the North Pennine Moors SPA, and the North Pennine Moors SAC;
- Development in neighbouring areas combining with development in the plan area and causing an adverse effect on water quality potentially affecting the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, South Pennine Moors SAC, the North Pennine Moors SPA and the North Pennine Moors SAC;

- Recreation impacts associated with population increase in the plan area combining with increased visitors from neighbouring areas visiting the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, South Pennine Moors SAC, and the North Pennine Moors SPA in particular;
- Loss of supporting feeding sites in neighbouring districts combining with loss of supporting feeding sites from greenfield development in the plan area affecting the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA and the North Pennine Moors SPA;
- Possible pet predation of ground nesting birds from new housing development in neighbouring districts, combining with predation of ground nesting birds arising from new housing development in the plan area affecting the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA;
- The combination of numerous potential effects on Rombalds Moor (a component site of the South Pennine Moors SAC and Phase 2 SPA) could result in a cumulative effect on the condition and integrity of the site, especially in relation to the draft Craven Local Plan and the development plan of Bradford. The site is surrounded by existing settlements which are identified for growth and the site could be exposed to increased recreational pressure, changes to hydrology and water quality, increased air pollution, increased pet predation of ground nesting birds, and loss of supporting feeding sites for birds. Population growth within the District as a whole and within surrounding areas may also compound some of these effects, in relation to, for example, recreation usage and air quality.



Legend

- Craven District
- 1. South Pennine Moors
- 2. North Pennine Moors
- 3. Ingleborough Complex
- 4. Craven Limestone Complex
- 5. North Pennine Dales Meadows

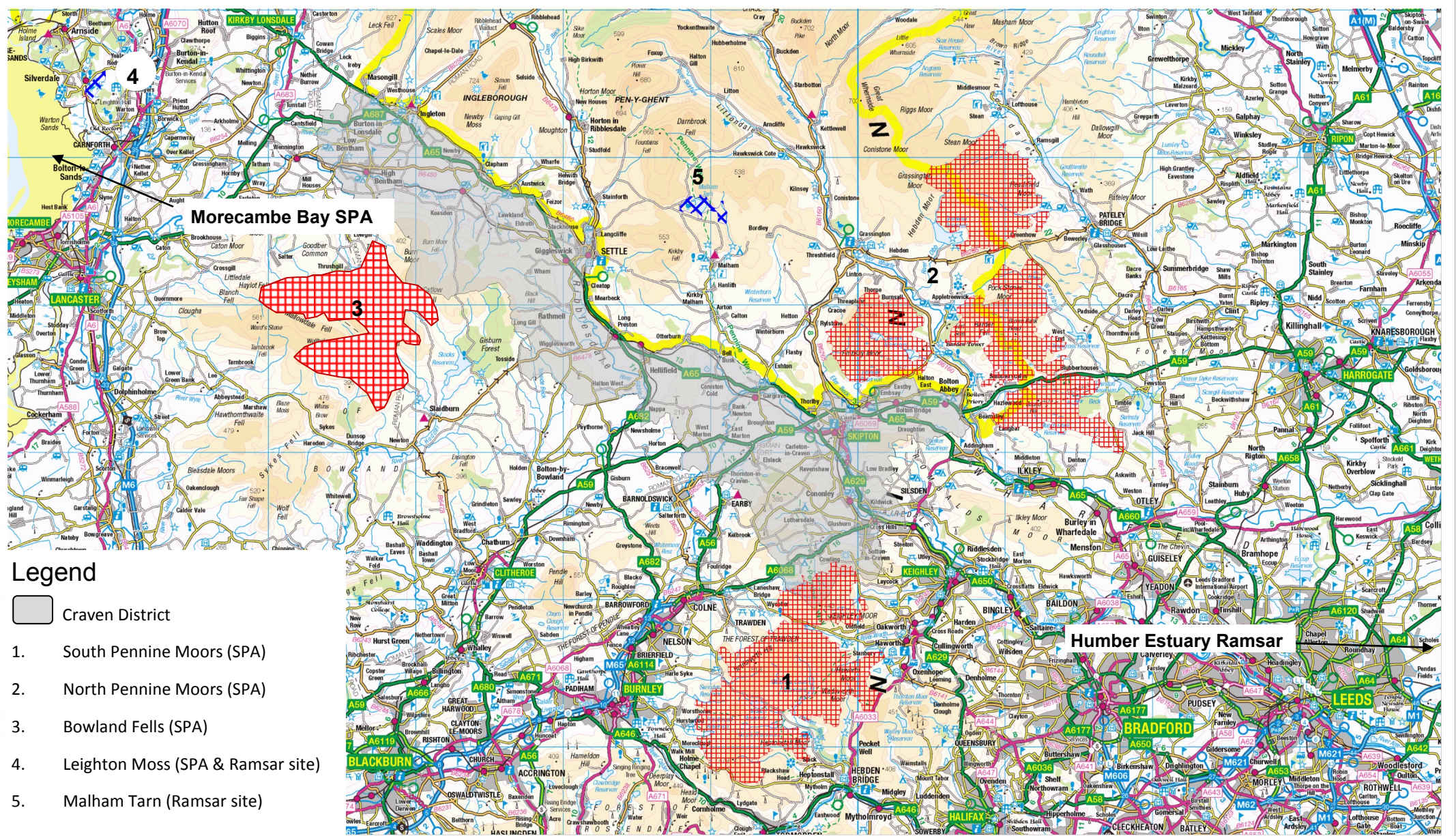


European Designated Sites in and around Craven District Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SCALE : 1:35000 @ A4

Drawing Issued By: RG
28th May 2016

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Legend

Craven District

- 1. South Pennine Moors (SPA)
- 2. North Pennine Moors (SPA)
- 3. Bowland Fells (SPA)
- 4. Leighton Moss (SPA & Ramsar site)
- 5. Malham Tarn (Ramsar site)



European Designated Sites in and around Craven District

Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar Sites

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