

Habitat Regulations Assessment

Appropriate Assessment Report

(Iteration I)

Prepared in relation to the Publication of the
Craven District Council Local Plan, 2012-2032



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Prepared for: Craven District Council

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Notes:

- (1.) As part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process, this first iteration of the Appropriate Assessment follows the Screening Assessment Report, which was completed in November 2016. Both the Screening Assessment Report and this document are available to view in the Planning Policy section of the Craven District Council website;
- (2.) The Screening Assessment Report was based on analysis of draft Craven Local Plan policies and spatial strategies at a time during 2016. As the Local Plan process evolved, these policies and strategies were subject to updating and content change, with some new policies added. This Appropriate Assessment document now analyses the publication version of the Craven Local Plan, as part of the continued interaction of the Local Plan with Habitats Regulations Assessment;
- (3.) This document is seen as the first iteration of the Appropriate Assessment, produced to coincide with the local plan's publication stage, and sent to the statutory body Natural England for their review and commentary. A second iteration of Appropriate Assessment, which incorporates the commentary of Natural England and also comments gathered in response to the Published Local Plan, is then to be produced to coincide with the submission stage of the plan.
- (4.) The Appropriate Assessment for the Craven District Council Local Plan has been prepared by an independent consultant, who possesses both degree qualifications and work expertise in each of the disciplines of environmental engineering, urban & regional planning, and ecology.

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Contents

Executive Summary.....	5
1. Introduction.....	7
1.1 The Local Plan and the Habitats Regulations.....	7
1.2 Biodiversity and the Planning System.....	8
1.3 Requirement for Habitats Regulations Assessment.....	8
1.4 The Area of the Craven District Council Local Plan.....	10
1.5 Purpose and Structure of this Document.....	10
2. Methodology.....	12
2.1 Guidance and Best Practice.....	12
2.2 The Four Stage HRA Process.....	13
2.3 The Screening Stage.....	13
2.4 The Appropriate Assessment Stage.....	14
2.5 Working Methods.....	14
2.6 The Craven Local Plan.....	15
3. Description of the Local Plan Area.....	17
3.1 Craven Local Plan Area.....	17
3.2 Settlements in Craven.....	18
3.3 Natural Environment of Craven.....	19
3.4 Settlements in the context of the natural environment.....	19
4. European Site Qualifying Features and Conservation Objectives.....	21
4.1 Identification of European Sites.....	21
4.2 Research of Designated Sites.....	22
4.3 Scope of the Assessment.....	22
4.4 European Site Conservation Objectives.....	22
4.5 Priority Natural Habitats or Species.....	23
4.6 Site descriptions, qualifying features and conservation objectives.....	23
5. Proposed Policies and Development in the Plan.....	42
5.1 Introduction.....	42
5.2 Settlement Hierarchy and Site Allocations.....	43
5.3 The distribution of preferred sites with settlements.....	46
6. Neighbouring Plans and Projects.....	54
6.1 Neighbouring Authority Areas and Local Plans.....	54
6.2 Bradford Metropolitan District Council.....	54
6.3 Harrogate Borough Council.....	57
6.4 Lancaster City Council.....	58
6.5 Pendle Borough Council.....	59
6.6 Ribble Valley Borough Council.....	59

6.7	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.....	60
6.8	Assessment of Cumulative Effects.....	61
7.	Identifying Impact Pathways.....	63
7.1	Introduction.....	63
7.2	Recreational impacts on designated European sites.....	64
7.3	Loss of Supporting Feeding Sites to Development.....	66
7.4	Air Quality Impacts near SPAs and SACs.....	67
7.5	Impacts on Water Supply and Quality.....	70
7.6	Urban edge effects and urbanisation.....	71
8.	Avoiding and Mitigating Impacts.....	74
8.1	Introduction.....	74
8.2	Recreational Alternatives to North Pennine Moors SAC.....	75
8.3	Recreational Alternatives to South Pennine Moors SAC.....	76
8.4	Loss of Feeding Sites and Possible Foraging Areas for Bird Species.....	77
8.5	Air Quality Impacts near SPAs and SACs.....	78
8.6	Increased water demand and impacts on water supply and quality.....	82
8.7	Urban Edge Effects.....	82
9.	Conclusions and Next Steps.....	84
9.1	Summary.....	84
9.2	Conclusions.....	84
9.3	Next Steps.....	85
	References.....	86
	Appendix I: Map of SACs and the National Park boundary.....	90
	Appendix II: Map of SPAs, Ramsar Sites and National Park boundary.....	91
	Appendix III: Review of Local Plan Policies and potential effects on European and Ramsar sites.....	92
	Appendix IV: Green Spaces in the town of Skipton, and the villages of Embsay and Carleton.....	118
	Appendix V: South Pennine SPA and Buffers of 400m, 2.5km and 7km from the SPA boundary.....	119
	Appendix VI: Green wedges designations in the South Craven area.....	120
	Appendix VII: Location of usual residence and place of work (WU01UK).....	121
	Tables & Figures	
	Table 1: An information checklist of details of the plan and the European designated sites.....	16
	Figure 1: The boundary of Craven District with neighbouring districts shown.....	17
	Table 2: List of SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites assessed in this report.....	22
	Table 3: Proposed Settlement Hierarchy for the Craven Local Plan Area.....	46

Executive Summary

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 development within Craven over the period 2012-2032.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) transposes the European Habitats Directive 1992 and Wild Birds Directive 2009 into English law. As of November 2017, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 consolidate and update these 2010 Regulations. In accordance with requirements under the EU Habitats Directive (43/92/EEC) and EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), the impacts of the policies and objectives of all statutory land use plans on certain sites that are designated for the protection of nature, known as Natura 2000 sites, must be assessed as an integral part of the process of drafting of the plan.

Habitats Directive Assessment is an iterative process which runs parallel to and informs both the processes of local plan making and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). An Appropriate Assessment report involves analysis of plan strategies, policies and site allocations to ensure that their implementation will not significantly adversely impact on sites designated for nature conservation, nor on their habitats or species.

The Craven plan area is situated at the western end of the county of North Yorkshire. The total area of Craven District is 1,177 sq. km, with 369 sq. km comprising the Craven plan area and the remainder within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is a separate planning authority that produces a park-wide local plan, which encompasses part of Craven District.

Craven has an important natural environment, which is reflected in biodiversity and landscape designations together with other heritage assets. The Craven plan area has distinctive rural landscapes which provide a high quality landscape setting for the National Park, including the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which covers an extensive part of the plan area.

The identification of designated European and Ramsar sites to be considered within this report was undertaken in consultation with Natural England. European sites are considered that lie partially within or close to the boundaries of the Craven Local Plan area, and also those European sites that may be affected by development in the administrative boundary. Information relating to their qualifying features and conservation objectives are described to better understand potential development impacts on these sites.

A local plan sets out local planning policies and identifies how land is used, determining what will be built where. Adopted local plans provide the framework for development across England. Development principles should be consistent with the National Planning

Policy Framework (NPPF). Local plans must be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy in accordance with section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the NPPF.

The Craven Local Plan has assessed eight housing growth options in order to seek to establish the most appropriate when considered against reasonable alternatives. This is in accordance with paragraph 182 of the NPPF. Determined through this process, the most appropriate housing requirement for the Local Plan is 230 dwellings per annum (dpa), giving 4,600 dwellings in total between 2012 and 2032. Appropriately located site allocations within a settlement hierarchy guide this housing and also employment development into the most sustainable spatial framework for the local plan area. Green infrastructure is accommodated on many of the larger housing site allocations.

The Craven Local Plan must be considered in combination with other relevant development plans in the proximity of the Craven area. Bradford Metropolitan District Council, Harrogate Borough Council, Lancaster City Council, Pendle Borough Council, Ribble Valley Borough Council, and Yorkshire Dales National Park Planning Authority have all planning jurisdictions and development plans adjoining or close to the Craven Local Plan area. The local plans associated with these planning jurisdictions are examined with the published version of the Craven Local Plan, in order to determine possible in-combination effects.

The Bradford Core Strategy is the most significant, as it proposes a large number of dwellings over its plan period. Analysis of the effective mitigation measures in its Appropriate Assessment, along with green infrastructure provision and development avoidance measures in the southeast of the Craven Local Plan area, shows that there are unlikely to be any significant cumulative effects from the neighbouring plans in the area.

Potentially adverse impact pathways on designated European sites are examined. These are the following: recreational impacts on designated European sites, loss of supporting feeding sites to development, air quality impacts near SPAs and SACs, impacts on water supply and quality, and urban edge effects. There are a range of impact avoidance and mitigation mechanisms described alongside the development proposed. Overall, with a relatively low number of planned dwellings and an effective spatial strategy for development in the local plan, it is shown that significant adverse effects arising for any of these impact pathways on European designated sites are unlikely to arise.

This is the first iteration of the Appropriate Assessment, to coincide with the publication version of the Craven Local Plan. This document is sent to Natural England as part of the representations stage of the published Craven Local Plan. The comments and suggestions of Natural England, along with the submissions received to the representations stage of the Local Plan, will assist to inform the second iteration of the Appropriate Assessment, due to completed in line with the plan's submission stage at the end of March, 2018.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Local Plan and the Habitats Regulations

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 development within Craven over the period 2012-2032. The specifics of the Local Plan, in terms of its spatial strategy and policies, relevant to the Appropriate Assessment are described in detail in Chapter 5 and in Appendix III respectively.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) ('the Habitats Regulations') transposes the European Habitats Directive 1992 and Wild Birds Directive 2009 ('the Directives') into English law. As of November 2017, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 consolidate and update the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. The 2017 Regulations also introduce a small number of minor amendments designed to take account of changes to other related legislation. In accordance with requirements under the EU Habitats Directive (43/92/EEC) and EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), the impacts of the policies and objectives of all statutory land use plans on certain sites that are designated for the protection of nature, known as Natura 2000 sites, must be assessed as an integral part of the process of drafting of the plan.

Natura 2000 sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive, and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Birds Directive. Special Areas of Conservation are sites that are protected because they support particular habitats and/or plant and animal species that have been identified to be threatened at EU community level. Special Protection Areas are sites that are protected for the conservation of species of birds that are rare, vulnerable, or indeed in danger of extinction. Special Protection Areas may also be sites that are particularly important for migratory birds. Such sites include internationally important wetlands, which are also protected under the Ramsar Convention.

This document aims to determine whether or not the implementation of local plan strategies and policies can have negative or adverse consequences for the habitats or plant and animal species for which these sites are designated. This assessment process is called a Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA), and must be carried out during the local plan making process. This process is firstly in the form of a Screening Assessment to assess the potential impacts, and then iterations of the Appropriate Assessment as the local plan develops to analyse the potential severity of any of these impacts.

1.2 Biodiversity and the Planning System

One of the core principles in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is that land use planning should recognise and protect the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. Local plans should include strategic policies for the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, including landscape. This includes designated landscapes but also the wider countryside. Section 11 of the NPPF refers to biodiversity in paragraphs 109 and 114 at a national and local level respectively.

Paragraph 109 of the NPPF states that the planning system “should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the government’s commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures”.

Paragraph 114 of the NPPF states that planning authorities “should set out a strategic approach in their local plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure”.

1.3 Requirement for Habitats Regulations Assessment

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is a requirement of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended in 2011), and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. This Appropriate Assessment assesses the impacts of the Craven District Council Local Plan policies and site allocations designated under the European Directive (92/43/EEC – The Habitats Directive). 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 Ramsar Convention).

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the Habitats Regulations) require that Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) 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. Designated European sites are sites which are of exceptional importance in respect of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species within a European context.

As referred to previously, these designated sites consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, and also Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated

under Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds. Ramsar Sites (designated under the 1976 Ramsar Convention) are not European sites, but they are also sites of great natural importance, and they are afforded given the same level of protection under Britain'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 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 specifically requires the appropriate assessment of local plans that are likely to significantly affect a designated 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 England, or a European offshore marine site (where applicable), either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. If significant negative effects are anticipated, or if such knowledge is as yet unknown, then an Appropriate Assessment of the implications for the designated site with regard of its conservation objectives must be undertaken.

The Habitats Directive applies the precautionary principle to protected areas. Plans and projects can only be permitted having ascertained that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of the designated site(s) in question. This is in contrast to the SEA Directive which does not prescribe how plan or programme proponents should respond to the findings of an environmental assessment; rather that the assessment findings, as documented in an 'environmental report', should be taken into account during preparation of the plan or programme.

In the case of the Habitats Directive, plans and projects may still be permitted as referred to above 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 cases, suitable and adequate compensation would be necessary to ensure the overall integrity of the designated site network.

All the European and Ramsar sites referred to in this document are shown in two accompanying maps in Appendices I and II towards the end of this report. The designated sites overlay a background of towns, villages, road layouts and natural features in, and adjacent to the Craven Local Plan area. The first map shows SACs and the second map displays SPAs and Ramsar sites.

Hence, from previous paragraphs it is clear that in order to ascertain whether or not designated site integrity will be affected, an Appropriate Assessment should be undertaken of the plan or project in question. 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 2017 state that:

“Where a land use plan (a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and (b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site, the plan-making authority for that plan must, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site’s conservation objectives.”

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.

1.4 The Area of the Craven District Council Local Plan

The plan area is the geographical area featuring all of the towns, villages, road networks and countryside covered by the plan. The plan area does not include any part of Craven within the Yorkshire Dales National Park, which has its own local plan prepared by the National Park Authority. Hence in this document, “Craven” or “Craven plan area” means “Craven outside the National Park” and “Craven District” includes the National Park area within the district’s boundaries.

1.5 Purpose and Structure of this Document

The Screening for Appropriate Assessment report was undertaken in the period between April and May, 2016. The draft report was sent to a representative of Natural England for comments and any suggested changes at the end of May 2016. Natural England returned comments in the following September, and after these were incorporated, the report was completed in November 2016. This Screening Assessment report is available to view on Craven District Council’s website, under the Planning Policy section.

The Screening for Appropriate Assessment report recommended that it was not possible at that stage to conclude that no adverse effects on European sites would occur as a result of the Craven Local Plan. This was primarily due to incomplete information being available at

the time of writing, principally on Preferred Sites for allocation and plan policies still being at draft stage. A Stage 2 of the HRA (Appropriate Assessment) was therefore deemed to be required in order to understand whether there may be potential adverse effects on the integrity of the European sites alone, and/or in combination with other plans and projects. If adverse effects on site integrity are identified by the Appropriate Assessment, measures to avoid or sufficiently mitigate these adverse effects will need to be considered and incorporated into the plans.

2. Methodology

2.1 Guidance and Best Practice

In accordance with the Habitats Regulations, all competent authorities in England must undertake a formal assessment of the implications of any new plans or projects which are capable of affecting the designated interest features of European Sites. This formal assessment must take place before deciding whether to undertake, permit or authorise such a plan or project.

This assessment comprises several distinct stages which together comprise the Habitats Regulations Assessment process. For all plans and projects which are not wholly directly connected with or necessary to the conservation management of the site's qualifying features, this will include formal screening for any Likely Significant Effects, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Where these effects cannot be excluded, assessing them in more detail through an Appropriate Assessment is required to ascertain whether an adverse effect on the integrity of the site can be ruled out. Where such an adverse effect on the site cannot be ruled out, and no alternative solutions can be identified, then the project or plan can only then proceed if there are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest and if the necessary compensatory measures can be secured.

This HRA process must be applied before a plan or project which may affect a European Site(s) can be lawfully undertaken or authorised. Both British Government and European Commission guidance on Habitats Regulations assessments note that when assessing plans and projects under the Habitats Regulations, it is best practice for competent authorities to clearly set out their decision-making process and their findings and conclusions. Such authorities should incorporate the precautionary principle where there is reasonable science-based uncertainty. This approach is further supported in both European and English case law.

Habitats Directive Assessment is an iterative process which runs parallel to and informs both the plan making process and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process. It involves analysis and review of strategies and policies to ensure that their implementation will not impact on sites designated for nature conservation, nor on the habitats or species for which they are designated. Within this process, regard must also be had to the potential for policies to contribute to impacts which on their own may be acceptable, but which may be significant when considered in combination with the impacts arising from the implementation of other plans or policies.

2.2 The Four Stage HRA Process

The European Union has provided guidance as to how to complete a Habitats Directive Assessment for land use plans, which identifies four main stages in the process as follows:

- Stage One: Screening

The process which identifies if there may be likely impacts arising from a plan on a Natura 2000 site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

- Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

Where the possibility of significant impacts has not been discounted by the screening process, a more detailed assessment is required. This is called an Appropriate Assessment and involves the consideration of the impact of the plan on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. This assessment has regard to the designated site's structure, function and its conservation objectives.

- Stage Three: Assessment of alternative solutions

Should the conclusion of the appropriate assessment be that there are likely to be impacts which will affect the overall integrity of the Natura 2000 site, then it is required to examine alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoids such adverse impacts. Stage three of a Habitats Directive Assessment involves the assessment of alternative solutions.

- Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain

Should it be found there are no viable alternative solutions to avoid adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 site, and should it be agreed that the project/plan can proceed despite such impacts (which can only be for overriding reasons of public interest), then compensatory measures must be put in place in advance of the implementation of the plan/project. The fourth stage of the habitats directive assessment process involves the assessment of the proposed compensatory measures.

The assessment may finish at any of the aforementioned stages depending on the outcomes of the stage.

2.3 The Screening Stage

The Screening Report represents the first phase of the Habitats Directive Assessment process for the Craven District Local Plan. All Natura 2000 sites within the District, within

15km of the District's borders, and those designated sites further away which may be affected by the plan, have been screened to determine whether there is potential for the plan to give rise to significant adverse impacts on any Natura 2000 site, having regard to their conservation objectives.

As noted previously, the Screening for Appropriate Assessment report for the (then draft) Craven District Council Local Plan was undertaken between April to May 2016, and, after receiving and incorporating comments from Natural England, completed in November 2016. This report has been used to inform the on-going process of the Local Plan preparation and the commencement of the Appropriate Assessment stage since then.

The Screening for Appropriate Assessment recommended that it was not possible at that stage to conclude that no adverse effects on European sites would occur as a result of the Craven District Council Local Plan. Stage 2 of the HRA (Appropriate Assessment) process was therefore deemed to be required in order to understand whether there could be potential adverse effects on the integrity of the European sites alone and in combination with other plans and projects. As noted previously, if potential effects on site integrity are identified by the Appropriate Assessment, measures to avoid effects will need to be considered and incorporated into the plans.

On the basis of the assessment, it was concluded at that stage that the draft Local Plan may have the potential to give rise to adverse impacts which may be significant on one or a number of Natura 2000 sites in and/or surrounding the local plan area.

2.4 The Appropriate Assessment Stage

This is the first iteration of the Appropriate Assessment stage for this Local Plan, produced in line with the publication stage of the Local Plan. A second iteration is aimed to be produced to coincide with the submission stage of the Local Plan, and this second iteration is intended to form the HRA evidence document for planning inspection stage of the plan. This second iteration will incorporate the comments and advice of Natural England based on their analysis of the first iteration and of the publication document of the Local Plan itself.

2.5 Working Methods

The approach taken in the making of this assessment follows the European Communities Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites, and Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, 2002. This Appropriate Assessment for the Craven District Council Local Plan has been prepared by an independent consultant.

There has been continuing interaction between the District Council's Planning Policy team and the consultant during the development phase for the local plan. The purpose of this interaction was to (1) encourage the development of strong and sustainable biodiversity and environmental policies in the Local Plan, (2) to identify potential conflicts between the protection of designated sites and spatial strategies, emerging site allocations and land use policies, (3) to provide an opportunity to resolve potential areas of conflict prior to the finalisation of plan policy, and also (4) to establish innovative solutions and mitigation measures to any potential conflicts.

The Planning Policy team of Craven District Council and the appointed consultant liaised with Natural England at a number of stages during the local plan process, and concurrently at the Screening Report and Appropriate Assessment stages. This consultation was in order to identify any potential difficulties with emerging site allocations, policies or strategies, and to discuss possible solutions where potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites were identified. Continual consultation also took place with representatives of Bradford Metropolitan District Council regarding potential effects on the South Pennine Moors SAC and Phase 2 SPA. This Appropriate Assessment report, along with the publication version of the Local Plan, is available for the statutory consultee of Natural England to comment on during the representation phase for the published Local Plan.

2.6 The Craven Local Plan

The Craven Local Plan has set out planning policies for the location of housing and employment space 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 Local Plan. Overall, the spatial strategy for Craven is designed according to sustainable long term objectives for the Craven Local Plan area in relation to recent and forecast spatial growth patterns.

Table 1 overleaf details an information checklist required in terms of details of the plan itself and the European designated sites. This information assists the Appropriate Assessment process in that any potential impacts on designated European sites can be clearly established and forewarned in advance. It is important to recognise the inherent characteristics of each SPA and SAC, so that it can be understood better how they may be affected by the local plan's policies, strategies and site allocations. Chapter 3 focuses on the site allocations of the local plan, and Appendix III analyses the range of policies of this local plan. Chapter 4 discusses in detail the structure and the conservation objectives of each Special Area of Protection and Special Conservation Area under analysis.

Are these known or available?

Information about the project or plan

Full characteristics of the project or plan which may affect the site;
The total range or area the plan will cover;
Size and other specification of the project;
The characteristics of existing, proposed or other approved projects or plans which may cause interactive or cumulative impacts with the project being assessed and which may affect the site(s);
Planned or contemplated nature conservation initiatives likely to effect the status of the site(s) in the future;
The relationship (e.g. key distances etc.) between the project or plan and the Natura 2000 site;
The information requirements (e.g. EIA/SEA) of the authorisation body or agency.

Information about the site

The reasons for the designation of the Natura 2000 site;
The conservation objectives of the site and the factors that contribute to the conservation value of the site;
The conservation status of the site (favourable or otherwise);
The existing baseline condition of the site;
The key attributes of any Annex I habitats or Annex II species on the site;
The physical and chemical composition of the site;
The dynamics of the habitats, species and their ecology;
Those aspects of the site that are sensitive to change;
The key structural and functional relationships that create and maintain the site's integrity;
The seasonal influences on the key Annex I habitats or Annex II species on the site;
Other conservation issues relevant to the site, including likely future natural changes taking place.

Table 1: An information checklist of details of the plan and the European designated sites.

3. Description of the Local Plan Area

3.1 Craven Local Plan Area

The Craven plan area is situated at the western end of the county of North Yorkshire, England's largest county which is 8,654 square kilometres in area. The total area of Craven District is 1,177 square kilometres, with 369 square kilometres comprising the Craven plan area. The remainder of the Craven District (808 square kilometres) is within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is a separate planning authority that produces a park-wide local plan, which encompasses parts of Craven, Richmondshire, South Lakeland and Eden Districts.

The boundary of the National Park in the Craven District generally follows the A65 to the north of Skipton and the A59 to the east of Skipton. At several locations, the boundary of the National Park bisects settlements, e.g. the villages of Embsay and Clapham, creating a division in planning control between the National Park Authority and Craven District Council. The Craven plan area is flanked by the County of Lancashire and the Lancashire districts of City of Lancaster, Ribble Valley and Pendle immediately to its west and south, Bradford Metropolitan District to the south-east and the Yorkshire Dales National Park to the north and east. Figure 1 below shows this in map format.

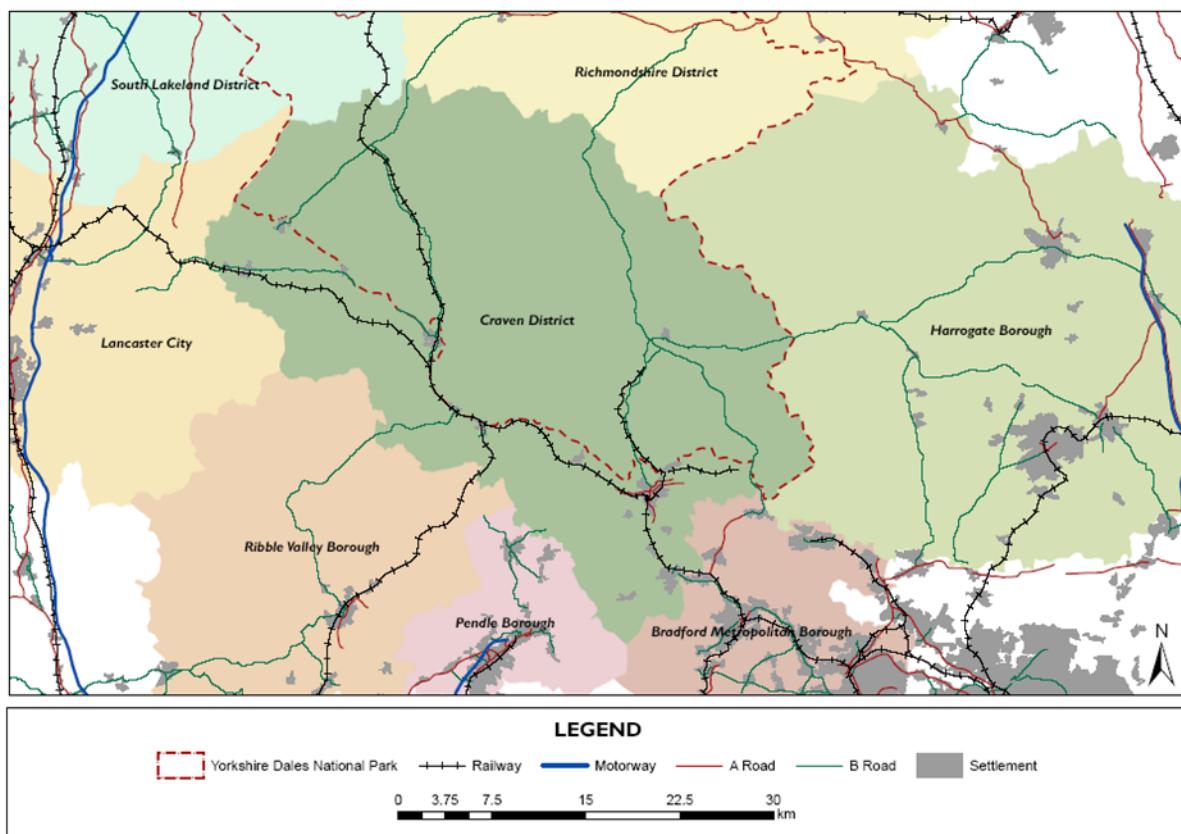


Figure 1: The boundary of Craven District, with neighbouring districts shown.

3.2 Settlements in Craven

Craven District has a total population of 55,801 (ONS mid-year 2015 estimate). About 82% of the total District population live in the Craven plan area, which has approximately 45,757 residents. The Craven Plan area contains the four largest settlements within Craven District. The market town of Skipton is by far the largest town in the District and plan area, and is located in the south of the plan area in the strategic 'Aire Gap' through the Pennines linking Yorkshire with Lancashire. The town is well connected with the A-road and rail networks.

The two smaller market towns of Bentham and Settle are located in the north and mid areas of the Craven plan area respectively, and both have a good range of services, and providing employment opportunities. These towns are also well connected to the A-road and rail networks, although Bentham is located further away from the A65 than Settle. Glusburn & Crosshills is the largest village in the District, and it is located in the south of the plan area close to the boundary with Bradford Metropolitan District.

The remainder of the plan area is characterised by villages that function as local service centres, or villages that have basic services. Ingleton and Gargrave are the largest of these villages. A number of villages also form clusters of settlements in relatively close proximity to one another, or to a market town where services are accessed via public transport, walking and cycling. For example, in the north of the plan area, both Ingleton and Burton-in-Lonsdale are in relatively close proximity to and have good public transport connections with the market town of Bentham.

In the central part of the plan area the villages of Clapham, Giggleswick, Langcliffe (which is located just over the plan area boundary in the National Park) and Rathmell form a cluster of settlements that have public transport connections, and are either within walking and/or cycling distance of the market town of Settle.

In the south of the plan area, the villages of Embsay, Carleton, Cononley and Low Bradley have good and frequent public transport connections with the main market town of Skipton (Cononley also has a rail connection), and are within walking and/or cycling distance of Skipton. Similarly, the villages of Farnhill, Kildwick, Sutton-in-Craven and Cowling form a cluster of settlements around the larger village of Glusburn/Crosshills. They have good public transport connections, and are within walking and/or cycling distance of its wider range of services and employment opportunities.

Elsewhere in the plan area, there is a dispersed pattern of small villages and hamlets reflecting the rural nature of the District, which is within the top ten most sparsely populated local authority areas in England in 2017.

3.3 Natural Environment of Craven

Craven has an important and valuable natural environment, which is reflected in local, national and international biodiversity and landscape designations, together with designated and non-designated heritage assets. The Craven plan area sits alongside the western and southern boundary of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and has its own important, distinctive rural landscapes which provide a high quality landscape setting for the National Park, including the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which covers an extensive part of the plan area.

The underlying gritstone and limestone geologies of the plan area, and the Aire Gap serves to effectively denote the change from limestone geology to the north to gritstone geology to the south. The Aire Gap is a pass through the Pennines in England formed by geologic faults and carved out by glaciers. The effects of glaciation also serve to derive a rich and diverse landscape character and quality in Craven.

The plan area is also rich in biodiversity, and has a number of biodiversity or geodiversity designations of European and national importance, including a small part of the South Pennine Moors Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in the south of the local plan area. There are also twelve Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) spread across the whole plan area. There are more than eighty Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) located across the plan area. Craven District also has extensive areas of Ancient Woodland (186 sites).

There are plenty of recreational opportunities available, with an extensive rights of way network, and the national long distance footpath, the Pennine Way passing through the area. There are good cycling opportunities in the local plan area, with access to the National Cycle Network at the villages of Gargrave, Embsay, Giggleswick, Clapham and Ingleton. The Way of the Roses walkway and the Leeds-Liverpool canal towpath present additional potential for active recreation and leisure.

3.4 Settlements in the context of the natural environment

The market towns of Skipton and Settle and the larger villages of Ingleton, Giggleswick, Rathmell, Hellifield, Gargrave and Embsay are situated within the setting of, or are bisected by the national park boundary. The village of Clapham is bisected by the boundary of both the national park and the Forest of Bowland AONB, thus forming a unique dual-gateway to these areas, making the village popular with photographers, birdwatchers, cyclists and walkers, providing potential leisure/tourism opportunities.

The market town of Bentham is also situated within the setting of the Forest of Bowland AONB. The three market towns of Skipton, Settle and Bentham are located in river valleys

below steep sided Pennine uplands and moors. These valleys have been important transport routes for many years across the Pennines, and Craven's central position in the north of England within the Pennines is integral to the past growth of its historic settlements.

The Craven plan area has a built environment of exceptional quality with many of its historic market towns and villages having a distinctive character, derived from a blend of the agricultural character of North Yorkshire with Pennine industrial heritage. This heritage is historically associated with the building of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, the railways, early watermills, textile mills and mill workers housing.

There is very little to no derelict land or buildings within the settlements of Craven. Many former historic mills have been conserved and converted for other uses, including housing and employment. Many former contaminated industrial sites have also been remediated and redeveloped for housing.

4. European Site Qualifying Features and Conservation Objectives

4.1 Identification of European 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 partially within or adjacent to the Craven District administrative boundary, and also those European sites that may be affected by development in the administrative boundary. 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 set out in this chapter.

With regard to the SPAs and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which these sites have been classified (the ‘Qualifying Features’), these features are of course subject to natural change. It is important to ensure that the integrity of the designated sites are maintained or restored as appropriate, and also to ensure that the designated 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.

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 in Chapter 7.

SPAs	SACs	Ramsar
North Pennine Moors	South Pennine Moors	Leighton Moss
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	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	

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

4.2 Research on Designated Sites

The relevant Site Improvement Plan (SIP) has been examined and researched for each of 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 may threaten their favoured conservation status from the perspective of the elements of this Local Plan. Tables showing the Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) identified for each designated site, and the elements of the then draft Local Plan with which they may be associated, were presented in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the Screening Report.

4.3 Scope of the Assessment

Each European site has its own intrinsic qualities, besides the habitats or species for which it has been designated, that enable the site to support the ecosystems that it does. For example, an intrinsic quality of any European site is its functionality at the landscape ecology scale; in other words, how the site interacts with the zone of influence of its immediate surroundings, as well as the wider area.

Hence the ecological integrity of a designated site is influenced by natural and human-induced activities in the surrounding environment. This is particularly the case where there is potential for development to take greenfield land, generate water-borne or air-borne pollutants, use water resources or otherwise affect water levels, or involve an extractive or noise emitting use. Adverse effects may also occur via impacts to mobile species occurring outside of a designated site but which are qualifying features of the site. For example, there may be effects on protected birds that use land outside the designated site for foraging or roosting.

European sites considered within the scope of this assessment include all those sites identified during the earlier Screening Assessment as possibly to be significantly affected by local plan developments. The designated European sites adjacent to the Craven Local Plan area have been designated to conserve similar groups of upland habitats, wading birds and raptors, although there are also some significant differences between them. The following sections provide a description of the conservation objectives and qualifying features for which each European site had been classified or designated.

4.4 European Site Conservation Objectives

These conservation objectives of designated European sites are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the “Habitats Regulations”) and

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a ‘Habitats Regulations Assessment’, including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These conservation objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where available) also provide a framework to inform the measures needed to conserve or restore the European designated site, and the prevention of deterioration or significant disturbance of its qualifying features, as required by the provisions of Article 6(1) and 6(2) of the Directive. These conservation objectives are set for each habitat or species of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity, and to be contributing to achieving Favourable Conservation Status for that species or habitat type at Britain’s level. The term ‘favourable conservation status’ is defined in Article 1 of the Habitats Directive.

4.5 Priority natural habitats or species

Some of the natural habitats and species listed in the Habitats Directive and for which SACs have been selected are considered to be particular priorities for conservation at a European scale, and are subject to special provisions in the Directive and the Habitats Regulations. These priority natural habitats and species are denoted by an asterisk (*) in Annex I and II of the Directive. The term ‘priority’ is also used in other contexts, for example with reference to particular habitats or species that are prioritised in Britain’s Biodiversity Action Plans. It is important to note however that these are not necessarily the priority natural habitats or species within the meaning of the Habitats Directive or the Habitats Regulations.

4.6 Site descriptions, qualifying features and conservation objectives

This section details the site descriptions, qualifying features, and conservation objectives of each of the analysed designated sites in this report.

(a) North Pennines Moors SPA

Site description

The North Pennine Moors SPA covers an area of 147,246.42 ha. It 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 10km of the South Pennine Moors SPA, which supports a similar assemblage of upland breeding species. The North Pennine Moors SPA includes Moor House SPA, a site that was subject to separate classification. Moor House was classified as a Special Protection Area on

31 August 1982. North Pennine Moors (including the subsumed site at Moor House) was classified as a Special Protection Area on 9 February 2001.

Qualifying features

The site qualifies under article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of Britain's populations of the following species listed in Annex I, in any season:

A082 *Circus cyaneus*; Hen harrier (Breeding)

Count and Season: 11 pairs – breeding; Period: Count as at 1993 and 1994; Percentage of Britain's population: 2.3%.

A098 *Falco columbarius*; Merlin (Breeding)

Count and Season: 136 pairs – breeding; Period: Estimated population during 1993 and 1994; Percentage of Britain's population: 10.5%.

A103 *Falco peregrinus*; Peregrine falcon (Breeding)

Count and Season: 15 pairs – breeding; Period: Count as at 1991; Percentage of Britain's population: 1.3%.

A140 *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (Breeding)

Count and Season: 1,400 pairs – breeding; Period: Minimum based on densities recorded 1960 - 1993; Percentage of Britain's population: 6.2%.

In terms of non-qualifying species of interest, two pairs of Montagu's Harriers *Circus pygargus* are known to have bred, while numbers of breeding Short-eared Owls *Asio flammeus* have still to be ascertained. Both species are listed in Annex I.

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.

(b) South Pennines Moors SPA (Phase 2)

Site description

The South Pennine Moors proposed Special Protection Area is upland of international importance. It provides habitat for an important assemblage of breeding moorland and moorland fringe birds. The South Pennine Moors (Phase 2) qualifies under Article 4.1 of the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409) by supporting nationally important breeding populations of two species listed in Annex I. The most recent count is of 28 pairs of merlin *Falco columbarius* (4.3% of Britain's breeding population) and 292 pairs of golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* (1.2%). The density of breeding golden plover is high compared to other regional populations in northern England and Scotland.

Qualifying Features

A098 *Falco columbarius*; Merlin (Breeding)

A140 *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (Breeding)

Breeding bird assemblage

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.

(c) Bowland Fells SPA

Site description

The Bowland Fells Special Protection Area is of exceptional nature conservation and scientific importance within Britain and the EU for a range of bird species associated with upland blanket bog and heather moorland. The boundaries are coincident with those of the Bowland Fells SSSI, within the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Bowland Fells qualifies under Article 4.1 of the EC Birds Directive by supporting (between 1986 and 1990), an average of at least 12 pairs of hen harrier *Circus cyaneus* (2.4% of the national population), and 21 pairs of merlin *Falco columbarius* (3.2%), as well as breeding populations of peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, short-eared owl *Asio flammeus* and kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*. Other pairs of breeding merlin and hen harrier breed adjacent to the site and use Bowland Fells for feeding.

Qualifying features

A082 *Circus cyaneus*; Hen harrier (Breeding)

A098 *Falco columbarius*; Merlin (Breeding)

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.

(d) Leighton Moss SPA

Site Description

Leighton Moss, situated between Warton Crag and Silverdale on the edge of Morecambe Bay, is a site of outstanding ornithological importance. It contains the largest reedbed in northwest England and the only large reedbed in Lancashire; the only other example of any significant size being the nearby Hawes Water Moss. The site was originally an extensive peat moss which was drained and brought into agricultural use as arable land in the 19th century. There are extensive areas of open water in the reedbeds, and areas of willow scrub and mixed fen vegetation.

A typical and varied fen flora has developed in some parts and this shows all stages of transition from open water to woodland. The site is also of value for other fauna. It is one of the few places in Lancashire where otters regularly breed. Red squirrels, roe and red deer occur, and a wide range of butterflies have been recorded from the site.

Qualifying features

A021 *Botaurus stellaris*; Great bittern (Breeding)

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.

(e) Morecambe Bay SPA

Site description

The extended area of this site covers a total area of 37404.60 hectares. The extended area consists of all or parts of the Lune Estuary SSSI, Morecambe Bay SSSI, Roudsea Wood and Mosses SSSI, South Walney and Piel Channel Flats SSSI and the Wyre Estuary SSSI. Morecambe Bay SPA, including the extended area, is of European importance because the site qualifies under article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of Britain's populations of a species listed on Annex I, in any season.

Qualifying features

A040 *Anser brachyrhynchus*; Pink-footed goose (Non-breeding)

A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding)

A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (Non-breeding)

A130 *Haematopus ostralegus*; Eurasian oystercatcher (Non-breeding)

A137 *Charadrius hiaticula*; Ringed plover (Non-breeding)

A141 *Pluvialis squatarola*; Grey plover (Non-breeding)

A143 *Calidris canutus*; Red knot (Non-breeding)

A149 *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (Non-breeding)

A157 *Limosa lapponica*; Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)

A160 *Numenius arquata*; Eurasian curlew (Non-breeding)

A162 *Tringa tetanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding)

A169 *Arenaria interpres*; Ruddy turnstone (Non-breeding)

A191 *Sterna sandvicensis*; Sandwich tern (Breeding)

Waterbird assemblage

Seabird assemblage

Additional Qualifying Features*

A026 *Ergetta garzetta*; Little egret (Non-breeding)

A038 *Cygnus Cygnus*; Whooper swan (Non-breeding)

A140 *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (Non-breeding)

A144 *Calidris alba*; Sanderling (Non-breeding)

A151 *Philomachus pugnax*; Ruff (Non-breeding)

A156 *Limosa limosa islandica*; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)

A176 *Larus melanocephalus*; Mediterranean gull (Non-breeding)

A183 *Larus fuscus*; Lesser black-backed gull (Non-breeding)

A184 *Larus argentatus*; Herring gull (Breeding)

A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding)

A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)

*The Government has initiated public consultation on the scientific case for the classification of these additional features as part of this Special Protection Area (SPA).

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.

(f) North Pennine Moors SAC

Site description

The North Pennine Moors hold much of the upland heathland of northern England. The most abundant heath communities are heather – wavy hair-grass *Calluna vulgaris* – *Deschampsia flexuosa* heath and heather – bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* heath. At higher altitudes and to the wetter west and north of the site complex, the heaths grade into extensive areas of blanket bog. A significant proportion of the bog remains active with accumulating peat. The main type of heather – hare's-tail cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket mire.

The site contains other wetland habitats including wet heaths and calcium-rich fens, which support populations of yellow marsh saxifrage *Saxifraga hirculus*. Tufa-forming springs are localised in occurrence, but where the habitat does occur, it is species-rich with abundant bryophytes, sedges and herbs including bird's eye primrose *Primula farinosa* and marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica*.

Acidic rock outcrops and screes are well-scattered across the North Pennine Moors and support a range of lichens and bryophytes, such as *Racomitrium lanuginosum*, and species like stiff sedge *Carex bigelowii* and fir clubmoss *Huperzia selago*. The site also contains base-rich rocks that support calcicole crevice vegetation communities.

Birk Gill Wood (within East Nidderdale SSSI) is an example of western acidic oak woodland in a sheltered river valley. It supports rich bryophyte and lichen communities under a canopy of sessile oak *Quercus petraea*, birch *Betula* species and rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*. The slopes are boulder-strewn, with mixtures of heather, bilberry and moss carpets in the ground flora. The North Pennine Moors includes one major stand of juniper *Juniperus communis* scrub in Swaledale as well as a number of small and isolated localities. The Swaledale site grades into heathland and bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, but there is a core area of juniper woodland with scattered rowan and birch.

In addition, the North Pennine Moors contain important areas of calcareous grassland, montane acid grassland and grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals, such as old lead mines.

Qualifying Features

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

H4030 European dry heaths

H5130 *Juniper 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*); Acidic scree.

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*; 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.

(g) South Pennine Moors SAC

This site covers the key moorland blocks of the South Pennines from Ilkley Moor in the north to the Peak District in the south. The moorlands are on a rolling dissected plateau formed from rocks of Millstone Grit at altitudes of between 300m – 600m and a high point of over 630m at Kinder Scout. The greater part of the gritstone is overlain by blanket peat, with the coarse gravelly mineral soils occurring only on the lower slopes at Kinder Scout. The moorlands as a whole support a breeding bird community of national and international importance.

The site is representative of upland dry heath which covers extensive areas, occupies the lower slopes of the moors on mineral soils or where peat is thin, and occurs in transitions to acid grassland, wet heath and blanket bogs. The upland heath of the South Pennines is strongly dominated by *Calluna vulgaris* – *Deschampsia flexuosa* heath and *C. vulgaris* – *Vaccinium myrtillus* heath. More rarely *C. vulgaris* – *Ulex gallii* heath and *C. vulgaris* – *Erica cinerea* heath are found. On the higher, more exposed ground *V. myrtillus* – *D. flexuosa* heath becomes more prominent.

The smaller area of wet heath is characterised by cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and purple moor grass *Molinia caerulea*. 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.

This site also contains areas of blanket bog, although the bog vegetation communities are botanically poor. Hare's-tail cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum* is often overwhelmingly dominant and the usual bog-building *Sphagnum* mosses are scarce. Where the blanket peats are slightly drier, heather *C. vulgaris*, crowberry *Empetrum nigrum* and bilberry *V. myrtillus* become more prominent.

The cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccus* and the uncommon cloudberry *Rubus chamaemorus* is locally abundant in bog vegetation. Bog pools provide diversity and are often characterised by common cottongrass *E. angustifolium*. Substantial areas of the bog surface are eroding,

and there are extensive areas of bare peat. In some areas erosion may be a natural process, reflecting the great age (up to 9,000 years) of the South Pennine peats.

Around the fringes of the upland heath and areas of bog are blocks of old sessile oak woods, usually on slopes. These tend to be dryer than those further north and west, such that the bryophyte communities are less developed (although this lowered diversity may in some instances have been exaggerated by the effects of 19th century air pollution). Other components of the ground flora such as grasses, dwarf shrubs and ferns are common. Small areas of alder woodland along stream-sides add to the overall richness of the woods.

The moorland also supports a range of flush and fen habitats associated with bogs, cloughs, rivers and streams. Although generally small scale features that have a specialised flora and fauna, which makes a great contribution to the overall biodiversity of the moors. Acid flushes are the most common type, and these include transition mires and quaking bogs characterised by a luxuriant carpet of bog mosses *Sphagnum* species, rushes and sedges.

Qualifying Habitats

The site is designated under article 4(4) of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:

- Blanket bogs*
- European dry heaths
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* (Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath)
- Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechum* (Western acidic oak woodland)
- Transition mires and quaking bogs; very wet mires often identified by an unstable ‘quaking’ surface

*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 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.

(h) Ingleborough Complex SAC

Ingleborough is Britain's finest karst area, the characteristic limestone landforms having been produced largely under glacial conditions. It is particularly noted for extensive dry stone pavements, dry valleys and gorges, shakeholes and sinkholes. Associated with the various acidic and basic strata, together with drift and peat which obscure the rocks over large areas, there is a wide range of vegetation types.

Where limestone occurs at the surface, there is calcareous grassland dominated by blue-moor grass *Sesleria albicans*, while elsewhere blanket-bog is dominated by hare's tail cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum*. Where flushing occurs the blanket-bog becomes floristically richer with sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*, cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccus* and bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*.

It has the most extensive series of limestone pavements in Britain, varying from moderate altitude to montane in character (300-640m). The pavements range from those where grazing is completely excluded (Colt Park Wood), to some where grazing is restricted (pavements amidst cattle-grazed pastures), and others within common land intensively grazed by sheep. Characteristic species include baneberry *Actaea spicata*, great bellflower *Campanula latifolia*, lily-of-the-valley *Convallaria majalis*, marsh hawk's-beard *Crepis paludosa*, wall lettuce *Mycelis muralis*, lesser meadow-rue *Thalictrum minus* and mountain melick *Melica nutans*.

Among the ferns, green spleenwort *Asplenium viride*, brittle bladder-fern *Cystopteris fragilis* and hard shield-fern *Polystichum aculeatum* occur on most pavements. Rigid buckler-fern *Dryopteris submontana* and limestone fern *Gymnocarpium robertianum* are widespread. Dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella* occur on most pavements. Amid stands of calcareous grassland, it has the only large stands of juniper on limestone pavements at high altitude in Britain. The scrub is of the relatively species-poor type typical of these situations.

Spring-fed flush fens are extensive across Ingleborough, commonly associated with calcareous grassland types, but also found amidst acid grasslands and heathland communities. They are often species-rich communities, in which rare or locally distributed species such as bird's eye primrose *Primula farinosa*, black bog-rush *Schoenus nigricans*, few-flowered spike-rush *Eleocharis quinqueflora* and flat-sedge *Blysmus compressus* are frequent.

Crevice communities occur on extensive limestone scars and are characteristic of the area. The flora has a mix of northern and southern species, including purple saxifrage *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, yellow saxifrage *S. aizoides*, alpine meadow-grass *Poa alpina*, hoary whitlowgrass *Draba incana*, lesser meadow-rue *Thalictrum minus*, wall lettuce *Mycelis muralis* and baneberry.

Qualifying features

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

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

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

H7130 Blanket bogs*

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

H7230 Alkaline fens; Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens

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

H8240 Limestone pavements*

H9180 Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines; Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes*

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

(i) Craven Limestone Complex SAC

The Craven Limestone Complex includes the second most extensive area of calcareous grassland in Britain. It supports blue moor-grass – limestone bedstraw (*Sesleria caerulea – Galium sterneri*) grassland that exhibits exceptional structural diversity, ranging from hard-grazed open grasslands, through to tall herb-rich grasslands on ungrazed cliff ledges, woodland margins and around limestone pavements and screes. It is thus an important

example of grassland-scrub transitions. The site supports a large mid-altitude limestone pavement, with a wide range of transitions to other habitats, including the calcareous grasslands, as well as alkaline fens and Tilio-Acerion woodlands.

There are large species-rich fen systems, principally of the dioecious sedge – common butterwort (*Carex dioica* – *Pinguicula vulgaris*) mire, quaking-grass – bird's eye primrose (*Briza media* – *Primula farinosa*) sub-community. Frequent species include bird's eye primrose and grass-of-Parnassus *Parnassia palustris* alongside rarities such as broad-leaved cottongrass *Eriophorum latifolium*, hair sedge *Carex capillaris*, alpine bartsia *Bartsia alpina* and dwarf milkwort *Polygala amarella*. There are also extensive spring-fed flush fens throughout the site, typically associated with calcareous grassland and limestone scars.

The site contains extensive complexes of tufa-forming springs associated with a wide range of other habitats, including alkaline fens, calcareous grasslands, limestone pavements, cliffs and screes. Locally, calcareous springs emerge within areas of acid drift supporting heath and acid grassland. The flora of these habitat mosaics is outstandingly species-rich and includes many rare northern species, such as alpine bartisa and bird's eye-primrose.

Craven District 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. Malham Tarn Moss is an active raised bog in an area overlying limestone, where wetlands are more typically base-rich fens. It displays a classic raised dome with transition from raised bog (base-poor) to base-rich conditions at the bog margin where it interfaces with land influenced by water from the limestone. It has an unusual mixture of bog-moss which is Sphagnum-rich and hair-grass *Deschampsia*-dominated vegetation.

Malham Tarn is considered the best example of an upland stonewort Chara-dominated lake in England, and is the highest marl lake in Britain. The water drains from surrounding Carboniferous limestone and is nutrient-poor. The feeder streams and the tarn itself support strong populations of white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*, while upland becks and streams with calcareous waters and stony beds support good numbers of bullhead *Cottus gobio*.

Craven Limestone Complex is also the single remaining native site for Lady's-slipper orchid *Cypripedium calceolus*.

Qualifying Features

H3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.; Calcium-rich nutrient-poor lakes, lochs and pools

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

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

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

H7110 Active raised bogs*

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

H7230 Alkaline fens; Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens

H8240 Limestone pavements*

H9180 *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines; Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes*

S1092 *Austropotamobius pallipes*; White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish

S1163 *Cottus gobio*; Bullhead

S1902 *Cypripedium calceolus*; Lady's-slipper orchid

*denotes a priority natural habitat or species

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.

(j) Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC

This site is the best example in Britain 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. The pavement flora is here at its most diverse and, where stock grazing is absent, can be seen at its best because plant growth is not confined to the grikes (spaces between the limestone blocks that form the pavement). Trees and shrubs, including yew *Taxus baccata*, juniper *Juniperus communis*, buckthorn *Rhamnus catharticus*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, grow above the pavement surface.

Ferns are well represented on the pavements and include rustyback *Ceterach officinarum* and the nationally scarce rigid buckler-fern *Dryopteris submontana* and limestone fern *Gymnocarpium robertianum*. These pavements also support strong populations of a number of distinctive species, characteristic of the habitat in its lowland setting. These include dark-red helleborine *Epipactis atrorubens*, angular Solomon's seal *Polygonatum odoratum*, dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, rustyback and fingered sedge *Carex digitata*.

Calcareous grasslands dominated by blue moor-grass *Sesleria caerulea* have an overall northern character, but are also rich in southern lowland species. There is a wide range of structural variation associated with intensity of grazing and the presence of cliffs, scree, and limestone pavements on the margins of the grassland stands. There are important transitions to calcareous scrub (including juniper scrub) and ash-lime woodlands. Heather *Calluna vulgaris* is a frequent component of the grassland sward, and where the soils are deeper, a heathland community occurs in an intricate mosaic with the grassland.

Although close to the northern limit of lime distribution, the ash-dominated woodland around Morecambe Bay contains many patches of small-leaved lime, which survive sometimes with elm *Ulmus* spp., often along outcrop edges. There is a rich assemblage of rare species, including fingered sedge, wood fescue *Festuca altissima* and mezereon *Daphne mezereum*. The habitat type occurs here both on limestone pavements and on loose scree and steep slopes.

Yew occurs both as dense groves and as scattered trees in the understorey of ash or ash-elm woodland. Yew woodland here represents the development of long-established stands on scree and rocky slopes. Where the soils are deeper, and more acidic, small stands of oak woodland occur often with a heather dominated understory.

Hawes Water is a lowland lake on a predominately Carboniferous limestone foundation, with a substrate of deep lacustrine shell-marl (remains of shells of lake-dwelling animals). The water is highly calcareous and the lake is fed by springs within it. This site is considered to be the best example of a lowland lake with stoneworts *Chara* species in England, owing to the clarity, low nutrient status and high calcium content of its water. The rare rugged

stonewort *Chara rudis* and scarce species *C. aspera*, *C. hispida* and *C. pedunculata* occur here. The lake is fringed by a belt of mixed fen. This includes areas of calcareous fen dominated by great fen sedge *Cladium mariscus*, often occurring in single species stands.

Gait Barrows supports strong populations of the narrow-mouthed whorl snail *Vertigo angustior* on the mossy clint (the limestone blocks which make up pavements) tops of limestone pavements at transitions to woodland, an unusual habitat for the species.

Qualifying Features

H3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* species; Calcium-rich nutrient-poor lakes, lochs and pools

H4030 European dry heaths

H5130 *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands

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

H7210 Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*; Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (saw sedge)*

H8240 Limestone pavements*

H9180 *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines; Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes*

H91A0 Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum*; Western acidic oak woodland

H91J0 *Taxus baccata* woods; Yew-dominated woodland*

S1014 *Vertigo angustior*; Narrow-mouthed whorl snail

*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.

(k) North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC

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. A wide range of rare and local meadow species are contained within the meadows, including globe-flower *Trollius europaeus*, the lady's-mantles *Alchemilla acutiloba*, *A. monticola* and *A. subcrenata*, and spignel *Meum athamanticum*.

Qualifying Features

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

H6520 Mountain hay meadows

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.

(I) Leighton Moss Ramsar

Principal Features

Originally wet peatland, the area was drained and cultivated in the nineteenth century before being re-flooded in 1917. An extensive reedbed has since developed, and the area has been managed as a nature reserve by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) since 1964. The base-rich water draining nearby limestone hills has produced a rich vegetation. There are large areas of open water, sedge beds, fen communities, wet *Salix* scrub and woodland.

A diverse invertebrate fauna includes nationally or regionally rare beetles, moths, hoverflies, caddisflies and water fleas. The site supports nationally important populations of breeding birds* including *Batrurus stellaris* (5-6 pairs), *Circus aeruginosus* (1-2 pairs) and *Panurus biarmicus* (20-30 pairs). Average peak counts of wintering *Anatidae* for the five winters 1987/88 to 1991/92 included nationally important numbers of *Anas crecca* (960) and *A. clypeata* (179).

(m) Malham Tarn Ramsar

Malham Tarn contains areas of open water, fen, raised bog, soligenous mire and a calcareous stream. These habitats hold important communities of rare plant species and wetland invertebrates, and are of types now highly restricted due to drainage and land use changes. The Tarn is the highest marl lake in Britain (lying at an altitude of 380m), whilst the unusual combination of acidophilous bog with calcicolous fen and soligenous mire, provides a range of mire vegetation unparalleled elsewhere in Britain in areas of similar size.

The site holds the nationally rare *Bartsia alpine* and *Calamagrostis stricta*, together with several nationally scarce species including *Potentilla tabernaemontani*, *Carex capillaris*, *C. appropinquata*, *Epipactis atrorubens*, *Hornungia petraea*, *Andromeda polifolia* and *Salix myrsinifolia*. An assemblage of rare wetland invertebrates is found including *Agrypnia crassicornis* which is only known in Britain from Malham Tarn. Other Red Data Book wetland invertebrate species are: *Hydrothassa hannoveriana*, *Macrolea appendiculata*, *Coenosia paludis tiensuu* and *Maro lepidus casimir*. A significant number of rare non-wetland invertebrates also occur.

The Tarn and its associated habitats also support a diverse assemblage of breeding waterfowl, typical of upland wetlands, and notable small breeding numbers of *Carduelis flavirostris*. While numbers do not reach nationally important thresholds, the site has a role in maintaining the ranges of these species, which have been affected by habitat changes elsewhere in Britain (Criteria 1a, 2a). The site is owned by the National Trust who has been implementing a National Nature Reserve (NNR) management plan with the agreement of

Natural England. Part of the site has been identified as part of a proposed European Special Area of Conservation.

(n) Humber Estuary Ramsar

The Humber estuary is approximately 70 km long from the limit of saline intrusion on the River Ouse at Boothferry to the estuary mouth at Spurn Head, where it enters the North Sea. The area of the estuary is approximately 365 km², and it has a width of 6.6 km at the mouth. The Humber is a macro-tidal estuary with a tidal range of 7.4 m, the second-largest range in Britain and comparable to other macro-tidal estuaries worldwide. It is a shallow and well mixed estuary, with an average depth of 6.5m rising to 13.2 m at the mouth.

The Humber is the second-largest coastal plain estuary in Britain, and the largest coastal plain estuary on the east coast of Britain. Suspended sediment concentrations are high, and are derived from a variety of sources, including marine sediments and eroding boulder clay along the Holderness coast. This is the northernmost of the English east coast estuaries, whose structure and function is intimately linked with soft eroding shorelines. Upstream from the Humber Bridge, the navigation channel undergoes major shifts from north to south banks. This section of the estuary is noteworthy for extensive mud and sand bars, which in places form semi-permanent islands.

The estuary covers the full salinity range from fully marine at the mouth of the estuary (Spurn Head) to the limit of saline intrusion on the Rivers Ouse and Trent. A salinity gradient from north to south bank is observed in the outer estuary, due to the incoming tide flowing along the north bank, while the fresh water keeps to the south bank as it discharges to the sea. As salinity declines upstream, reedbeds and brackish saltmarsh communities fringe the estuary.

The site is a representative example of a near-natural estuary with the following component habitats: dune systems and humid dune slacks, estuarine waters, intertidal mud and sand flats, saltmarshes, and coastal brackish/saline lagoons. It is a large macro-tidal coastal plain estuary with high suspended sediment loads, which feed a dynamic and rapidly changing system of accreting and eroding intertidal and subtidal mudflats, sandflats, saltmarsh and reedbeds.

5. Proposed Policies and Development in the Plan

5.1 Introduction

A local plan sets out local planning policies and identifies how land is used, determining what will be built where. Adopted local plans provide the framework for development across England. Development should be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Local plans must be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy in accordance with section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the NPPF.

The NPPF gives guidance to local authorities in drawing up their local plans. The Craven Local Plan aims to set out appropriate planning policies for the location of housing, employment space, and local green spaces in the District. The spatial strategy of the Local Plan identifies the most appropriate locations for providing these new homes, in addition to the accompanying employment, retail, community, visitor facilities and green space over the period of the local plan.

The principal aim of the Local Plan is to promote sustainable development in Craven, and this focuses on two key planning principles:

- (a) The presumption in favour of sustainable development as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework;
- (b) The statutory requirement for decision taking in Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which states that the statutory Development Plan must be the starting point in the consideration of planning applications for the development or use of land.

Policy SD1 of the Local Plan provides a positive planning framework for guiding development and change in Craven in line with national planning policy, namely the NPPF. The local plan states that 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 (page 29). In practice, the council will then take a proactive approach and will work co-operatively with people and organisations wishing to carry out development and applying for planning permission, to find solutions to secure sustainable development that meets relevant plan policies and can be approved wherever possible. Appendix III sets out a review of Craven Local Plan policies and their potential effects on European and Ramsar sites.

5.2 Settlement Hierarchy and Site Allocations

In accordance with the NPPF and the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG), the Council has produced an evidence base which has established the full objectively assessed need for housing in the Craven District from 2012 to 2032. This is provided by the following documents:

- Craven Local Plan Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), November 2017 update;
- Craven Local Plan Demographic Forecasting Update: Addendum November 2017.

The changing demography of the District such as population and age structure impacts strongly on the housing market and the type and quantity of housing required. The household change forecast scenarios produced in the demographic research reports have been applied in the SHMA. Economic forecasts were also used in these documents to identify what level of housing might be required to support the estimated jobs growth in the District.

Following and analysis of these scenarios, the SHMA has concluded the full objectively assessed housing requirement from 2012 to 2032 which is:

- For the Craven District as a whole (including part of the Yorkshire Dales National Park) 242 dwellings per annum (4,840 dwellings), and
- For the Craven Local Plan Area (which excludes the Yorkshire Dales National Park) 206 dwellings per annum (4,120 dwellings).

Housing delivery in the area is complicated by the division of Craven District and the local Housing Market Area (HMA) into two local planning authorities, Craven District Council and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA). The YDNPA adopted its Local Plan in December 2016 and is seeking to more than meet its Full Objectively Assessed Need (FOAN) for the National Park as a whole. Hence for the purposes of meeting the requirements of paragraph 47 of the NPPF, the FOAN for the preparation of the Craven Local Plan is the provision of 4,120 new dwellings between 2012 and 2032 equating to an annual average of 206 dwellings.

The second stage of the process of setting a housing requirement for the Craven Local Plan has been undertaken in the Craven Local Plan Housing Growth Options Paper. This background paper comprises the original paper published alongside the Pre-Publication Draft Plan (June 2017), and an addendum published alongside this Publication Draft Plan. The combination of these documents has meant that the plan preparation process has assessed eight housing growth options in order to seek to establish the most appropriate when considered against reasonable alternatives. This is in accordance with paragraph 182 of the NPPF. Determined through this process, the most appropriate housing requirement

for the Local Plan is 230 dwellings per annum (dpa); 4,600 dwellings in total between 2012 and 2032.

This housing requirement will more than meet the FOAN of the plan area of 206 dpa. Furthermore, when the housing requirement for the Craven Local Plan (230 dpa) is combined with the likely housing delivery of 27 dpa in that part of the Craven District lying within the Yorkshire Dales National Park (257 dpa), the FOAN of the Housing Market Area (242 dpa) will be more than met.

Based on the latest jobs growth forecasts for Craven District, the plan's housing delivery requirement will provide a sufficient labour force to support the latest economic forecasts. The employment land requirement set out in Policy SP2 of this plan is an alignment with the demographic scenario used to derive the FOAN and the housing requirement.

Craven's future development requirements are distributed and accommodated in line with its preferred spatial strategy and on the basis of the identified settlement hierarchy for towns and villages in the plan area. Four scenarios of growth pattern within the Craven plan area emerged from engagement with stakeholders, and were selected as models to help to determine a most suitable spatial growth option. These scenarios were designed to provide four possible but predominately contrasting approaches to spatial growth in Craven. The 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 established, 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, and this is the spatial option which will be analysed in this Appropriate Assessment.

This preferred spatial option also gives a percentage of the overall growth percentage to small site allowances. 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 for a particular purpose as necessary during the local plan period as unforeseen circumstances arise. These sites are assessed against planning policies at that time. The preferred spatial strategy showing percentages of development allocations to each settlement is in Table 3.

The proposed settlement hierarchy for towns and villages in the plan area is as follows:

Principal Town (Tier 1): Skipton.

Key Service Centres (Tier 2): High & Low Bentham, Settle.

Local Service Centres (Tier 3): Gargrave, Glusburn & Cross Hills, Ingleton.

Villages with Basic Services (Tier 4a): Burton-in-Lonsdale, Carleton, Cononley, Cowling, Farnhill & Kildwick, Hellifield, Low Bradley, Sutton-in-Craven.

Villages with Basic Services bisected by Yorkshire Dales National Park boundary: Bolton Abbey, Clapham, Embsay, Giggleswick, Long Preston.

Small villages, hamlets and open countryside: All other villages and hamlets in the plan area not listed in Tiers 1 to 4b above.

Each settlement in the proposed settlement hierarchy was allocated a percentage of housing growth, generally based on the settlement size, its range of services and facilities, and also its location within the District. To meet the objectives of the local plan and to respond to the underpinning evidence, the spatial strategy shown in Table 3 was selected as the required distribution of growth is the preferred option to deliver sustainable patterns of development in Craven. As referred to previously, a number of spatial alternatives have been considered and assessed in the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and were subject to consultation in April 2016. The SA concluded that the preferred option is the most sustainable approach to meet the objectives identified, and there were no substantive objections to the preferred spatial strategy.

Tier	Settlement	Proportion of housing growth (%) at 230 net dwellings pa	Housing provision (approximate number of net dwellings pa)	Net housing requirement based on 230 dpa (2012 to 2032)	Approximate yield of sites proposed for allocation in Publication Plan
No. 1	Skipton (PT)	50%	115	2,300	1,402
No. 2	Settle (KSC)	10.9%	25	501	359
No. 2	Low & High Bentham (KSC)	10.9%	25	501	494
No. 3	Glusburn & Crosshills (LSC)	3.5%	8	160	58
No. 3	Ingleton (LSC)	3.5%	8	160	103
No. 3	Gargrave (LSC)	3.5%	8	160	118
No. 4a	Burton-in-Lonsdale (VBS)	0.4%	1	18	15
No. 4a	Carleton (VBS)	1.2%	3	55	0
No. 4a	Cononley (VBS)	2.5%	6	115	93
No. 4a	Cowling (VBS)	0.8%	2	37	0
No. 4a	Farnhill & Kildwick (VBS)	0.4%	1	18	0
No. 4a	Hellifield (VBS)	0.8%	2	37	0
No. 4a	Low Bradley (VBS)	0.8%	2	37	25
No. 4a	Sutton-in-Craven (VBS)	1.2%	3	55	0
No. 4b	Bolton Abbey (VBS – NP)	0%	0	0	0
No. 4b	Clapham (VBS – NP)	0.8%	2	37	0
No. 4b	Embsay (VBS – NP)	2.0%	5	92	0
No. 4b	Giggleswick (VBS – NP)	0.8%	2	37	35
No. 4b	Long Preston (VBS – NP)	0%	0	0	0
No. 5	Other villages/open countryside	6.0%	14	280	186
Total		100.0%	232	4,600	2,888

Table 3 Proposed Settlement Hierarchy for the Craven Local Plan area.

5.3 The distribution of preferred sites within settlements

There were a range of factors which determined the distribution of growth within the designated settlements of the Local Plan. The principal factors were each settlement's existing size, range of service functions, and importance to its local hinterland. Other factors were the availability and range of sites put forward under the SHLAA process, flood risk, landscape character, biodiversity and natural environment impact, historic environment impact, and highway and access issues. The initial range of sites available from the Call for Sites process was narrowed to a pool of sites which were deemed environmentally, socially and economically sustainable, using some of the above factors.

An appropriate average housing density for new allocations under the Craven Local Plan has been established at 32 dwellings per hectare, based on research of a range of planning permissions in the District in previous years. Some settlements had a surplus of sites compared to what was required based on their percentage allocation of growth in the spatial strategy, and the adopted average density. Hence, the sites deemed to be most suitable from the pool of sites list were chosen, and this is known as the list of preferred sites.

If there was a surplus of sites, how the most appropriate sites were chosen was influenced by the location of the site relative to the SPAs and the SACs in proximity to the district. For example, where two sites in a particular settlement were performing equally and only one was required, the site selected was generally the one further away from the particular SPA or SAC in proximity to the settlement. This is primarily to try to slightly decrease the recreational pressure emerging from the site's housing development on the nearby SPA or SAC.

The results emanating from the HRA Screening Report (undertaken in April and May 2016) helped to guide the selection of residential sites, so that the chosen sites had the objective of causing the least environmental and biodiversity impact on the designated sites of European importance. These site selections were reinforced by the sourcing of biodiversity data from the Ecological Data Centre. Consultation feedback on the original pool of residential sites from statutory bodies such as Natural England and the Environment Agency was also used to inform the final selection of preferred residential sites. A few settlements could not accommodate their entire original residential allocations due to a lack of sites, or having too many unsuitable sites owing to one or more of the factors outlined previously. Their percentage allocation was altered slightly to reflect this, and more suitable sites elsewhere were found.

In this section, there follows an analysis of the distribution of sites within each settlement, and an explanation of the reasoning as to why such a distribution of sites was chosen.

Tier 1, Principal Town Service Centre: Skipton

There are thirteen residential sites, two mixed use regeneration sites, and three employment sites chosen to meet residential and employment requirements in Skipton. From the original range of sites available under the Call for Sites process, a relatively large site put forward to the north of the town (and south of the A65) was rejected before the Pool of Sites stage. This was because of the likely negative effect of residential development on landscape character and the site's relative proximity to the North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA.

Similarly, potential sites to the east did not make the Preferred Sites selection where they were viewed as an unnecessary extension into the open countryside, and where local biodiversity and landscape character would potentially be negatively affected. With the remaining sites available under the Pool of Sites, an objective was to distribute the residential allocations roughly uniformly between the central, north, west, east and south areas of the town, within the constraints of the sites available and suitable.

In all cases for Skipton and elsewhere, sites were chosen that were either contained within, or adjacent to, existing built-up areas. As the first priority, available brownfield sites in the town's centre were utilised where they occurred and were suitable (e.g. sites SK058 and SK060). Preferred greenfield sites such as site SK088 to the northeast have a smaller residential element compared to the overall site size put forward, in order to safeguard important environmental features such as local woodland and a stream running through the south of the site.

Preferred sites such as SK087, SK088, SK081, SK082 and SK108 also have extensive green infrastructure areas marked in the development principals to provide linkages to larger recreational areas such as Skipton Wood and Aireville Park. Some of the Preferred Sites in the north of the town were noted as possible feeding areas for birds potentially associated with the North Pennines SPA, which required further investigation. This is examined later in this report, in Chapters 7 and 8.

Tier 2, Key Service Centre: Settle

There are eight residential sites and two employment/mixed use sites chosen in Settle. With Settle situated close to the Yorkshire Dales National Park boundary (to the north and east), the majority of sites were chosen either in the centre of the town (with relatively high density developments encouraged in these sites' development principles) or to the south of Settle (close to the bypass). By far the largest site is the Preferred Site south of Ingfield Lane, with an area of 11.43ha, and approximately 66% of its site area is allocated for green infrastructure.

The second largest Preferred Site is the combination of sites SG021, SG066 and SG080. The site is a greenfield site in a prominent location on the edge of Settle (northwest and southwest of Penny Green). Development proposals for this site will incorporate biodiversity and landscape mitigations, including a green infrastructure corridor along the southeastern border of the net developable area of the site. Approximately 37% of this site will consist of designated green infrastructure.

Tier 2, Key Service Centre: Low & High Bentham

Sites have been chosen within and adjacent to existing built up areas in both the individual settlements of Low Bentham and High Bentham. There are ten allocated Preferred Sites here. High Bentham is the larger settlement and receives most of the allocated residential growth (nine sites), with the smaller settlement of Low Bentham receiving a lower allocation (one site). The area between these two built up areas is not to be developed for residential use, as there is a designated green wedge present which is to be retained.

By far the largest Preferred Site here is HB052, which features land to the northwest of Bank Head Farm and south of Ghyllhead Farm. The site's size (5.742 ha) and prominent location on the town's northern periphery will be addressed in the design, layout and landscaping of any development to ensure that the character and appearance of the local area is not adversely affected. In addition, there is approximately 36% of the site's area marked for green infrastructure.

It is also stated in the site's development principles that development of the site HB052 will contribute to the improvement and growth of green infrastructure and to achieving net gains in biodiversity. Existing public rights of way that cross the site will form a framework for the design of substantial on-site public green space, which will mitigate landscape impact, enhance local green infrastructure, achieve a net gain in biodiversity, provide a connection to the open countryside and secure well-being benefits. It is also noted in this site's development principles (page 95) that development of this site and adjoining preferred sites HB044 and HB024, will take the opportunity to secure additional benefits by creating green infrastructure linkages across all three sites.

Tier 3, Local Service Centre: Glusburn & Crosshills

The majority of this settlement's residential allocation is to be accommodated within site SC085 to the southwest of the settlement, which is intended to accommodate a minimum of 33 dwelling units. Site SC037(a) is the other Preferred Site allocated. Site SC085 is the only Preferred Site in the local plan within a 2.5km buffer zone of the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA Phase 2 (see section 6.2). It is stated in the development principles for this site in

the Local Plan (page 98) that in order to relieve any recreational pressure on the South Pennine Moors, the site will include extensive areas of green infrastructure. A Public Right Of Way (PROW) will be created through the site to link to existing PROWs on Malsis Lane to the south and High Corn Mill to the northeast. It is also stated that an Ecological Impact Assessment will be carried out and the proposed development will be to the satisfaction of Natural England.

Tier 3, Local Service Centre: Ingleton

There are five residential sites chosen here and one employment site. Sites in Ingleton were chosen with a particular focus on existing suitable sites within the town's urban fabric (namely sites IN006, IN010 and IN049). There were two large sites put forward for selection to the town's eastern boundary – sites IN028 and IN029. Relatively small portions of these sites were chosen for residential development, as these large sites have open landscape value of importance, and development of these two sites in full was hence deemed an inappropriate extension to Ingleton, particularly considering the proximity of the Ingleborough Complex SAC to the northeast. Within sites IN028 and IN029, areas chosen for residential development were adjacent to existing housing areas in the town.

Regarding sites IN028 and IN029, in their development principles there is a requirement for a Biodiversity Appraisal to assess the existing ecological conditions on the site. This is to be accompanied by a standardised Biodiversity Mitigation Plan (BMP), which must cover matters of both habitat and protected species, with the aim that negative effects on biodiversity are avoided or suitably offset, and enhancement effects are implemented.

Tier 3, Local Service Centre: Gargrave

Large areas of land were put originally forward to the north and northeast of the town, made up of a total of 7 different sites (GA028, GA029 and GA030 to the north, and GA009, GA022, GA027 and GA032 to the northeast). These sites made it into the pool of sites stage, as they had no major site constraints. However, these sites were noted as being closest to the North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA designations to the north, and also were viewed as an unnecessary and undesirable extension to the village north of the canal. Primary focus on town centre and southern sites was viewed as being the most appropriate method of meeting Gargrave's residential requirement.

In this regard, site GA004 was viewed as the optimal site for development from those available - a brownfield site within the town centre fabric. Site GA027 to the southwest has been preferred by the draft Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan, and was also chosen in the Local Plan's Preferred Sites. However, it is recommended that 0.3 hectares in the site's southern

tip is kept as green space, so as to suitably set back residential development from the South Pennines Walkway to the south.

Site GA009 has being identified as a site for required Extra Care housing in Gargrave by North Yorkshire County Council. It is located north of the canal, but Extra Care housing is of great requirement in Craven, given the relatively high percentage of its residents aged 65 and over. The site has a gross area of 3.759 ha, with a green infrastructure area of 1.217 ha allocated. There is hence a net developable area of 2.542 ha, but with the 60 units been high density Extra Care units, it is highly unlikely that all of this net developable area will be required. There is hence currently no stated density as it is subject to future design by the County Council. In the development principles, there is a requirement for a Biodiversity Appraisal to assess the existing ecological conditions on the site.

Tier 4a, Villages with Basic Services: Burton-in-Lonsdale

The residential allocation requirement for Burton-in-Lonsdale is relatively small, and there is one Preferred Site allocated. The site area is 0.74 ha, with 0.251 ha of green infrastructure provision included, and the number of dwellings generated is 15 units. It can be viewed as largely a brownfield site, as it is the site of a former primary school.

Tier 4a, Villages with Basic Services: Bradley

There is a requirement for one site in Bradley, with a site allocation area of 0.77 ha, generating 25 dwellings. It is emphasised in the development principles that proposals should be carefully and sensitively designed to minimise visual impact on the character and appearance of the area.

Tier 4a, Villages with Basic Services: Cononley

The one allocated site here is a brownfield development, as Cononley has an existing old mill which is open to conversion into a mixed use housing and employment site. The site allocation area is 2.168 ha, including 1,445sqm of B1 use provision. This brownfield site is adjacent to the eastern boundary of the village's built up area. This is a relatively large site, and hence Cononley was deemed suitable to take some of Farnhill & Kildwick's initial residential allocation, as this village had not enough suitable sites to meet its requirements. In spatial strategy terms, and having regard to the designated European sites, Cononley is deemed suitable in this regard, given its relative large distance from designated European sites and its easy access to Skipton and Leeds in terms of public transport (Cononley is situated on the Skipton to Leeds rail line).

Tier 4a, Villages with Basic Services: Carleton

The village was allocated a housing growth percentage of 1.2%. There are no Preferred Sites in Carleton to be allocated in the publication plan. The outstanding planning permissions up until 30/09/2017 mean that the gross total housing requirement for the period 2017 to 2032 has been met. There is a favourable outcome regarding designated European sites, given the proximity of the village to Skipton and its allocated Preferred Sites, and to the North Pennine Moors SAC & SPA.

Tier 4a, Villages with Basic Services: Cowling

The village was originally given a relatively low proportion of housing growth at 0.8%. There are no residential sites allocated in Cowling in the publication plan, because of outstanding planning permissions. This is a favourable outcome as Cowling is the closest settlement of those listed in the hierarchy to the South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA – Cowling is situated close to its northern boundary.

Tier 4a, Villages with Basic Services: Farnhill & Kildwick

The village has been allocated the lowest percentage housing growth of any of the listed settlements, at 0.4%. No available sites were deemed suitable at present in Farnhill & Kildwick, primarily due to road safety, access and flood risk issues. This is a favourable outcome, as there is less recreational pressure in the South Craven area on the South Pennine Moors SPA.

Tier 4a, Villages with Basic Services: Hellifield

This village has been allocated 0.8% of percentage residential growth. There are no Preferred Sites allocated under the Publication Plan because of outstanding planning permissions since 2012.

Tier 4a, Villages with Basic Services: Sutton-in-Craven

Sutton-in-Craven is a village situated close to South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA. The village has been allocated 1.2% of residential growth in the plan area. There is no Preferred Sites allocated in the local plan because of outstanding planning permissions since 2012. Again, this is a suitable outcome given its proximity to the South Pennine Moors, and possible

recreational pressures in combination with Bradford's Core Strategy to the south (see Section 6.2).

Tier 4b, Villages with Basic Services bisected by the National Park boundary: Giggleswick

There is one site allocated in Giggleswick in the centre of the village, with a site allocation area of 1.096 ha and generating 35 dwellings. The site has good accessibility to key services and public transport. Proposals for development should therefore maximise the opportunities for future occupiers to walk or cycle to many key services rather than using a private vehicle.

Tier 4b, Villages with Basic Services bisected by the National Park boundary: Bolton Abbey

This village has a zero percentage of housing growth in the local plan. No Preferred Sites were chosen in this village for reasons of potential harmful impact on both historic heritage and the surrounding natural environment, in particular the North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC.

Tier 4b, Villages with Basic Services bisected by the National Park boundary: Clapham

This village has been allocated a relatively low 0.8% of residential housing growth. Any available sites in the SHLAA were located too far from the village and were thought to result in scattered development away from town or village centres. No Preferred Sites were subsequently required in Clapham, due to outstanding planning permissions.

Tier 4b, Villages with Basic Services bisected by the National Park boundary: Embsay

The settlement has been allocated 2% of housing growth in the Publication Plan, but due to outstanding planning permissions between 2012 and 2017, there are no Preferred Sites to be allocated. The outstanding planning permissions total 101 housing units, which is the largest number of any settlement apart from Skipton. Hence this number needs to be examined in Chapters 7 and 8 as if they are Preferred Sites. These sites with planning permissions are situated to the south of the village.

In the available SHLAA list of sites, one relatively large site (EM007) to the north of the village was not chosen. It was viewed to be too close to the National Park boundary, and also had potential impacts on the adjacent North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA to the north

in terms of loss of feeding species for SPA species. For similar reasons, site EM008 was also not chosen.

Tier 4b, Villages with Basic Services by the National Park boundary: Long Preston

This village has a zero percentage of housing growth in the local plan. No sites were chosen in Long Preston due to the village's proximity to the Yorkshire Dales National Park, with some of the village located within the park boundaries.

Other villages/open countryside

Other smaller villages and open countryside in the plan area are to receive 6% of housing growth over the plan period. After outstanding planning permissions between 2012 and 2017, there is a gross residual housing requirement for allocation in the Craven Local Plan of 186 homes up until 2032.

6. Neighbouring Plans and Projects

6.1 Neighbouring Authority Areas and Local Plans

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 adverse effects on designated sites, it may do in combination with other spatial development allocations in the wider region.

Bradford Metropolitan District Council, Harrogate Borough Council, Lancaster City Council, Pendle Borough Council, Ribble Valley Borough Council, and Yorkshire Dales National Park Planning Authority have all planning jurisdictions and development plans adjoining or close to the Craven Local Plan area. The local plans associated with these planning jurisdictions will be examined with the published version of the Craven Local Plan, in order to determine possible in-combination effects in this Appropriate Assessment. The following paragraphs explain the significance, if any, of each of the neighbouring plans to the Craven Local Plan. The Core Strategy of the Bradford Metropolitan District Council is examined in the most detail given the relatively high number of houses proposed relative to other plans in the area, and its proximity to the South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA Phase 2.

6.2 Bradford Metropolitan District Council

The area administered by Bradford Metropolitan District Council is situated to the southwest of the Craven Local Plan area. This District Council is the local authority of the City of Bradford in West Yorkshire, and it provides the majority of local government services in Bradford. The city is located in the foothills of the Pennine Chain or Pennine Hills, and is 14km west of Leeds. The city's population is approximately 528,000 people (2011 Census). The area administered by this District Council is particularly significant, given its relatively large existing population compared to most other neighbouring authorities, and also because the majority of the South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA (Phase 2) is located within its administrative boundaries.

The current adopted development plan is the Replacement Unitary Development Plan (RUDP). This was adopted in 2005 and saved, in part, by the Secretary of State in 2008. Until the adoption of the emerging development plan, the Local Plan, this will continue to be the statutory development plan for the District but the weight that can be given to policies will depend on compliance with NPPF.

The Development Plan Documents (DPD) currently in preparation includes the Core Strategy DPD. The Core Strategy is a key DPD that forms part of the Local Plan for the Bradford

District. It was adopted by the Council following Examination in July 2017. The Core Strategy sets out the broad aims and objectives for sustainable development within the Bradford District until 2030. It establishes broad policies for guiding and restraining development. It also sets out the approximate locations for new housing, employment and infrastructure investment.

The Strategic Core Policies, Sub Area Policies and policies EC3, HO1, HO2 and HO3 identify the development objectives for the district over the plan period, and provide for at least 42,100 dwellings and 135 ha of employment land between 2013 and 2030. The number of dwellings proposed here is substantial relative to the Craven Local Plan, with over 9 times the number of dwellings proposed in the Craven Local Plan.

The Regional City of Bradford is the prime focus for a wide range of developments, with the principal towns of Ilkley, Keighley and Bingley being the main local focus for housing, shopping, leisure, education, health and cultural activities and facilities. The Local Growth Centres of Burley in Wharfedale, Menston, Queensbury, Silsden, Steeton with Eastburn and Thornton are identified as making a significant contribution to meeting the district's needs for housing, employment and supporting community facilities, with a range of local service centres providing for smaller scale developments.

The Appropriate Assessment for the Core Strategy considered the potential impacts on four European designated sites, two of which are in common with the designated sites examined for the Craven Local Plan – the North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC and the South Pennine Moors SPA and SAC. The Appropriate Assessment explains the Strategic Core Policy (SC8), which is aimed at protecting the South Pennine Moors SPA and the South Pennine Moors SAC and their zone of influence. In this policy (shown graphically in Appendix V):

- Zone A is land up to 400m from the South Pennine Moors SPA and South Pennine Moors SAC boundary;
- Zone B is land up to 2.5km from the SPA and SAC boundary; and
- Zone C is land up to 7km from the SPA and SAC boundary.

Subject to the derogation tests of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, in all zones development will not be permitted where it would be likely to lead, directly or indirectly, to an adverse effect (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), which cannot be effectively mitigated, upon the integrity of the SPA or the SAC. In conducting the above analysis, the Appropriate Assessment states that the following approach will apply:

- In Zone A, no development involving a net increase in dwellings would be permitted unless, as an exception, the development and/or its use would not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of the SPA or SAC;

- In Zone B it will be considered, based on such evidence as may be reasonably required, whether land proposed for development affects foraging habitat for qualifying species of the SPA;
- In Zone C, in respect of residential developments that result in a net increase of one or more dwellings, it will be considered how recreational pressure on the SPA or SAC, that such development might cause, will be effectively mitigated.

To mitigate impacts on the SPA and SAC due to the increase in population, an SPD will set out a mechanism for the calculation of the financial contributions, by reference to development types, the level of predicted recreational impact on the SPA or SAC, and the measures upon which such contributions will be spent.

The following impact pathways were considered during the assessment:

- Loss of supporting habitats;
- Increased water demand;
- Impacts on water quality;
- Increased emissions to air;
- Wind turbines (collision mortality risk and displacement);
- Recreational impacts; and
- Effects from increasing urbanisation.

The Appropriate Assessment found that adverse effects resulting from wind turbine development, increased water demand or impacts on water quality are not considered likely for any of the four European sites. The loss of supporting habitats and urbanisation impacts are unlikely to affect the North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA. The loss of supporting habitats and urbanisation impacts are assessed as likely to affect the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA. However, they are considered to be adequately avoided and mitigated by the policy response and approach in Core Strategy Policy SC8.

Recreational impacts are assessed as potentially affecting any of the four sites. However, they are considered to be adequately avoided and mitigated by the Core Strategy policy response. The distribution and magnitude of impacts differs between the four designated areas. Evidence is presented to indicate that, if left unmitigated, impacts are likely to be greater in relation to the South Pennine Moors sites due to their relative proximity to locations for future development and high levels of accessibility, a key influence on the numbers of people visiting the sites and associated impacts.

The likelihood of traffic-related atmospheric pollution affecting any of the four sites will be determined through more detailed traffic modelling during the pre-allocations testing stage.

To ensure that delivery and funding mechanisms for avoidance and mitigation measures are taken forward, the Council will produce a Supplementary Planning Document to guide

implementation of the South Pennine Moors Zones of Influence Policy set out in Strategic Core Policy 8 in the Core Strategy (Proposed Modifications).

Taking into account the range of avoidance and mitigation measures incorporated into this strategic plan, the Appropriate Assessment concluded that the Core Strategy (Proposed Modifications) will not result in adverse effects on the ecological integrity of the North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA, South Pennine Moors SAC and South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA. The Appropriate Assessment states that the Core Strategy can be considered compliant with the Habitats Regulations in respect of all four sites.

6.3 Harrogate Borough Council

The area administered by Harrogate Borough Council lies to the east of the Craven Local Plan area. The population of the Borough of Harrogate is approximately 158,000 people (2011 Census). The council headquarters is based in the town of Harrogate, but is also includes surrounding towns and villages, and almost all of the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is the most populous district of North Yorkshire, and the district is part of the Leeds City Region.

The council has started work on preparing a new Local Plan for the district, which will cover the period 2014-2035. This will set out how much and where land should be provided to accommodate the new dwellings and employment that are required in their district. The new Local Plan will also look to facilitate new infrastructure provision to ensure that development is sustainable. This may include new transport measures, open space, sporting and recreation facilities in addition to education, retail and community facilities. The new Local Plan will also seek to protect and enhance the high quality natural and built environment. Once the plan is finalised and adopted, the Borough Council state that this plan will be used to manage development through the determination of planning applications; making clear where development is acceptable and providing certainty for local communities that new development will happen in a planned and co-ordinated way.

The council commissioned a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) to understand the housing needs of the district. This concluded that the objectively assessed housing need in the district is 557 dwellings per year. Over the period of the plan (2014-2035), this equated to 11,697 homes. In coming to this conclusion, the SHMA considered a range of factors which influence housing requirements, and in so doing, the Borough Council believe it captures the impact of past under-delivery of housing through adjustments made to the starting point demographic projections.

6.4 Lancaster City Council

The City of Lancaster is the local government district of Lancashire with the status of a city and non-metropolitan district. This district is situated to the west of the Craven Local Plan area. It is named after its largest settlement, Lancaster, but encompasses a much larger area of 576.2km², including the towns of Carnforth, Heysham, and Morecambe. Since August 2016, its rural hinterland includes a section of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. According to the Government's mid-2016 population estimates, the district has a population of approximately 143,500. The area borders the Morecambe Bay SPA to its western boundary.

Lancaster City Council have produced a Strategic Policies and Land Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD), which will direct where homes, employment land, services and future investment will go in the district over the next 15 years. It will identify land to meet specific development needs of the district, as well as areas which are worthy of protection from development due to their environmental, economic and social value. Consultation on the draft Strategic Policies & Lane Allocations DPD and the refresh of the Development Management DPD consultation was from January 2017 for 8 weeks. It is expected that the Local Plan Update will be completed ('adopted') in September 2018.

Overall, 363 responses were received to the 'Developing a Local Plan for Lancaster District' consultation (preferred options stage) which ended in March 2017. Key raised concerns related to the scale of development proposed, infrastructure delivery, development viability and impacts on the natural and historic environment. The City Council state that the outcomes of the consultation, sustainability assessment and other evidence will be used by officers to inform and complete the preparation of the Local Plan for the Lancaster District.

A formal publication version of the Local Plan is to be reported to Full Council towards the end of 2017, with public consultation in early 2018. Once adopted by the council, the Strategic Policies and Land Allocations DPD and accompanying Policies Map will replace any site specific guidance from the strikethrough edition of the Lancaster District Local Plan 1996-2016 (adopted in 2004 and reviewed in 2008).

Housing evidence includes the Independent Housing Requirements Study (October 2015), which combines population and economic projections to recommend that between 13,000 and 14,000 new homes are required in the district during the period of the Local Plan. This would mean an average of 675 new homes being built every year. In February 2016, councillors formally recognised the requirement as a true reflection of housing requirements within the district and decided to progress with a new Local Plan.

6.5 Pendle Borough Council

Pendle Borough Council covers the borough of Pendle in Lancashire. This administrative area is located to the south of the Craven Local Plan area. According to the Government's mid-2016 population estimates, the borough area has a population of approximately 90,600 people. It has an area of 169.4km² and the largest urban areas are Colne, Nelson and Barnoldswick.

The Pendle Local Plan Part 1 - Core Strategy was formally adopted at a meeting of the Full Council in December 2015. The Core Strategy now forms part of the Statutory Development Plan for Pendle and is used in the determination of planning applications. It sets out the strategic planning policies the Council will use to help guide development to the most sustainable places of the district over the 15 year period between 2015 and 2030. Specifically it establishes a settlement hierarchy and shows how new development should be distributed across Pendle, and how many new dwellings should be built in different parts of Pendle.

Policy LIV1 of the Core Strategy sets out the amount of new housing required to meet the borough's Objectively Assessed Needs (OAN) over the plan period (2011-2030). In determining the housing requirement figure from the OAN range (identified in the SHMA and HNS Update) it was stated that it is important to ensure that the chosen figure:

- Meets the latest population and household projections;
- Makes an allowance for the plan's economic aspirations; and
- Boosts significantly the supply of housing in the borough.

Based on these requirements, it is considered that a minimum of 5,662 dwellings should be delivered in Pendle over the plan period, equivalent to 298dpa. This level of new housing is based on one of the economic scenarios tested in the SHMA and HNS Update.

6.6 Ribble Valley Borough Council

Ribble Valley is a local government district with borough status within the non-metropolitan county of Lancashire. The administrative area is situated to the south and southwest of the Craven Local Plan area. The total population of the non-metropolitan district at the 2011 Census was approximately 57,000 people, and the council is based in the town of Clitheroe. The administrative area has a size of 583.2km², and it encompasses a large part of the Forest of Bowland AONB. Therefore the administrative area includes a large area of the Bowland Fells SPA. The area is so called due to the River Ribble which flows in its final stages towards its estuary in Preston.

The Ribble Valley Core Strategy 2008 – 2028 was adopted in December 2014, and sets out the strategic policies that are aimed to realise the vision of the Core Strategy. The Core

Strategy forms the central document of the Local Development Framework (LDF), establishing the vision, underlying objectives and key principles that will guide the development of the area to 2028.

Land for residential development will be made available to deliver 4,000 dwellings, estimated at an average annual completion rate of at least 200 dwellings per year over the period 2008 to 2028, in accordance with baseline information. The Council will identify through the relevant "Strategic Housing Land Availability Study" (SHLAA), sites for residential development that are deliverable over a five-year period. By reference to the housing land monitoring report and where appropriate Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments, the Council will endeavour to ensure housing land is identified for the full 15 year period and beyond.

6.7 Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

The Yorkshire Dales is an upland area of the Pennines, with the majority of the area in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, which was created in 1954. The park has an area of 2,178km². The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is the statutory planning authority for the area. Its administrative area is of great importance in terms of the subject material of this document. The Yorkshire Dales National Park includes the Ingleborough Complex SAC, the Craven Limestone Complex SAC, the North Pennines Dales Meadows SAC, and much of the North Pennines Moors SAC & SPA. It also includes the Malham Tarn Ramsar site.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan 2015 to 2030 was adopted in December 2016. It does not cover the parts of Eden District, South Lakeland or Lancaster City that have been designated as part of the extended National Park from 01 August 2016. It sets out local policy to steer development decisions and guide planning applications. It replaces the existing Yorkshire Dales Local Plan 2006, Housing Development Plan 2012 and the Minerals and Waste Local Plan 1998 as the statutory development plan for the National Park. A supplementary planning document dealing with design issues has also been produced to support its policies.

The housing target for the local plan area is set at an annual average of 55 dwellings per annum. This is a net figure and will be measured over the year by comparing new dwellings completed to demolitions and change of use to non-dwelling uses. This can be disaggregated into the three main housing market areas of Richmondshire (18 dpa), Craven (27 dpa) and South Lakeland (10 dpa). The target of 55 dpa is almost twice the projected rate of household growth up until 2030, but still only half the estimated shortfall of affordable housing. It is however equivalent to the average rate of actual housing completion over the last 12 years, and so the National Park Authority believes it is firmly rooted in deliverability.

An assessment of potential housing land supply has been undertaken in support of the target of 55 dwellings per annum. This has found that, through a combination of sites that are allocated for housing development, sites that already benefit from planning permission, together with a realistic estimate of windfall capacity, there is an adequate supply of housing land at the present time. There may be a requirement to release further sites later in the plan period to meet demand during the second half of the Local Plan timeframe. The area of search for future sites will be local service centres and service villages, which the National Park Authority believes have the facilities and capacity to benefit from new development.

6.8 Assessment of Cumulative Effects

There are numerous local plans adjacent to the Craven plan area in the process of preparation, working towards adoption. The neighbouring authority with by far the largest planned housing allocation is Bradford Metropolitan District Council, with an estimated 42,100 homes envisaged over their plan period. Lancaster City Council has a local plan in progress with the next highest housing allocation, at 13,000 to 14,000 homes, and then Harrogate Borough Council at approximately 11,700 houses. Pendle Borough Council proposes 5,700 homes over their plan period, with Ribble Valley Borough Council planning for approximately 4,000 dwellings. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has the lowest proposed allocation, at 1,100 houses. The Craven Local Plan has amongst the lowest allocations in this selected group, at 4,600 homes.

It is important to establish the most significant development allocations in relation to their geographical arrangement to the Craven Local Plan area and European designated sites. Bradford Metropolitan District Council and Lancaster City Council have easily the two highest allocations of housing numbers. Lancaster City Council, with the second highest allocation, is located to the west of the Craven Plan Area. The western section of the Craven Local Plan area is where the lowest housing numbers allocation in the plan is, with only Bentham and Ingleton receiving notable housing allocations in terms of size. Hence, cumulative recreational pressures on the SACs in the vicinity are not considered to be high. Harrogate Borough Council has an allocation of 11,700 homes but it is not a bordering local authority area to the Craven local plan area. Hence, it does not pose significant cumulative pressures such as loss of feeding sites in combination with the Craven Local Plan.

It is clear that the Core Strategy of Bradford Metropolitan District Council is the most significant in the context of Craven, given the housing numbers involved, and the proximity to the South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA to both authority areas. The research and conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment of the Bradford Metropolitan District Council area was hence reviewed in detail. Bradford's Appropriate Assessment employed a three zone system to effectively assess the impact of new development, in relation to its proximity

to the South Pennine Moors SAC & SPA. Appropriate mitigation measures were demonstrated to mitigate the effects of development in the Bradford plan area. The Craven Local Plan has not focused a significant percentage of development growth in its southern area, close to the South Pennine Moors. The four southern Craven settlements only receive a total of 5.9% of the total percentage growth. Of these four settlements, Sutton-in-Craven, Cowling and Farnhill & Kildwick are not to receive any further site allocations due to previous planning permissions between 2012 to 2017. Furthermore, two extensive green wedge areas with Public Rights Of Way in South Craven are to be retained in the Craven Local Plan, offering recreational alternatives to the South Pennine Moors.

Therefore, it is considered that the cumulative impacts or effects of the Craven local plan with the adjoining plans of the neighbouring local authorities do not present significant adverse effects to the designated European sites.

7. Identifying Impact Pathways

7.1 Introduction

Once the potential effects of the project or plan have been identified, it is necessary to assess whether there will be adverse effects on the integrity of the studied European designated sites, as defined by the conservation objectives and status of each site. In carrying out the necessary assessments, it is important to apply the precautionary principle and the focus of the assessment should be on objectively demonstrating, with supporting evidence, that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site. Where this is not the case, adverse effects must be assumed.

From the information gathered and the predictions made about the changes that are likely to result from the local plan, in addition to knowledge of the conservation objectives and status of each site, it should be possible to answer the questions below.

Does the local plan have the potential to:

- Cause delays in progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site?
- Interrupt progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site?
- Disrupt those factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site?
- Interfere with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of the favourable condition of the site?

This checklist of questions assists in determining whether or not the local plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, will have an adverse effect on the integrity of the site. If at this stage, information or evidence is lacking, then adverse effects should be assumed. Where it cannot be demonstrated that there will be no adverse effects on the site, it is necessary to devise mitigation measures to avoid, where possible, any adverse effects.

The HRA Screening Assessment identified possible adverse effects on the SACs and SPAs of the North and South Pennine Moors that may result from the Craven Local Plan alone or in combination with the Core Strategy for Bradford district. There are also possible other adverse effects which need consideration. Potential impact pathways considered to significantly affect the designated European sites are:

- Recreational impacts on designated European sites;
- Loss of supporting feeding sites to development (directly or indirectly);
- Increased emissions to air from road traffic;
- Increased water demand and impacts on water supply and quality;

- A range of urban edge effects, including fly-tipping, invasive species, off-road vehicle use, and increased pet predation.

7.2 Recreational impacts on designated European sites

This report contains an assessment of a range of SPAs and SACs adjacent to the Craven Local Plan area which may experience additional recreational pressure as a result of the policies and objectives of this Local Plan. Some of these European designated sites are located within the Yorkshire Dales National Park, such as the Ingleborough Complex SAC, the Craven Limestone Complex SAC, and North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC. The Bowland Fells SPA corresponds with the designated Area of Outstanding Beauty. These European designated sites are not located near to large urban areas, and the housing provision in the local plan is not deemed significant to pose significant recreational impacts.

The potential impacts on the North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, and the South Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, need to be studied more closely however. The North Pennine Moors is located close to by far the largest town in the local plan area, Skipton, which will receive the largest amount of new housing. South Pennine Moors SPA & SAC may be under pressure from the housing allocations in the Bradford Core Strategy, and as such housing allocations in the Craven Local Plan, particularly in the southern plan area, are required to be studied carefully.

Research into the effects of urban development on southern lowland heathlands has identified a number of pressures that threaten their habitat condition, arising from a range of factors that have been reviewed by a number of studies. Local visitor surveys have revealed how much the open, remote and natural features of these lowland heathland are enjoyed by the local population and make them attractive for a range of recreational uses. These uses particularly include walking and dog walking, although horse riding, cycling, jogging, picnicking and bird watching are also identified as regular activities. These trends are reflected in surveys of visitors to the South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC undertaken by Bradford Metropolitan District Council. Although comparable visitor survey information is not currently available for the North Pennine Moors, it seems likely that their character is also attractive to local populations for this range of recreational uses.

The range of recreational activities undertaken puts the habitats and the breeding birds they support under pressure. This can arise from disturbance to nesting birds leading to predation of eggs or young; displacement of birds from areas with high levels of disturbance; augmented risk of accidental or intentional fire; trampling and erosion of moorland vegetation and soils; and nutrient enrichment and eutrophication of heathland soils from dog fouling. Rombalds and Ilkley Moors, which is an isolated area of the South Pennine Moors, appears especially vulnerable to this range of impacts, given its fragmented nature, small size and relative proximity to urban areas in many directions.

The Pennine Moors are subject to a large range of recreational effects. These are reviewed in the 1998 South Pennine Moors Integrated Management Strategy and Conservation Action Programme and include walking (with & without dogs), cycling/mountain biking, horse riding, rock climbing, hang gliding (particularly at breeding sites or seasons), Grouse shooting, model aircraft flying, orienteering, large walking events, angling, fell running, and off-road driving (including 4x4 driving and scrambling). The Strategy considered that “these activities may have significant localised impacts, and have the potential to have wider conservation implications. Plans to extend or develop recreational activities in the area must be accompanied by appropriate assessment and monitoring.”

In 2014, Natural England completed a report named Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment [MENE] Survey (2009-12): Visit taking in the South Pennines (Burt et al., 2014) which was commissioned on behalf of the South Pennines Local Nature Partnership. It examined data from the 2009-12 period, with reference to the South Pennines and the surrounding South Pennines Catchment Area. The survey revealed that 82% of visitors to the South Pennines lived within a distance of 10 miles and that a much higher proportion of visits (up to four times more) to the South Pennines were to mountain or moorland, when compared with all England outdoor visits. In total, approximately half of all visits included walking with a dog, but when limited to people who live within the South Pennines (as opposed to the Catchment Area and beyond), this increased to 68%. More than half (59%) of the same population of South Pennine residents visited the area at least one per week, with 25% visiting several times per week – 3% higher than the figure throughout all of England.

There is then clearly a requirement to present alternative suitable recreational spaces to those of a SPA or SAC designated area. Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGS) is the name given to green space that is of a quality and type suitable to be used as mitigation for residential and where necessary tourism development likely to affect a SAC or SPA. It is considered that the provision of SANGS together with a range of on-site and other management measures has the potential to provide an effective means of avoiding or mitigating harm from the effects of recreational pressure from new development.

The aims of SANGS is to provide alternative green space to accommodate additional levels of recreation and divert visitors away from the SPAs and SACs to mitigate together with other on-site and other management measures, recreational impacts to the SAC or SPA. It is considered that, by augmenting the amount of green space or improving existing green space in an area by the provision of sites designed to be attractive to particular users, it will counterbalance or hopefully even reduce the levels of visitor use. This will hence reduce the effect of recreational pressure on the SPA resulting from new development. This in turn will lower the potential for adverse impacts on protected bird species of SPAs during their breeding season.

For sites to function as effective SANGS, they must act as an alternative to SPAs, attracting people who would otherwise visit the SPA. Central to the effectiveness of any SANGS provision is the location of SANGS, their scale, on-site features and their overall design. The aim is that any SANGS provision must be more attractive to use as a recreational resource than the SPA to ensure that it diverts users. Important to this objective is the overall quality of the site.

The identification of sites with nature conservation value which are likely to be damaged by increased visitor numbers should be avoided. Such damage may arise, for example, from erosion, increased disturbance and input of nutrients from dog faeces. Where sites of nature conservation are analysed for SANGS provision, their nature conservation value should be examined and considered alongside relevant planning policy.

7.3 Loss of Supporting Feeding Sites to Development

As noted in Chapter 3, there is a low amount of derelict land or buildings within the settlements of Craven. Many former historic mills have been conserved and converted for other uses, including housing and employment. Many former contaminated industrial sites have also been remediated and redeveloped for housing. It can be seen from the published Craven Local Plan that opportunities for brownfield and town/village centre development are given priority in Preferred Site selection wherever they occur. However, the limited supply of brownfield land means that to fully meet objectively assessed development needs, greenfield sites are predominately required for development requirements in the Local Plan. This needs to be reconciled with the appropriate protection of the plan area's outstanding environment, including its natural and historic assets.

The populations of bird species for which the SPAs are classified often breed within the SPA boundary but then feed on habitats outside of the SPA. These off-site habitats are vital to the conservation of the SPA bird populations, and their conservation is of great importance to the maintenance of favourable conservation status (condition) of the SPA. Off-site habitats are particularly important for Golden Plover during the breeding season, as young birds are often taken from their moorland nest sites to feed on meadows adjacent to the moorland. These meadows, sometimes referred to as in-bye land are rich in invertebrate food, in particular cranefly larvae and earthworms. Golden Plover chicks may be moved up to 2km or more to feed in such meadows (Byrkjedal & Thompson, 1998).

Curlew also frequently utilise wet meadows to feed both during the breeding season and in periods of migration, when flocks of birds congregate in in-bye fields. Curlew is a species for which the North Pennine Moors SPA has been selected (but not the South Pennine Moors SPA). However, Curlew are also considered a typical species of the Annex I habitat type Blanket bogs. This is a habitat for which both the North and South Pennine Moors SAC have

been selected, and hence the conservation of these off-site in-bye meadows is important to the maintenance of favourable condition (conservation status) of the North Pennine Moors SPA and both the North and South Pennine Moors SAC.

In a meeting with Natural England representatives in August 2017, there was a request to review proposed site allocations in the north of Skipton, from the point of view of the potential of foraging birds in the area, connected to the North Pennine Moors SPA. As previously referenced, Skipton is by far the largest urban area in the Craven Local Plan area. It is also the closest settlement in the Local Plan's hierarchy (to receive site allocations) to one of the Special Protection Areas studied. In this regard, preferred sites, particularly in the north of this town, should undergo review in relation to potential foraging areas for SPA bird species.

7.4 Air Quality Impacts near SPAs and SACs

Although most of the pollutants emitted by road vehicles are also produced by a wide range of industrial, commercial and domestic processes, road transport sources account for a large proportion of the emissions of several air pollutants. The pollutants of most concern near roads are nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and particles (PM_{10}) in relation to human health, and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) in relation to vegetation and ecosystems.

Clean air is an essential ingredient for a good quality of life. The British Government has stated it is committed to meeting health based air quality criteria for human health, and for the protection of vegetation and ecosystems. In addition, Britain and all EU Member States must lower their national emissions of a range of pollutants as these pollutants can travel considerable distances and affect air quality across regions and international boundaries. The Government also has targets to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases as these are heavily linked with climate change.

Each year in England, various projects are undertaken by the Highways Agency (HA) which includes major schemes, technology improvements and maintenance projects. All these different classes of project may alter the characteristics of the traffic in a locality, with corresponding impacts on pollutant emissions and air quality. These projects can have positive or negative effects on local air quality or, as is more often the situation, beneficial effects in one area and adverse effects in another locality, depending on where traffic conditions change.

In 1996, the Council of the European Union adopted Framework Directive 96/62/EC on ambient air quality assessment and management, called the Air Quality Framework Directive. This Directive covers the revision of previously existing legislation and introduces new air quality criteria for previously unregulated air pollutants. It sets out the strategic framework for tackling air quality consistently by establishing European-wide, legally

binding limit values for twelve air pollutants in a series of daughter directives. The first three Daughter Directives have been translated into British law through the Air Quality Limit Value Regulations 2003, or equivalent regulations in the Devolved Administrations, and the fourth Daughter Directive was transposed unto British legislation in 2007.

Many habitats of nature conservation importance in Britain are adapted to low nutrient conditions and/or are vulnerable to acidification, and are sensitive to additional airborne sulphur dioxide (SO_2), ammonia (NH_3), and nitrogen oxides (NO_x), as well as to nitrogen deposition and acid deposition. Pollutants come from a number of different sources, but transport is known to be the single largest source of NO_x emissions. Atmospheric nitrogen deposition and acid deposition are recognised as serious pressures on biodiversity across Europe. Nitrogen emissions can impact at a highly localised level, in addition to contributing to effects from long-range pollutant transport.

Critical Loads and Critical Levels are set by scientists under the auspices of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution. They are derived from empirical evidence from experiments and field studies across Europe. Critical Levels are defined as "*concentrations of pollutants in the atmosphere above which direct adverse effects on receptors, such as human beings, plants, ecosystems or materials, may occur according to present knowledge*". Critical Loads are defined as: "*a quantitative estimate of exposure to one or more pollutants below which significant harmful effects on specified sensitive elements of the environment do not occur according to present knowledge*".

Therefore, a Critical Level is the gaseous concentration of a pollutant in the air, whereas a Critical Load relates to the quantity of pollutant deposited from the air. It is estimated that Critical Loads for nitrogen deposition and acid deposition are presently exceeded across more than 50% of all broad habitats (RoTAP, 2012) and a large number/area of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and SACs (<http://www.apis.ac.uk>). NO_x is generally emitted in far larger quantities than the other substances.

A comprehensive review of the ecological effects of diffuse air pollution from road transport on semi-natural habitats (Bignal and others, 2004) concluded that:

- Knowledge of the impacts of diffuse pollution from road transport on vegetation was limited and that there were a dearth of information in many elements of both lab-based and field-based research;
- Few studies had examined differences in impacts along transects away from roads, which are critical if the 'edge effect' of a road (due to motor vehicle pollutants) is to be determined;
- Although there were many gaps in knowledge, the literature provided evidence that vegetation was being impacted by exposure to motor vehicle pollution at distances of up to 200m from roads and that there was potential for this distance to be greater;

- Although there was some evidence to suggest that wooded shelterbelts act as a physical barrier to NO_x transport, buffer zones may be better regarded as providing physical distance between the road and protected sites, instead of an area of vegetation able to remove pollutants from the atmosphere.

The Air Pollution Information System (APIS) identifies a range of common biological effects caused by an exceedance of the Critical Level for NO_x and Critical Loads for nitrogen deposition and acid deposition (<http://www.apis.ac.uk>), as follows:

NO_x

- Visible symptoms for example, leaf discolouration;
- Direct damage to mosses, liverworts and lichens, which receive their nutrients largely from the atmosphere;
- Changes in species composition.

An important element in establishing the significance of designated sites' exposure to NO_x from roads is the background concentration of NO_x not attributable to the relevant traffic. In particular, when this is taken into account, it may make a substantial difference to an assessment of exposure to NO_x from traffic, if the relevant road increment does or does not result in an exceedance of the air quality standard, or exacerbates a pre-existing exceedance of the standard. For example, the situation where the road contribution is 10ug/m³ and the background level not attributable to relevant traffic is:

- 15ug/m³ would not lead to an exceedance of the air quality of 30ug/m³;
- 25ug/m³ would result in an exceedance of the air quality standard;
- 35ug/m³ would not itself result in a new exceedance of the standard, but would result in a substantial worsening of an existing exceedance.

Studies have evaluated background concentrations of NO_x in rural areas away from significant road traffic sources from measurements reported from rural and suburban background sites. This has given an indication that rural background levels of NO_x are typically in the range of 15-20ugm³. Hence, a major road concentration increment of 10-15ug/m³ at a designated site would generally be expected to result in the exceedance of the air quality standard, even if the standard would not have been exceeded in the absence of the road. A precautionary approach has been used in the development of a system for classifying designated sites in terms of their exposure to NO_x from local road traffic in combination with baseline levels.

In order to classify areas of SACs and SSSIs within 50m of a major road using the qualifying scenarios, the contribution from roads has been defined as the NO_x concentrations attributed to the major road and the background concentration has been defined as the total background NO_x. For areas of SACs and SSSIs not within 50m of a major road, the contribution from roads has been defined as the NO_x concentrations from road traffic

attributed to the 1km x 1km square, and the background concentration has been calculated as the total background NO_x minus the NO_x concentrations from road traffic attributed to the 1km x 1km square.

NO_x makes an important contribution to both nitrogen deposition and acid deposition, but is not the sole contributor. Airborne NH₃ makes a significant contribution to nitrogen deposition, and airborne SO₂ and NH₃ make significant contributions to acid deposition. Sensitivities to nitrogen deposition and acid deposition are, therefore, associated with wider issues than NO_x concentrations. However, exposure to NO_x concentrations is the major route by which road traffic contributed to nitrogen deposition and acid deposition. Consequently, the evaluation of site sensitivity to NO_x has been based on the site-specific Critical Loads for nitrogen deposition and acid deposition available nationally for SACs. Further information on the derivation of these Critical Loads is provided on APIS (http://www.apis.ac.uk/overview/issues/overview_Cloadslevels.htm).

APIS does not define a Critical Load for some SACs, either because the site is not sensitive to nitrogen deposition or because there is not enough data to allocate a Critical Load. Again, the Critical Loads are assigned by 1km x 1km grid square on the assumption that all designated feature habitats/species for an SAC occur across the entire site.

Baseline deposition is an important element in determining site sensitivity. A site where nitrogen deposition is already close to or above the Critical Load is likely to be more sensitive to further deposition than a site where deposition is well below the Critical Load. Hence baseline levels of deposition relative to the site-specific Critical Loads have been used in classifying site sensitivity.

In relation to the Craven Local Plan area, there are a number of A-roads which need consideration as regarding their proximity to the designated European sites, and the potential increase in traffic on them as a result of the local plan's housing and employment provisions. These roads are:

- A65 road to Kendal, passing close to the Ingleborough Complex SAC;
- A59 road to Harrogate, passing near to the North Pennine Moors SAC;
- A6068 road to Burnley, passing close to the South Pennine Moors SAC.

7.5 Impacts on Water Supply and Quality

Craven District Council falls between the Grid Surface Water Zones of the companies Yorkshire Water and United Utilities. United Utilities covers the area of the village of Hellifield and northwards. Yorkshire Water has recently published its Final Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) (August 2014) for the period 2015/16 to 2039/40. The Final WRMP concludes that the baseline supply-demand balance for the Grid SWZ dry year

annual average scenario shows a substantial deficit which increases over the planning period as the forecast supply cannot meet the forecast demand.

The deficit is the result of a continuing decline in water available for supply, due to the impacts of climate change and Sustainability Reductions (which are implemented to protect the integrity of European sites). Climate change is forecast to create a year on year incremental reduction in supply. A 2.0MI/d Sustainability Reduction is applied in 2013/14 and a 0.7MI/d sustainable reduction applied in 2017/18. The Grid SWZ supply-demand deficit starts in 2018/19, when demand, including target headroom, is 2.67MI/d greater than supply. By 2027/28 supply is below demand and no headroom is available. The deficit continues increasing to 108.65MI/d by 2039/40.

The preferred solution to the Grid SWZ dry year annual average deficit over the 25 year period provides a balance of demand reduction options (including reduction of leakage and processing losses, and increased customer water efficiency) and options to increase supply (including use of an existing river abstraction licence, and three groundwater scheme). A total of 47.96MI/d demand reduction will be achieved by delivering 14 demand side schemes over the 25 years.

Four supply side options will be delivered providing 61.95MI/d of additional resource. The first will be in year 11 when Yorkshire Water will implement its largest resource solution, the “D20 Ouse Raw Water Transfer”, to provide 40MI/d. In year 17 it will abstract an additional 2MI/d from an existing borehole in North Yorkshire. In year 18 the company will implement the “East Yorkshire Groundwater Option 1” scheme to provide 6.55MI/d. The final resource solution will provide a yield of 5.36MI/d in year 21 that will increase to 13.4MI/d by year 23.

Water quality on the moorlands may be adversely affected as a result of new housing and economic development in Craven District. Wastewater from new developments must be collected, conveyed and treated prior to discharge to the environment, and can potentially result in impacts to water quality and ecological receptors.

7.6 Urban edge effects and urbanisation

Urbanisation is a process whereby populations move from rural to urban areas, enabling cities and towns to grow. It can also be termed as the progressive increase of the number of people living in towns and cities. There are a number of ‘urban edge’ negative effects associated with increasing urbanisation in relation to European designated sites.

One such effect is illegal dumping, also called fly dumping or fly tipping, and it is the dumping of waste illegally, instead of using an authorised method such as kerbside collection or using an authorised rubbish dump. It is the illegal deposit of any waste onto land, including waste dumped or tipped on a site with no licence to accept waste. As the

cost of disposing of household rubbish and waste increases, in general so unfortunately does the number of individuals and businesses that fly-tip, but the Government has made it easier for members of the public to report fly-tipping. The fine or punishment is normally defined by the local council that operates in the local area in which the rubbish was dumped.

Increased urbanisation can also be responsible for a rise in invasive species. Such a species is a plant, fungus, or animal species that is not native to a specific location and that has a tendency to spread to a degree believed to cause damage to the environment, human economy or human health. The term as most often used applies to introduced species that adversely affect the habitats and bioregions they invade economically, environmentally, or ecologically. Such invasive species may be either plants or animals, and may disrupt by dominating a region, wilderness areas, particular habitats, or wildland-urban interface land from loss of natural controls (such as predators or herbivores).

Off-road vehicle use can also rise as a result of urbanisation. An off-road vehicle is considered to be any type of vehicle which is capable of driving on and off paved or gravel surfaces. It is generally characterised by having large tires with deep, open treads and a flexible suspension. There would appear to be a relatively high level of ownership of such vehicles (Range Rover and SUV) among residents in the Craven local plan area, despite the majority of Craven residents living a largely urban-based lifestyle where such vehicles are generally not a necessity. This residential trend for larger private vehicles in Craven would most likely rise further with more housing in the plan area, given the high disposable income which ownership of such non-necessary vehicles generally indicates.

Pet predation on wildlife can also rise as urbanisation creeps closer to European designated areas. Pet dogs, and particularly pet cats, are responsible for many deaths of birds and small mammals such as rabbits and squirrels each year. It is estimated that the majority of owned cats are not kept exclusively indoors, leaving them free to kill birds and other wildlife at least some of the time. In addition, many stray and feral cats and dogs roam towns and cities throughout Britain. Owned cats have huge advantages over native predators. They receive protection from disease, predation, competition, and starvation – factors which control native predators such as owls and foxes.

In 1997, the Mammal Society in England conducted a survey of animals brought home by domestic cats. During a five-month period surveyed, 964 cats killed more than 14,000 animals. The mean number of catches or kills per cat was 16.7, and birds were found to constitute 24% of this prey. The researchers concluded, “Although it is unlikely that cats alone will cause any species to become endangered in Britain, for those which are already under pressure for other reasons, such as thrushes, harvest mice, grass snakes, and slow worms, cats could become significant.”

Loss of wildlife habitat and fragmentation due to human development are the leading causes of declining bird populations. However, scientists now list invasive species, including cats, as the second most serious threat to bird populations worldwide. Habitat fragmentation provides cats and other predators easier access to wildlife forced to live on smaller tracts of land. Therefore, the amount and spatial distribution of new housing and employment development proposed in the Local Plan is required to be studied with this influence in mind.

8. Avoiding and Mitigating Impacts

8.1 Introduction

Under certain legislation, such as the Habitats Directive, there is clear separation between the terms of avoidance, mitigation and compensation. Where a Natura 2000 site is not involved, the terminology is more inter-changeable. In this chapter, there are numerous examples of avoidance and mitigation measures to protect the District's ecological character.

Avoidance mechanisms involve proactive measures to prevent adverse change in a region's ecological character through appropriate regulation, planning or activity design decisions. Examples would include choosing a non-damaging location for a development project, or choosing a "no-project" option where the risks to the maintenance of ecological character are assessed as being too high. A "no-project" option is obviously not practical in terms of a developing a local plan, and there are instead many examples of choosing non-damaging locations for proposed residential and employment sites.

Mitigating impacts refers to reactive practical actions that minimise or reduce *in situ* impacts. Examples of mitigation include: "changes to the scale, design, location, siting, process, sequencing, phasing, management and/or monitoring of the proposed activity, as well as restoration or rehabilitation of sites". Mitigation must be realistic and effective, drawn from an evidence base which can be reasonably defended, and should aim to build on cumulative national and international knowledge of habitats and species and the potential adverse impacts that may affect them.

Mitigation actions can take place anywhere, as long as their effect is to reduce the effect on the site where adverse change in ecological character is likely, or the values of the site are affected by those changes. In many situations, it may not be appropriate to regard restoration as mitigation, since doing so represents an acknowledgement that impact has already occurred: in such cases the term "compensation" may be a truer reflection of this kind of response. There are many examples of mitigation in the local plan in terms of reductions and changes to the scale, design, location, and siting of proposed residential and employment projects.

Compensation involves measures, such as new habitat creation, taken beyond the site boundary that offset the residual impacts which have a detrimental impact upon the conservation objectives for a protected site. Compensation is viewed as a final resort and should only be considered where there are residual adverse effects on site integrity which the competent authority believes cannot be mitigated. However, strict tests have to be met before compensation is considered. No compensation measures are proposed in this document. Avoidance of adverse impacts on habitats and species as a direct or indirect

result of development must always be the first consideration. In many cases, it is also necessary to design specific mitigation measures that will significantly reduce the impacts to the habitats in or next to the site and the wildlife species that they support.

8.2 Recreational Alternatives to North Pennine Moors SAC

The town of Skipton is by far the largest settlement in Craven close to the North Pennine Moors SAC, and has approximately 50% of the preferred housing allocation. Therefore it is important to place priority on this town in terms of trying to reinforce existing recreational facilities and establish new recreational alternatives in and around the town, in preference to increasing usage of this SAC. Skipton has a very good range of existing green park space. The majority of the preferred residential sites in Skipton have substantial green infrastructure provision, which is aimed at forming a green infrastructure network and linkages around Skipton.

Under the Local Plan provisions, Skipton has numerous proposed local green space designations, to support the existing large recreational areas of Aireville Park in northwestern Skipton, and Skipton Wood in the northern area of the town. Aireville Park consists of 20 acres of parkland which is managed by Craven District Council. From consistent observations, it is very popular with recreational walkers, joggers, and dog walkers during the morning, afternoon and well into the evening throughout the year. Floodlighting allows recreational users to utilise much of the park past the hours of darkness. Amongst the many facilities is a skateboard park, an eighteen hole pitch & putt course, a multi-use games area for football, tennis and basketball and a children's playground. Craven Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre is also located in the park.

Skipton Wood is a 36 acre wood following the valley of Eller Beck to the immediate north of the urban area, behind Skipton Castle. The wood is owned by Skipton Castle but has been leased to the Woodland Trust. Most of the wood is native broadleaved trees such as oak and ash, and is classed as "ancient semi-natural woodland" by the Woodland Trust. There are also a large number of introduced beech and sycamore trees, with a smaller number of non-native trees such as hornbeam and sweet chestnut. Notable animal species in the wood include badgers, roe deer, kingfishers, spotted flycatchers, sparrowhawks and pipistrelle bats. Again from consistent observation, Skipton Wood is a very popular area for recreational walkers during the day, and provides a sufficient remove from an urban environment for walkers wishing to experience tranquillity, beauty, and exposure to the natural environment. There is a designated walkway of approximately 4km through the forest.

There is also a walk covering a distance of 6.5km, which changes gradually to a hike, from the northern Skipton housing areas to the summit of Sharpaw hill. Sharpaw is located on the

southern fringe of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and commands superb views over the countryside and settlements in Craven. There is also a far longer hike of Malhamdale, which is a section of walkway from Skipton to the town of Settle to the east. This 30km section of walkway is part of the Dales Highway which begins in the village of Saltaire to the south.

Appendix IV shows the range of green spaces and the proposed residential sites in Skipton. The larger proposed residential sites in Skipton each have all significant areas marked for green infrastructure – for example, site SK094 in the southwest, SK013 to the southeast, SK088 in the northeast, and the joined up sites of SK081, SK082 and SK108 to the northwest. The green infrastructure provision in these larger sites is strategically located so that they connect up to Public Rights Of Way through the town, to facilitate longer recreational walks from, for example, Aireville Park via green infrastructure areas (in SK081, SK082 & SK108) and Public Rights Of Way onto Skipton Wood or Sharpaw Hill. It is believed that such long, varied and attractive recreational walking opportunities within and adjacent to Skipton greatly reduce the requirement for walking opportunities in the North Pennine Moors SAC. Overall, Skipton is shown to have a range of effective SANGS provision.

In Chapter 5, it was noted that the village of Embsay, bordering the Yorkshire Dales National Park and close to the North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA, has a relatively high number of outstanding planning permissions. As a result, no site allocations are intended for Embsay in this Local Plan as it has reached its percentage allocation of 2%. To somewhat counterbalance the dwellings generated in the existing planning permissions, there are relatively large local green space designations in the village.

8.3 Recreational Alternatives to South Pennine Moors SAC

The South Pennine Moors SAC & Phase 2 SPA is located close to the Bradford urban area. It is hence recognised that there are notable recreational pressures on this SAC from existing urban development in Bradford, and into the future with new housing provisions in Bradford's Core Strategy. Partially due to the existing recreational pressures on the South Pennines Moors SPA, this local plan has carefully considered the percentage of residential sites allocated to hierarchy settlements in the southeast area of Craven.

These settlements are Glusburn & Crosshills, Farnhill & Kildwick, Sutton, and Cowling. Sutton and Cowling, the nearest two villages to the SPA, have not been allocated any new residential sites under the housing allocations. There is also no allocation for Farnhill & Kildwick. The Tier 3 settlement of Glusburn & Crosshills has been allocated 3.5% of the total housing allocation in the plan, in the form of two proposed residential sites. An expected small portion of the plan area's small site allowance may occur in the southeast area. Therefore, although the percentage of housing allocation in the southeast Craven area is

very low, some recreational alternatives need to be in place to provide other options to usage of the South Pennine Moors.

As noted in section 6.2, Bradford District Metropolitan Council described a 'Zone B' which was a zone at a maximum distance of 2.5km from the boundary of the South Pennine Moors SPA and SAC. In Zone B it will be considered, based on such evidence as may be reasonably required, whether land proposed for development affects foraging habitat for qualifying species of the SPA. One of the two proposed residential sites in the Glusburn & Crosshills village, SC085, is the only site in the Craven Local Plan area within 2.5km of the South Pennines Moors boundary. It is proposed to site a minimum of 33 dwelling units on the site, but almost certainly a maximum of 65-70 units given conservation heritage constraints on the site. The number partially depends on the incorporation of the protection of an existing Grade II Listed Building. However, this is also an area which has extensive existing recreational space in the form of playing fields and walkways through the site. The development principles for this SC085 state:

"The site is within the 2.5km buffer zone of the South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC. To relieve pressure on the SPA/SAC, and to protect the parkland setting of the Grade II Listed Building, the site will include extensive areas of green infrastructure. A PROW will be created through the site to link to existing PROWs on Malsis Lane to the south and High Corn Mill to the northeast".

Therefore, it is believed that the recreational impact on the SPA from new occupants in this site should be sufficiently mitigated against. If a 7km radius is taken from the boundary of the South Pennines Moors, there are only two more proposed residential sites in the plan area. These are site SC037 in Glusburn & Crosshills (25 dwellings proposed), and a brownfield development in the village of Cononley further north. The recreational impact of existing residential areas, and these proposed residential developments, are mitigated against by two large sections of green wedge area, which are retained by this Local Plan. The first green wedge area is located between Glusburn & Crosshills and Sutton, with the second between Farnhill & Kildwick and Glusburn & Crosshills. Both of these extensive green wedge areas have Public Rights Of Way running through them for recreational walking usage, and hence continue to act as an effective recreational alternative to the South Pennines SPA (see Appendix VI showing these green wedges). There is hence deemed to be effective SANGS provision in the southeast of the Craven Local Plan area.

8.4 Loss of Feeding Sites and Possible Foraging Areas for Bird Species

Firstly, it must be noted that the number of housing units proposed in the Craven Local Plan, at 4,600 units over the plan period, is amongst the lowest in the region when the plans of the other neighbouring local authority areas are considered. The net loss of rural and greenfield sites is therefore lower than other neighbouring plans, and the loss of potential feeding sites is negligible in most areas. Furthermore, as discussed in Section 8.2 and

Section 8.3, there has been a consistent effort across the larger Preferred Sites in the local plan to implement substantial green infrastructure areas which can be utilised and developed to enhance biodiversity and feeding opportunities with appropriate planting systems.

As previously discussed in Chapter 7, there is a potential adverse effect of loss of supporting feeding sites in the northern areas of Skipton because of new housing development. There are no other settlements within the settlement hierarchy (given site allocations) that are within 2km of the any of the studied SPAs in the vicinity of the Craven Local Plan area. In Skipton, the preferred sites in question are (1.) the group of sites on land north of Gargrave Road and west of Park Wood Drive and Stirtonber - numbered SK081, SK082 and SK108, (2.) Hawbank Fields north of Otley Bank - SK088, and (3.) land to the north of Airedale Avenue & Elsey Croft and east of railway line - SK089 & SK090. These are all greenfield sites in which there may be foraging birds from the North Pennines Moors SPA present at some times of the year.

One particular bird species in which Natural England representatives referenced for their possible presence in northern Skipton's aforementioned greenfield sites is the European Golden Plover, which is a qualifying feature of the North Pennines Moors SPA, as detailed in Chapter 4. In response, there was e-mail consultation in September 2017 with the Group Leader of the Skipton Local RSPB Group, in which the group was asked if their members hold any records of the bird species Golden Plover in northern Skipton, specifically in the aforementioned sites. The Group Leader consulted with some of the RSPB's members, who do not recall in their surveys having witnessed any Golden Plovers foraging close to the north of Skipton on these sites. This finding may be seen as unsurprising in that all of the aforementioned sites adjoin existing built up areas in the town, and no greenfield site was chosen as a preferred site which does not adjoin the existing built up area.

8.5 Air Quality Impacts near SPAs and SACs

The mostly likely sources of air pollution, as a result of the Local Plan provisions, will be from road transport. There are approximately 326 districts in England, of which about 200 districts have declared AQMAs for one or more pollutants. The vast majority have been declared for nitrogen dioxide with a third also declaring for PM₁₀. A small number have declared for sulphur dioxide or benzene. There is no AQMA declared in Craven.

There are no European designated sites within 200m of A-roads or trunk roads in the Craven Local Plan area. The three nearest European sites to an A-road within the district are the North Pennine Moors SAC (& SPA), with a distance of 1.75km to the A59 at the nearest point, the Ingleborough Complex SAC, with a distance of 0.55km to the A65 at the nearest point, and the South Pennine Moors SAC (& SPA), having a distance of 1.02km to the A6068

at the nearest point. The most likely large towns or cities which are the destinations of road traffic using these three A-roads outside of the Craven local plan area are Harrogate, Kendal, and Burnley respectively.

Appendix VII shows the results of a survey of location of usual residence and place of work of Craven residents, aged 16 and over in employment in 2011. These travel destination statistics for Craven are found from statistics sourced from the website: www.nomiweb.co.uk. In 2011, there was a working population of 20,894 people, whose travel movements were recorded. Of this figure, over half of the working population (11,763 - 56.3%) stayed within the Craven District for their employment.

There were 384 residents who commuted to Harrogate for employment (1.84%) and 131 residents who commuted to Burnley (0.63%) from within the Craven District area. These are relatively small numbers, and the road traffic is not likely to significantly increase along these A-roads nearest the designated European sites owing to the site allocations in the plan. Kendal was not mentioned as a destination in the survey results.

The destinations most frequently reached for work outside of the Craven Local Plan area were Bradford (3,963 residents; 19%) and then Leeds (1,088 residents; 5.2%), both of which can be reached by road (A650 and A65) and rail (from Skipton and Cononley). Both the A650 and A65 roads are located well over a distance of 200m from a European designated area boundary - in these cases, the South Pennine Moors SAC and North Pennine Moors SAC respectively.

The commuting numbers to other Local Authority areas from Craven are relatively low, or insignificant. The commuting numbers to Pendle were 596 (2.8%), 516 to Lancaster (2.5%), and 413 to South Lakeland (2.0%). The A-road from Skipton to Harrogate runs within 50m of the North Pennines Moors SAC to the east of the Craven Local Plan area. However as noted, the number of commuters leaving from Craven to Harrogate is relatively very low compared to the overall working numbers in Craven. Therefore, the effect on travel movements and air quality near to the North Pennines Moors SPA/SAC from site allocations and new residents in Craven is believed to be relatively minor given existing travel trends.

The fact that the nearest A-roads in Craven are not within 200m of these European designated sites, and also because of the current low travel percentages to the destinations of Burnley and Harrogate, it is considered that there would be no significant effects on SACs as a result of the Local Plan through augmented atmospheric pollution from increased traffic movements on European designated sites. It is highly unlikely that the critical pollution levels of NO_x can be reached in any of the European designated sites. The air quality details for each designated European site SACs are shown below.

It is demonstrated that there is currently a large difference between the critical levels of Nitrogen Oxide and their estimated concentrations in each of the analysed SACs. As shown

below, for North Pennine Moors SAC, the current concentration is $6.07 \mu\text{g NO}_x \text{ (as NO}_2\text{)} \text{ m}^{-3}$ and the critical level is $30 \mu\text{g NO}_x \text{ (as NO}_2\text{)} \text{ m}^{-3}$. For South Pennine Moors SAC, the current concentration is $14.17 \mu\text{g NO}_x \text{ (as NO}_2\text{)} \text{ m}^{-3}$ and the critical level is $30 \mu\text{g NO}_x \text{ (as NO}_2\text{)} \text{ m}^{-3}$.

North Pennines Moors SAC

Habitat: Bogs **Grid Reference:** NY 503 325

Grid Easting: 307500 to the 5km mid-point (m) **Grid Northing:** 532500 to the 5km mid-point (m)

Grid Easting: 305500 to the 1km mid-point (m) **Grid Easting:** 530500 to the 1km mid-point (m)

Pollutant: Nitrogen Oxides **Critical Level:** $30 \mu\text{g NO}_x \text{ (as NO}_2\text{)} \text{ m}^{-3}$ **Concentration:** $6.07 \mu\text{g NO}_x \text{ (as NO}_2\text{)} \text{ m}^{-3}$

Data Year: 2013 – 2015 **Exceedance:** $-23.93 \mu\text{g NO}_x \text{ (as NO}_2\text{)} \text{ m}^{-3}$

Ingleborough Complex SAC

Habitat: Calcareous grassland **Grid Reference:** SD756739

Grid Easting: 377500 to the 5km mid-point (m) **Grid Northing:** 472500 to the 5km mid-point (m)

Grid Easting: 375500 to the 1km mid-point (m) **Grid Easting:** 473500 to the 1km mid-point (m)

Pollutant: Nitrogen Oxides **Critical Level:** $30 \mu\text{g NO}_x \text{ (as NO}_2\text{)} \text{ m}^{-3}$ **Concentration:** $7.04 \mu\text{g NO}_x \text{ (as NO}_2\text{)} \text{ m}^{-3}$

Data Year: 2013 – 2015 **Exceedance:** $-22.96 \mu\text{g NO}_x \text{ (as NO}_2\text{)} \text{ m}^{-3}$

Craven Limestone Complex

Habitat: Calcareous grassland **Grid Reference:** SD924673

Grid Easting: 392500 to the 5km mid-point (m) **Grid Northing:** 467500 to the 5km mid-point (m)

Grid Easting: 392500 to the 1km mid-point (m) **Grid Easting:** 467500 to the 1km mid-point (m)

Pollutant: Nitrogen Oxides **Critical Level:** $30 \mu\text{g NO}_x \text{ (as NO}_2\text{)} \text{ m}^{-3}$ **Concentration:** $7.52 \mu\text{g NO}_x \text{ (as NO}_2\text{)} \text{ m}^{-3}$

Data Year: 2013 – 2015 **Exceedance:** $-22.48 \mu\text{g NO}_x \text{ (as NO}_2\text{)} \text{ m}^{-3}$

South Pennines Moors SAC

Habitat: Acid grassland **Grid Reference:** SK 265 792

Grid Easting: 402500 to the 5km mid-point (m)

Grid Northing: 352500 to the 5km mid-point (m)

Grid Easting: 402500 to the 1km mid-point (m)

Grid Easting: 350500 to the 1km mid-point (m)

Pollutant: Nitrogen Oxides

Critical Level: 30 µg NOx (as NO₂) m⁻³

Concentration: 14.17 µg NOx (as NO₂) m⁻³

Data Year: 2013 – 2015

Exceedance: -15.83 µg NOx (as NO₂) m⁻³

North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC

Habitat: Calcareous grassland

Grid Reference: NY931256

Grid Easting: 392500 to the 5km mid-point (m)

Grid Northing: 527500 to the 5km mid-point (m)

Grid Easting: 393500 to the 1km mid-point (m)

Grid Easting: 525500 to the 1km mid-point (m)

Pollutant: Nitrogen Oxides

Critical Level: 30 µg NOx (as NO₂) m⁻³

Concentration: 6.62 µg NOx (as NO₂) m⁻³

Data Year: 2013 – 2015

Exceedance: -23.38 µg NOx (as NO₂) m⁻³

The ONS estimated a mid-year population in 2015 in the Craven District of 55,801 people. It is noted from above that in 2011, there was a working population recorded of 20,894 people. Therefore the percentage of people working compared to the total population can be seen as relatively low in Craven compared to the rest of England. Indeed, Craven has an Old Age Dependency (OAD) of 42 in 2014, compared to a national average for England of 27. The OAD ratio measures the relationship between the size of the population aged 65+ and the population aged 16-64. This means that the 65+ population of Craven is equivalent to 42% of the 15-64 age group population, compared to just 27% across England in aggregate. Furthermore, the OAD is expected to rise over the 2012 to 2032 plan period from 39.2 to 66.4 (Edge Analytics – Craven Demographic Forecasting Update, October 2016).

Whilst the current high OAD in Craven, and its continual rise, poses significant socio-economic pressures on the working population, the impact on air quality and emissions may be seen as indirectly positive. With the percentage of people in the District who are working being relatively low, this means that there are comparatively low contributions to air traffic emissions from the most important source – employment and work related traffic.

People under 65 years old are generally retired, have no requirement to travel for work, and are therefore generally unlikely to contribute to peak hour traffic in mornings and evenings, when emissions are highest. Many retirees in Craven also avail of the free travel they are afforded on Craven's bus and rail network, which greatly reduces traffic emissions per person. The Craven Local Plan makes provision of new employment sites, so that employment numbers are likely to increase in relative terms. However, the current high

OAD level in Craven, and the likely continual rise of this relatively high OAD, means that concentrations of NO_x in each European designated area are highly unlikely to come close to the critical levels stated above.

Baseline deposition is an important factor in determining site sensitivity. A site where nitrogen deposition is already close to or above the Critical Load is likely to be more sensitive to further deposition than a site where deposition is well below the Critical Load. Baseline levels of deposition relative to the site-specific Critical Loads are therefore used in classifying site sensitivity. All of the SACs examined here show nitrogen deposition levels well below the Critical Load.

8.6 Increased water demand and impacts on water supply and quality

Both the two water and wastewater providers in the Craven Local Plan area have been consulted during the Local Plan process in terms of the local plan itself and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Neither United Utilities nor Yorkshire Water has communicated any issues in terms of water or wastewater capacity in terms of the Preferred Sites put forward in the Craven Local Plan.

In relation to the allocation of Preferred Sites in the town of Settle, Natural England asked Craven District Council to contact United Utilities regarding wastewater capacity to accommodate the Preferred Sites. United Utilities were then sent a list of the Preferred Sites in Settle, with the approximate number of housing units in each site. United Utilities acknowledged the communication, but have not responded to raise any concerns with the development allocations at the time of writing.

8.7 Urban Edge Effects

One of the main objectives of the Craven Local Plan's spatial strategy is to locate proposed new development either within or adjacent to towns and the larger villages in the local plan area. Any SHLAA sites put forward which were detached and not linked to the built up areas of the towns or villages were rejected. It was noted in Chapter 7 that loss of wildlife habitat and habitat fragmentation due to human development are the leading causes of declining bird populations. Habitat fragmentation provides cats and other predators easier access to wildlife forced to live on smaller tracts of land.

The spatial distribution of Preferred Sites is hence important here, as the spatial allocation of sites in this local plan does not encourage habitat fragmentation. The spatial strategy is a concentrated approach to development where existing settlements are incrementally enlarged after focusing on the settlement's centre for new development if possible. Hence,

the spatial approach is not a dispersed version which otherwise would have encouraged habitat fragmentation resulting in the adverse effect outlined above.

It is estimated that the distance which pet cats typically roam is up to 2km from their owner's home. All of the settlements with Preferred Sites are not located within 2km of any European designated sites, so it is expected that the influence of pet cats on wildlife in designated sites is likely to be negligible. Similarly with fly-tipping activity, with no designated sites within easy reach of any settlement with Preferred Sites, any prospective fly-tipper would require a vehicle to dump waste in European designated sites. This would make such behaviour more obvious and more liable to be reported. It is believed that overall, urban edge effects from the development proposed are likely to be negligible.

9. Conclusions and Next Steps

9.1 Summary

This assessment has described the Local Plan and Habitats Regulations Assessment process. It has described the proposed development in the Craven Local Plan in terms of its site allocations and the spatial settlement hierarchy. It has examined the qualifying features and conservation objectives of the studied European designated sites. The assessment has analysed the proposed development of the neighbouring local plans currently available or in progress, and looked at any potential cumulative effects. It has described the potential adverse impacts on the European designated sites from the implementation of the Craven Local Plan's programme. It has shown how these potential adverse effects can be avoided or sufficiently mitigated against to ensure that the conservation interests of the designated European sites can be protected.

9.2 Conclusions

Based on available evidence, it can be concluded that the development proposed by the Craven Local Plan is not likely to lead to any significantly adverse effects on the European designated sites. The potential impacts on the North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA and the South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA Phase 2 were most closely examined, given the development pressures from the largest settlement in the local plan area, Skipton, and the relatively high amount of residential development proposed close to the South Pennine Moors SPA and SAC within the Bradford Metropolitan District.

A variety of avoidance and mitigation measures have been detailed in this assessment. To avoid or sufficiently mitigate against adverse effects on the designated sites, the Local Plan establishes a reasonable and pragmatic strategic approach to appropriately reduce the risk of adverse impacts. This includes establishing a suitable settlement hierarchy, distributing proposed development sites effectively, providing green infrastructure networks, and maintaining and establishing alternative recreational sites. The policies of the local plan analysed in Appendix III are shown to have negligible impacts if described mitigation measures are implemented, or in many cases potentially positive impacts on designated site protection. Overall the local plan demonstrates that significant adverse effects are capable of being avoided and/or mitigated.

Additional recreational sites are brought forward in the form of green infrastructure and local green space to support existing recreational areas in order to divert pressure away from the European sites and important areas of supporting habitat. Greenfield sites to be released for development to do not include areas of important supporting habitat in terms

of feeding locations for species, and a sufficiently robust network of offsite foraging habitats continues to exist.

Traffic growth resulting from new development is highly unlikely to add significantly to levels of traffic and atmospheric pollution on roads close to the European sites, given the existing work and travel patterns analysed. It is very unlikely that the Critical Loads regarding air quality for these designated sites will be reached given the content of this Local Plan, and indeed there are no A-roads within 200m of any designated European sites within the plan area. There have been no concerns raised from the water supply and wastewater treatment companies who supply these services in Craven regarding the amount of development proposed. Urban edge effects from the relatively low amount of development in Craven are thought to be minor or negligible.

Therefore, it is thought sufficiently unlikely that the spatial strategy, policies or allocated sites chosen by the Published Local Plan would have any significantly adverse impacts on the designated European sites in terms of their ecological integrity. This Local Plan is deemed to demonstrate effectively the sustainable development principles outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework.

9.4 Next Steps

The Published Local Plan will be open to representations from 02 January 2018 for a six week period. This iteration of the Appropriate Assessment is to be presented to Natural England for their consideration and review alongside their analysis of the Published Local Plan. A second iteration of this report will be produced in response to the recommendations and advice of Natural England, and also the representations put forward in response to the published Craven Local Plan. It is aimed that the second iteration of the report will be that submitted to the planning inspector alongside the submission documents of the local plan, at the end of March 2018.

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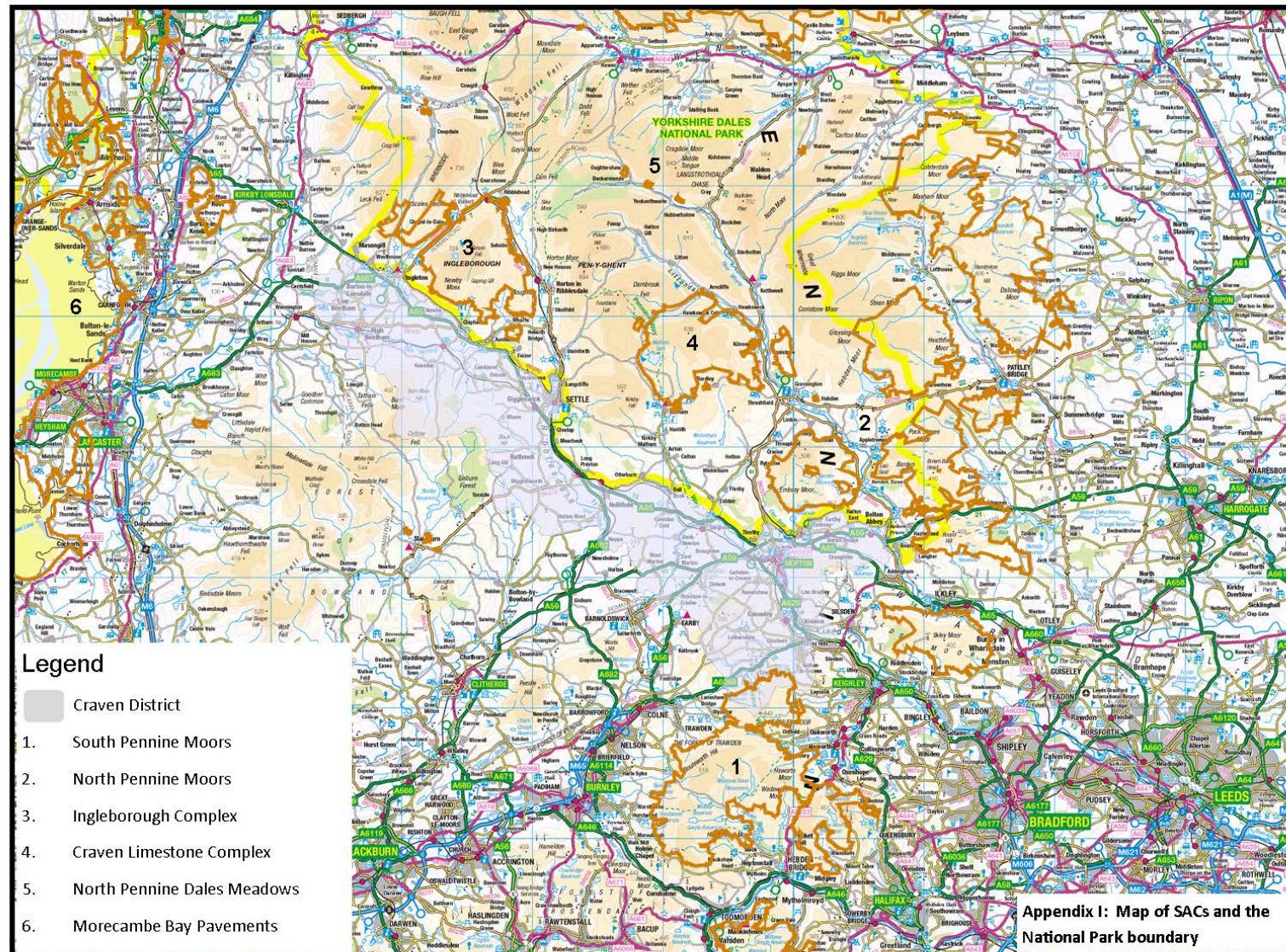
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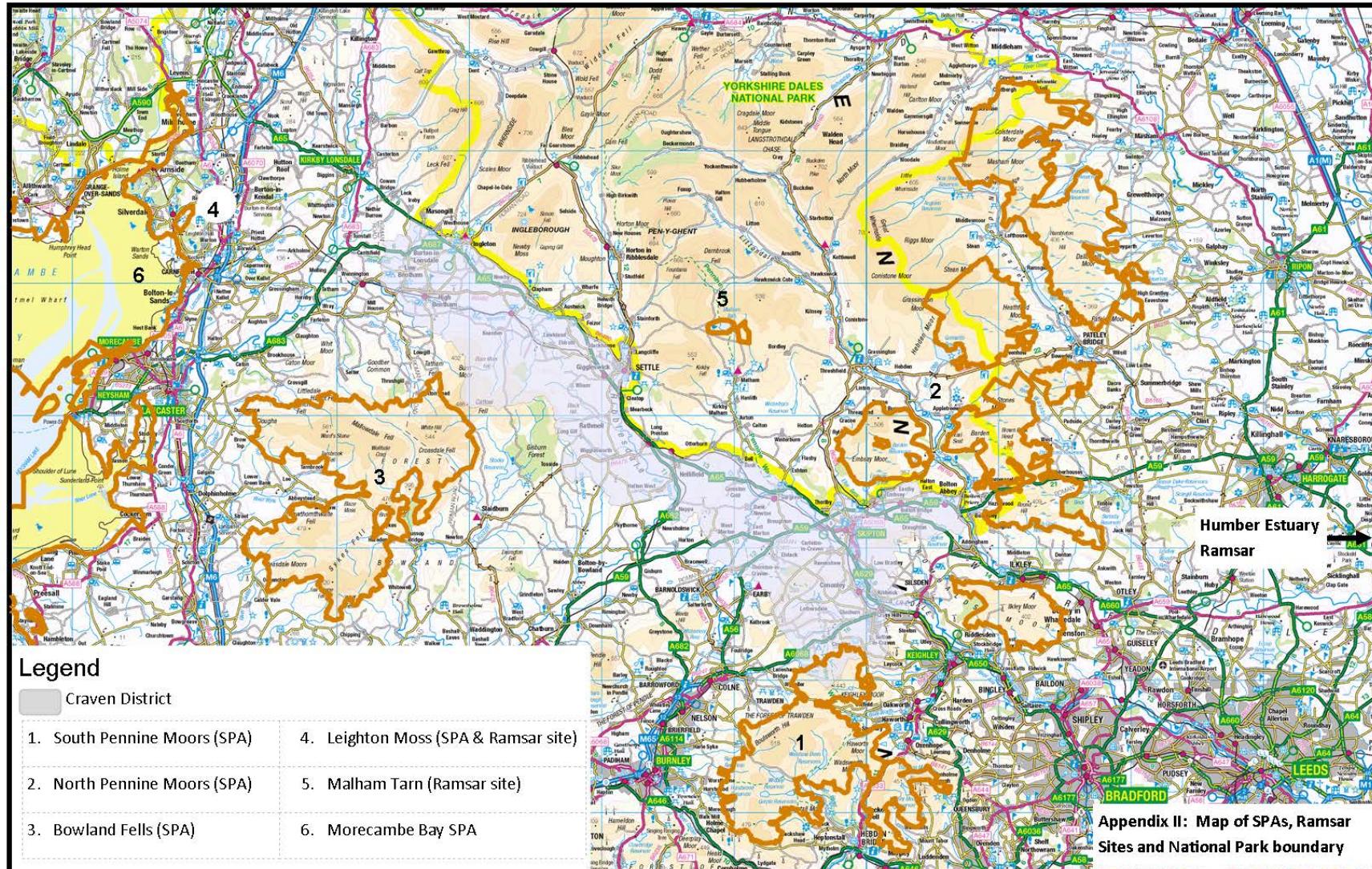
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Appendix III: Review of Local Plan Policies and potential effects on European and Ramsar sites

Reference of policy option	Policy Summary	Relation to potential impact(s) on European and/or Ramsar sites	European and/or Ramsar sites potentially affected	Likelihood and Severity of Effects	Are mitigation measures required?
SD1 - The presumption in favour of sustainable development (LP: page 29)	To meet the housing needs of Craven, provision is made for 4,600 net additional dwellings in the plan area over the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2032. This is a minimum provision and equates to an annual average housing requirement of 230 net additional dwellings per annum.	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.	All	There is likely to be no significant negative effects if the policy is implemented efficiently.	Yes

SD2 - Meeting the challenge of climate change (LP: page 30)	The local economy will grow, diversify and generate new employment and productivity opportunities. This will be achieved by making provision for a minimum of 32 hectares of employment land over the plan period for B1, B2 and B8 uses.	The local plan supports the move to a low carbon future, and in this regard the local plan proposes new development in locations which reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and adopts a spatial strategy which provides for such a spatial framework.	All, in a positive manner.	This effect should be positive if the policy is implemented effectively.	No.
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SP1 – Meeting Housing Need (LP: page 37)	To meet the housing needs of Craven, provision is made for 4,600 net additional dwellings in the plan area over the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2032. This is a minimum provision and equates to an annual average housing requirement of 230 net additional dwellings per annum.	The policy set out a requirement for a number of homes over the remaining period of the plan in existing settlements throughout the district. The number of houses given planning permission in the period 2012 to 2017 are not included in the housing allocation number.	All sites, particularly those close to the northeast border of the Craven District area where much of the development is intended to be located.	The policy makes provision for 4,600 net additional dwellings during the total plan period, which is amongst the lowest of the local authority areas in the surrounding area.	Yes, generally where larger settlements are situated close to European designated sites.
SP2 – Economic activity and Business Growth (LP: page 40)	The local economy will grow, diversify and generate new employment and productivity opportunities. This will be achieved by making provision for a minimum of 32 hectares of employment land over the plan period for B1, B2 and B8 uses.	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.	All the sites, particularly where employment pressure is highest in the east of the plan area.	It is not likely that the employment sites chosen will have an adverse effect on the designated European sites.	Some mitigation possible, possibly through green infrastructure, and selection of sites.

SP3 – Housing mix and density (LP: page 42)	The mix and density of new housing developments will ensure that land is used in an effective and efficient manner to address local housing needs.	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.	All the sites, potentially in a positive manner.	Possibility of positive effects as some larger sized residential housing may be avoided.	No.
SP4 – Spatial strategy and housing growth (LP: page 48)	A sustainable pattern of growth will be promoted to deliver the spatial strategy of the plan period 2012 to 2032. This will be achieved by a settlement hierarchy of spatial development.	The distribution of development will lead to greatest focus on the possible impacts in the eastern area of the Craven District Plan area (Gargrave and eastwards) where the majority of the total growth is intended to be allocated.	All the sites, especially those sites which are close to the east sub-area of the Local Plan area.	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. The Preferred Sites are located in suitable areas, and should not cause damage to European designated sites.	Yes, through green infrastructure provision on many of the sites, and the appropriate location of the sites themselves.
SP5 – Strategy for Skipton - tier 1 (LP: page 58)	The policy identifies Skipton as the primary focus for growth, and provision is made for residential and employment to meet the housing requirements, commercial and employment space in the town.	Skipton has been allocated approximately 50% of the proposed residential growth over the time period of the plan.	North Pennine Moors SPA & SAC and to a lesser extent South Pennine Moors SAC & SPA Phase 2. Other sites also potentially affected.	There is a heavy emphasis on green infrastructure provision in the larger Preferred Sites in the town. There are no sites selected in areas where they are known feeding areas for designated bird species.	Yes, through site selection and green infrastructure provision.
SP6 – Strategy for Settle - tier 2 (LP: page 78)	This policy identifies Settle as a secondary location for growth in the plan area, providing housing sites and employment land. It reflects the role of Settle as a rail connected key service centre.	Settle has been allocated 10.9% of the proposed residential growth over the time period of the plan.	Ingleborough Complex SAC, Craven Limestone Complex SAC & Malham Tarn (Ramsar).	The location of the preferred list of sites, along with green infrastructure provision, would indicate that any adverse effects are unlikely.	Yes, through site selection and green infrastructure provision.

SP7 – Strategy for Bentham - Tier 2 (LP: page 90)	This policy identifies Bentham as a secondary location for growth in the plan area, providing housing sites. This reflects its role as a key service centre.	Bentham has been allocated 10.9% of the proposed residential growth over the time period of the plan.	Leighton Moss SPA, Leighton Moss (Ramsar) and Morecambe Bay SPA.	The location of the preferred list of sites, along with green infrastructure provision, would indicate that any adverse effects are unlikely.	Yes, through site selection and green infrastructure provision.
SP8 – Strategy for Glusburn & Crosshills - tier 3 (LP: page 97)	The policy identifies Glusburn & Crosshills as a local service centre, with a proportionate level of growth directed.	Glusburn & Crosshills has been allocated 3.5% of the proposed residential growth over the time period of the plan.	South Pennine Moors Phase 2 (SPA) and South Pennine Moors (SAC).	The location of the preferred list of sites, along with green infrastructure provision, would indicate that any adverse effects are unlikely.	Yes, through site selection and green infrastructure provision.
SP9 – Strategy for Ingleton- tier 3 (LP: page 100)	The policy identifies Ingleton as a local service centre, with a proportionate level of growth directed.	Ingleton has been allocated 3.5% of the proposed residential growth over the time period of the plan.	Ingleborough Complex SAC, Morecambe Bay SPA, Leighton Moss (SPA) and Leighton Moss (Ramsar).	The location of the preferred list of sites, along with green infrastructure provision, would indicate that any adverse effects are unlikely.	Yes, through site selection and green infrastructure provision.

SP10 – Strategy for Gargrave - tier 3 (LP: page 105)	The policy identifies Gargrave as a local service centre, with a proportionate level of growth directed.	Gargrave has been allocated 3.5% of the proposed residential growth over the time period of the plan.	North Pennine Moors SPA & SAC, Craven Limestone Complex SAC.	The location of the preferred list of sites, along with green infrastructure provision, would indicate that any adverse effects are unlikely.	Yes, through site selection and green infrastructure provision.
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SP11 – Strategy for tier 4A and 4B villages with basic services and bisected villages with basic services (LP: page 108)	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.	These settlements have been allocated a total of 11.7% of the proposed residential growth over the time period of the plan.	Potentially all of the sites in a minor way as the Tier 4A and 4B villages are spread over the Local Plan area.	The location of the preferred list of sites, along with green infrastructure provision, would indicate that any adverse effects are unlikely.	Yes, through site selection and green infrastructure provision.
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SP12 – Infrastructure, strategy and development delivery (LP: page 113)	This policy states that the Council will work with statutory undertakers, utility companies and other agencies to identify the infrastructure required to support the planning growth proposed in the local plan. This is set out in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) which accompanies the local plan (Appendix C). The IDP will be updated regularly. The Council will work to mitigate and minimise adverse impacts that may arise from the delivery of the local plan.	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.	All of the sites as infrastructure may need to be upgraded and improved throughout the Local Plan area. Possible positive impacts.	There is an Infrastructure Delivery Plan associated with the Local Plan. Infrastructure can assist the housing and employment allocations to the benefit of the environment, through for example reducing flood risk.	Yes, through appropriate infrastructure location and design.
ENV1 – Countryside and landscape (LP: page 117)	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.	This policy aims to influence new development proposals to respect, safeguard, and wherever possible, restore or enhance the landscape character of the area.	All of the sites in a potentially positive way.	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.	No.

ENV2 – Heritage (LP: page 121)	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.	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.	None.	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 decrease erosion of key landscapes.	No as negligible effects foreseen.
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ENV3 – Good design (LP: page 126)	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, including health and wellbeing.	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.	None.	This should be a beneficial policy for the natural environment. There is likely to be no significant negative effects.	No.
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ENV4 – Biodiversity (LP: page 133)	This policy states that growth in housing, business and other land-uses will be accompanied by improvements in biodiversity. This means that wherever possible, development will make a positive contribution towards achieving a net gain in biodiversity. There is an extensive list of allocated sites that will be accompanied by guiding development principles which will identify areas within each site where significant contributions to a net gain in biodiversity are to be made, via the introduction of green infrastructure routes.	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.	All of the sites, but potentially positive contributions should be forthcoming.	An effective implementation of this policy should not lead to any negative impacts on the designated sites, and there should be many positive impacts from an adherence to this policy for biodiversity.	No.
ENV5 – Green Infrastructure (LP: page 137)	Growing in housing, business and other land uses will be accompanied by an improved and expanded green infrastructure network.	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.	All of the sites in a potentially positive way.	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.	No.

ENV6 – Flood Risk (LP: page 141)	The policy states that development growth in Craven will help to avoid and alleviate flood risk.	The policy states that development will safeguard waterways and benefit the local environment (aesthetically and ecologically) by incorporating sustainable urban drainage systems where possible.	All of the sites, in potentially a positive manner.	An effective implementation of this policy should not lead to any negative impacts on the designated sites. The updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been assessed by the local authority in order to examine and sufficiently reduce impacts on the Preferred Sites of flood risk.	No mitigation measures required as there has been a concentrated effort to avoid Flood Risk Zone 2 and Zone 3 areas in choosing sites from the SHLAA.
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ENV7 – Land and air quality (LP: page 143)	The policy states that development growth in Craven will help to safeguard and improve land quality using the ways mentioned. Site allocations will be chosen to reduce contributions to air pollution through an effective choice of location where possible.	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.	All of the sites in a potentially positive manner.	An effective implementation of this policy should not lead to any negative impacts on the designated sites.	No.
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ENV8 – Water resources, water quality and groundwater (LP: page 145)	The policy states that growth in Craven will help to safeguard and improve water resources using the ways described.	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.	All of the sites, in a potentially positive manner.	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.	No.
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ENV9 – Renewable and low carbon energy (LP: page 150)	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.	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.	All, with a potentially positive impact in terms of the reduction of emissions contributing to climate change from fossil fuels, and an improvement in air quality.	An effective implementation of this policy should not lead to any negative impacts on the designated sites. The location of wind turbines should not be adjacent or in the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA and SAC which is partly located inside the Local Plan area boundary. This is because wind turbines can be associated with bird injury/mortality.	Yes, no wind turbines to be located within or adjacent to the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SAC and SPA.
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ENV10 – Local Green Space (LP: page 154)	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.	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.	All of the sites can be affected in a positive manner.	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 assist wildlife from the designated sites of importance.	No.
ENV 11 – The Leeds & Liverpool canal (LP: page 158)	Development adjacent to, adjoining or which is likely to impact upon the character of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal including the Thanet Canal (Springs Branch) in Skipton will be expected to meet a number of requirements.	This development will be expected to be of (a) a high quality design, (b) integrate the waterway, towing path, and canal environment, (c) improve access to, along and from the waterway, (d) optimise views of water and generate natural surveillance of water space, and (e) improve the amenity of the canal.	None of the sites are expected to have an adverse impact imposed on them. There can be a positive impact.	An effective implementation should not have an adverse impact on any of the designated European sites. There should be a positive impact in that the policy can help offer alternative recreational space for local residents.	No.

ENV12 – Footpaths, bridleways, byways and cycle routes (LP: page 161)	Craven's growth will safeguard and improve the quality, extent and accessibility of local footpaths, bridleways, byways and cycle routes and the network they form. To that end, the local planning authority will support proposals that preserve and, wherever possible, enhance footpaths, bridleways, byways and cycle routes and their settings.	The local planning authority will also give specific support to the creation, enhancement and extension of National Trails.	All sites, in a positive manner.	This policy should help to improve the recreational walkways within the local plan area, which should alleviate recreational pressure on the designated European sites.	No.
ENV13 – Green wedges (LP: page 164)	Green Wedges will help settlements to grow in ways that maintain and reinforce their individual character and identify, by safeguarding against the coalescence of separate built-up areas, and will help to maintain and, wherever possible, enhance local recreational opportunities.	Development will be resisted where it would compromise the gap between settlements. In addition, the Council will seek to consolidate, strengthen and enhance the character, appearance and, where appropriate, recreational value of these areas.	The South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA, in a positive manner.	This policy should greatly help to maintain recreational space and public pathways in these green wedge areas, and hence reduce recreational pressure in the South Pennine Moors SAC & SPA.	No.

H1 – Specialised housing for older people (LP: page 166)	The diverse housing needs of older people in the area will be met by supporting the provision of specialist housing for older people across all tenures in sustainable locations, encouraging developers to build new homes to the 'Lifetime Homes' standard, and allocating specific sites in Settle, Bentham and Gargrave.	These residential homes are likely to be built at a higher density than residential houses on the market, and hence there should be less land take at a settlement level.	None.	There should not be a negative impact on European sites or Ramsar sites. There is a slightly positive impact in that older people will be housed in units of a higher density, resulting in a lower land take at a settlement level.	No.
H2 – Affordable housing (LP: page 174)	Local affordable homes that are needed in the plan area will be delivered by the provision of a minimum of 30% of proposed new dwellings as affordable housing.	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 in size in general than market housing.	None.	There should be no specific negative impacts on European and Ramsar sites from the implementation of this policy.	No.

H3 – Gypsies, travellers, showmen and roma (LP: page 178)	The housing requirements of Gypsies, Travellers, Showmen, and Roma will be met by maintaining an adequate supply of private sites to occupy, in line with current evidence of existing and future need.	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.	None.	This policy should have no negative impacts provided that it is implemented with the environmental safeguards stated.	No.
EC1 – Employment and economic development (LP: page 182)	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 supported subject to compliance with certain criteria.	Any proposal will not give rise to adverse amenity effects on sensitive uses that cannot be mitigated adequately. The proposal cannot adversely affect the significance of natural environmental assets, designated heritage assets and open space provision.	All of the sites.	There should not be adverse impacts based on adherence to the text of the policy.	Yes, appropriate locations of the employment sites will be required.
EC2 – Safeguarding existing employment areas (LP: page 183)	In order to ensure that there is an adequate supply of employment locations in Craven for 'B' Class Uses, sites identified on the policies inset map as: existing sites and premises in 'B' Class use in existing employment areas, and sites with extant commitments for 'B' Class Use, will be safeguarded from non 'B' Class uses unless for three stated cases.	There are no direct impacts.	None.	There should be no direct impacts with the implementation of this policy.	No.

EC3 – Rural economy (LP: page 185)	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.	This policy will help to enable enterprise, welcoming innovation and supporting economic development proposals that will benefit the local economy, environment and quality of life, including culture and community proposals.	Potentially all of the sites.	Rural development in the plan area should be of a relatively low level, and should have a negligible effect on designated European sites.	Yes, allocated sites associated with this policy should be located appropriately.
EC4 – Tourism (LP: page 193)	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.	Potentially all of the sites.	Subject to tourism growing in a sustainable manner according to the policy wording, there is not expected to be any adverse effects on designated European sites.	No.
EC4A – Tourism-led development at Bolton Abbey (LP: page 196)	The provision of sensitive and sustainable tourism-led, mixed use development at Bolton Abbey will be supported. A stated mix of uses will be supported in principle subject to their scale, design, location, inter-relationships and cumulative impact upon the historic environment, ecology, flood risk and landscape character.	Before any development takes place, a comprehensive strategy and Masterplan for the Core Visitor Area, including detailed development and design principles, shall be produced in collaboration with, and to the satisfaction of, the local planning authority and other key stakeholders, including the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Natural England, the Environment Agency, and Historic England.	North Pennine Moors SPA & SAC.	Development proposals will be expected to accord with the principles of the Masterplan and developments which would prejudice the delivery of the related strategy for the Core Visitor Area will not be permitted. If development proposals adhere to the required standards, no adverse impacts are seen.	Yes, the Masterplan will need to contain various mitigation measures.

EC5 – Town, district and local centres (LP: page 205)	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.	All of the sites, in a positive manner as development will be focused on the town centres rather than rural areas.	No negative outcome envisaged on these sites.	No.
EC5A – Residential uses in town and village centres (LP: page 208)	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. Proposals for residential use at ground floor level will only be supported where it can be adequately demonstrated that the proposed residential use will not result in the loss of retail use.	No direct influence on European and Ramsar sites.	None.	No negative outcome envisaged.	No.

INF1 – Planning obligations (LP: page 211)	Where necessary, planning obligations will help to mitigate the impact of Craven's growth, support the provision of local infrastructure as identified under policies H2, INF2, INF3 , INF5 and INF6, secure community benefits and achieve sustainable development.	Planning obligations will be required where the form of development needs to be prescribed, or where proposed development is required to be accompanied by new or improved infrastructure, facilities or services or by environmental improvements.	All of the sites, in a positive manner.	The designated sites should benefit in a positive manner, as planning obligations should provide appropriate environmental improvements on sites as necessary.	No.
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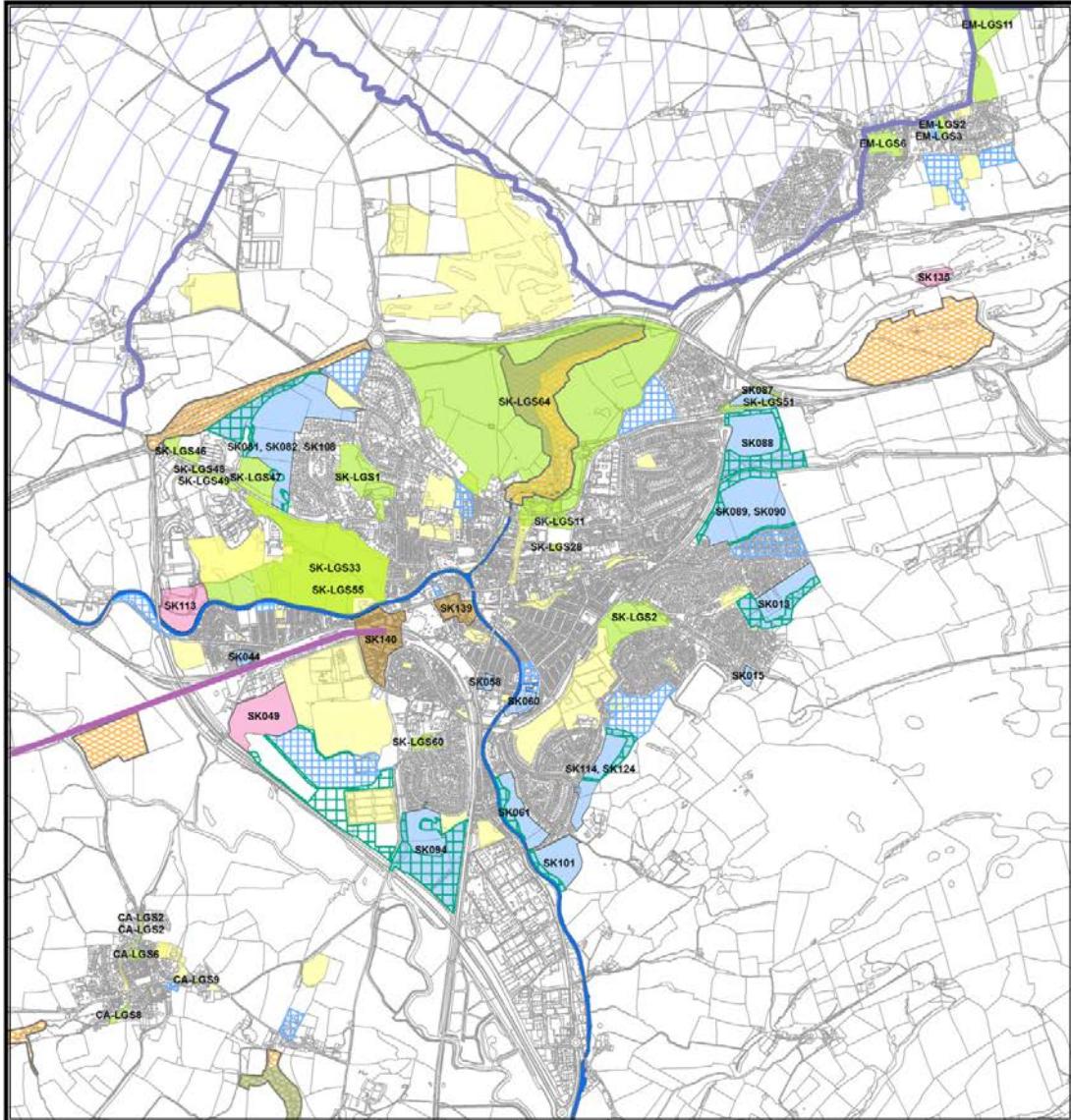
INF2 – Community facilities and social spaces (LP: page 214)	Craven's community facilities will be improved, and new ones will be created, to meet the needs of the local community as it grows and changes over time. This will help to promote health, wellbeing and equality.	Where new community facilities 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.	All, in a positive manner.	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.	No.
INF3 – Sport, open space and recreation facilities (LP: page 221)	Craven's growth will promote health, wellbeing and equality by safeguarding and improving sport, open space and built sports facilities.	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.	All of the sites, in a positive manner.	No negative impacts are envisaged from the implementation of this policy, provided individual assessments can identify and protect important foraging areas for wildlife. Positive effect as alternative recreational areas created.	Yes, important foraging areas for bird species are required to be protected.

INF4 – Parking provision (LP: page 226)	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.	With parking facilities, 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.	All of the sites. This can be a positive influence, with emphasis on promoting sustainable transport modes, and protecting water quality.	There are no negative impacts envisaged on European designated sites. Parking provision is generally provided in existing built up areas.	No.
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INF5 – Communications infrastructure (LP: page 229)	The policy states that the expansion of communications infrastructure including Next Generation Access broadband (or its equivalent) will be supported.	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).	Potentially all, but effects are likely to be insignificant, if any.	There is likely to be no significant effects if the policy is implemented efficiently.	Yes, the location and design of proposals should avoid harm to sensitive areas.
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INF6 – Education provision (LP: page 231)	Where necessary, planning obligations towards primary and secondary provision will help to mitigate the impact of Craven's growth and achieve sustainable development.	There is no direct relation to European designated sites.	No impact envisaged.	No effects envisaged, as there is no direct relationship between the policy and the European designated sites.	No.
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Appendix IV – Green Spaces in the town of Skipton, and the villages of Embsay and Carleton.



Skipton, Embsay, Carleton Green Spaces

Key Notation

Landscape

Yorkshire Dales National Park

Nature Conservation

Site of Nature Conservation (SINC)

Ancient Woodland

Towns and Villages

Open Space, Civic Space Sport and Recreation Facilities

Proposed Local Green Space Designation

Housing and Employment

XX001 Draft Housing Allocation

Green Infrastructure Provision on Draft Housing Allocation

Existing Housing Commitment

XX001 Draft Employment Allocation

Mixed Use Opportunity Sites / Regeneration Area

Safeguard Land and Transport

Leeds – Liverpool Canal Corridor

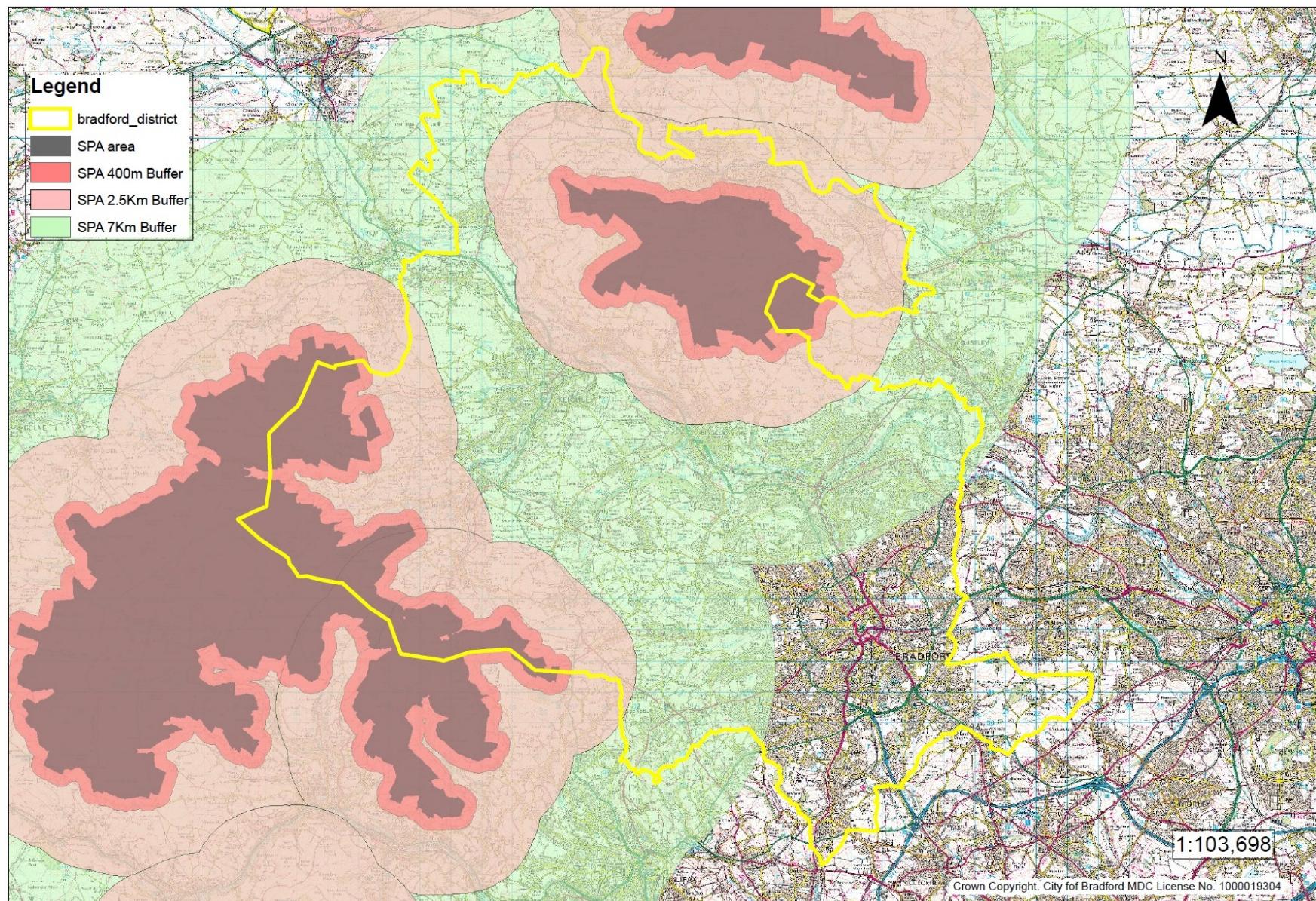
Protection of Railway Trackbeds and Infrastructure

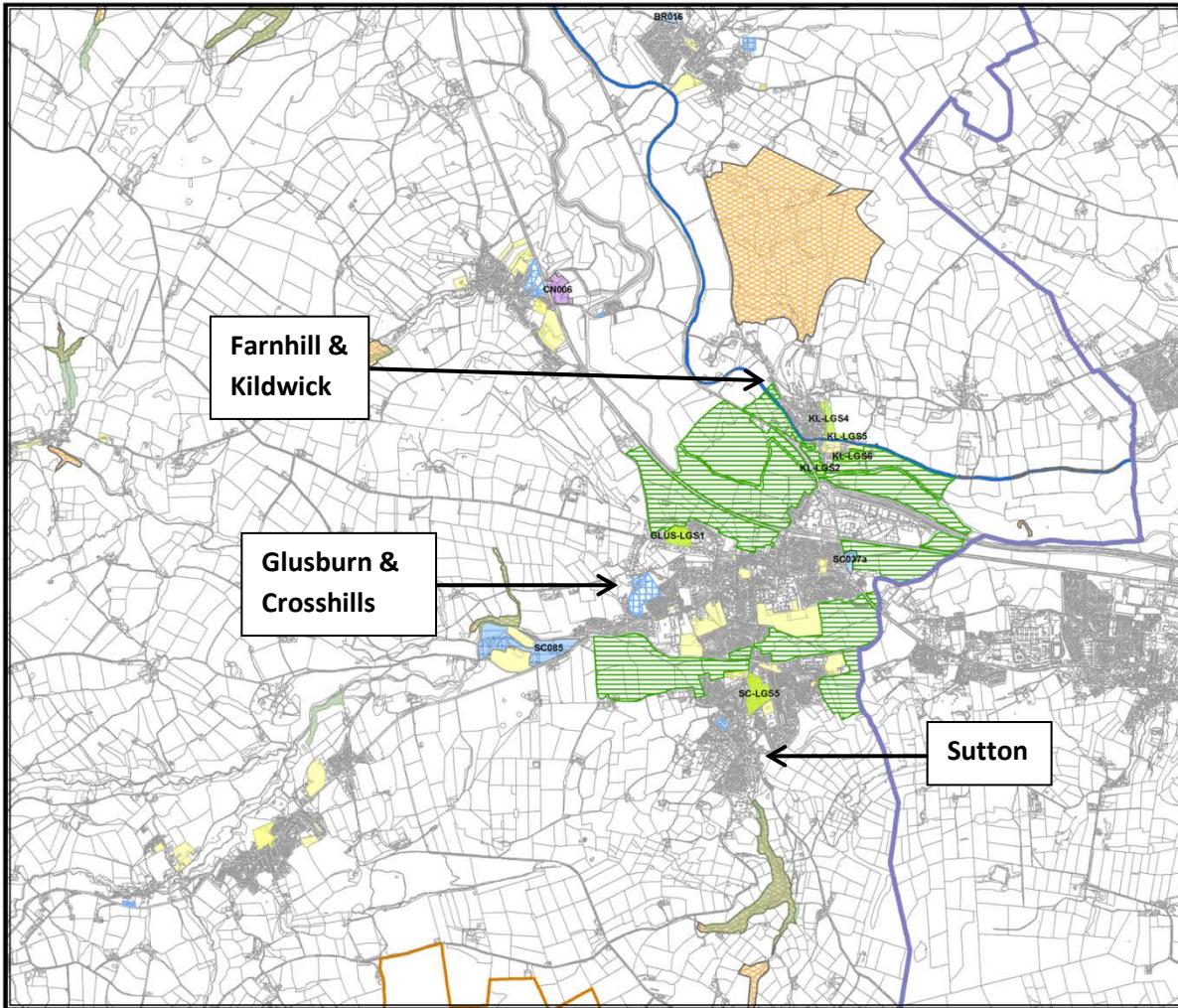
Other

Plan Area Boundary

Appendix V – South Pennine SPA and Buffers of 400m, 2.5km and 7km from the SPA boundary

Craven District Council Local Plan
Appropriate Assessment Report (Iteration I)





Appendix VI – Green wedge designations in the South Craven area

South Craven Green Spaces

Key Notation

Landscape

Green Wedge

Nature Conservation

Special Protection Areas (SPA) & Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

Site of Nature Conservation (SINC)

Ancient Woodland

Towns and Villages

Open Space, Civic Space Sport and Recreation Facilities

Proposed Local Green Space Designation

Housing and Employment

Draft Housing Allocation

Existing Housing Commitment

Safeguard Land and Transport

Leeds – Liverpool Canal Corridor

Other

Plan Area Boundary

Appendix VII: Location of usual residence and place of work (WU01UK)

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Population	All usual residents aged 16 and over in employment the week before the census
Units	Persons
Date	2011
Gender	All persons

	Usual residence	Craven	
Place of work: 2011 census merged local authority district	E41000189		
Craven	E41000189	11,763	
Bradford	E41000288	3,963	
Leeds	E41000291	1,088	
Pendle	E41000154	596	
Lancaster	E41000153	516	
South Lakeland	E41000070	413	
Harrogate	E41000191	384	
Hambleton	E41000190	211	
Ribble Valley	E41000156	196	
Calderdale	E41000289	137	
Burnley	E41000149	131	
Mole Valley	E41000231	104	

York	E41000014	84
Preston	E41000155	80
Kirklees	E41000290	78
Highland	S12000017	76
Blackburn with Darwen	E41000008	64
Manchester	E41000259	64
Wakefield	E41000292	58
Richmondshire	E41000192	55
Hyndburn	E41000152	50
Westminster,City of London	E41000324	23
Eden	E41000069	22
Ryedale	E41000193	22
Bolton	E41000257	21
Warrington	E41000007	18
Blackpool	E41000009	17
Scarborough	E41000194	17
South Ribble	E41000158	17
Bury	E41000258	16
Chorley	E41000150	16
Barrow-in-Furness	E41000066	15
Fylde	E41000151	15
Salford	E41000262	15
Rossendale	E41000157	14
Wyre	E41000160	14
Rochdale	E41000261	13
Selby	E41000195	13
Darlington	E41000005	12
Trafford	E41000265	12
Wigan	E41000266	12
Oldham	E41000260	11

Birmingham	E41000281	10
East Riding of Yorkshire	E41000011	10
Sheffield	E41000275	10
Aberdeen City	S12000033	9
Cheshire East	E41000049	9
Cheshire West and Chester	E41000050	9
County Durham	E41000047	9
Wiltshire	E41000053	8
Middlesbrough	E41000002	7
Newcastle upon Tyne	E41000277	7
Tameside	E41000264	7
Camden	E41000298	6
Erewash	E41000075	6
Kensington and Chelsea	E41000311	6
Shropshire	E41000051	6
Ashfield	E41000196	5
Derby	E41000015	5
Halton	E41000006	5
North Lincolnshire	E41000013	5
Northumberland	E41000048	5
Rotherham	E41000274	5
Stockton-on-Tees	E41000004	5
Bracknell Forest	E41000036	4
Broxbourne	E41000127	4
Carlisle	E41000067	4
Doncaster	E41000273	4
Hillingdon	E41000308	4
Milton Keynes	E41000042	4
North Tyneside	E41000278	4
Nottingham	E41000018	4

South Kesteven	E41000173	4
West Lancashire	E41000159	4
Basildon	E41000098	3
Basingstoke and Deane	E41000116	3
Bolsover	E41000072	3
Brighton and Hove	E41000043	3
Central Bedfordshire	E41000055	3
Chesterfield	E41000073	3
Copeland	E41000068	3
Dundee City	S12000042	3
Elmbridge	E41000228	3
Gwynedd	W40000002	3
Hounslow	E41000309	3
Kingston upon Thames	E41000312	3
Knowsley	E41000267	3
Maidstone	E41000142	3
Newtownabbey	95WW	3
North Ayrshire	S12000021	3
North Lanarkshire	S12000044	3
Peterborough	E41000031	3
Portsmouth	E41000044	3
Reading	E41000038	3
Redcar and Cleveland	E41000003	3
Sefton	E41000270	3
South Lanarkshire	S12000029	3
St Edmundsbury	E41000225	3
Stockport	E41000263	3
Sutton	E41000320	3
Tower Hamlets	E41000321	3
West Berkshire	E41000037	3

West Oxfordshire	E41000207	3
Windsor and Maidenhead	E41000040	3
Wolverhampton	E41000287	3
Aberdeenshire	S12000034	2
Allerdale	E41000065	2
Amber Valley	E41000071	2
Ashford	E41000137	2
Barnsley	E41000272	2
Bexley	E41000295	2
Breckland	E41000175	2
Brent	E41000296	2
Chelmsford	E41000102	2
Colchester	E41000103	2
Cornwall, Isles of Scilly	E41000052	2
Crawley	E41000247	2
Daventry	E41000183	2
East Hertfordshire	E41000129	2
East Staffordshire	E41000214	2
Fareham	E41000119	2
Gateshead	E41000276	2
Greenwich	E41000302	2
Guildford	E41000230	2
Hammersmith and Fulham	E41000304	2
Havering	E41000307	2
Isle of Anglesey	W40000001	2
Limvady	95RR	2
Newcastle-under-Lyme	E41000216	2
North Dorset	E41000089	2
North East Lincolnshire	E41000012	2
North Somerset	E41000024	2

Northampton	E41000186	2
Oxford	E41000204	2
Renfrewshire	S12000038	2
Runnymede	E41000233	2
Sandwell	E41000284	2
South Oxfordshire	E41000205	2
Stoke-on-Trent	E41000021	2
Swansea	W40000010	2
Tamworth	E41000220	2
Tandridge	E41000236	2
Tewkesbury	E41000115	2
Tonbridge and Malling	E41000147	2
Watford	E41000135	2
Waveney	E41000227	2
Welwyn Hatfield	E41000136	2
Wirral	E41000271	2
Angus	S12000041	1
Argyll and Bute	S12000035	1
Bassetlaw	E41000197	1
Bath and North East Somerset	E41000022	1
Belfast	95GG	1
Braintree	E41000099	1
Bristol, City of	E41000023	1
Bromley	E41000297	1
Broxtowe	E41000198	1
Cambridge	E41000060	1
Charnwood	E41000162	1
Cheltenham	E41000110	1
Cherwell	E41000203	1
Chichester	E41000246	1

Chiltern	E41000057	1
Coventry	E41000282	1
Dacorum	E41000128	1
Dartford	E41000139	1
Dudley	E41000283	1
Dumfries and Galloway	S12000006	1
Ealing	E41000300	1
East Dunbartonshire	S12000045	1
East Lindsey	E41000169	1
Eastbourne	E41000093	1
Flintshire	W40000005	1
Gedling	E41000199	1
Hart	E41000121	1
Hartlepool	E41000001	1
Hertsmere	E41000130	1
Inverclyde	S12000018	1
Ipswich	E41000223	1
Kettering	E41000185	1
Lambeth	E41000313	1
Leicester	E41000016	1
Lichfield	E41000215	1
Lincoln	E41000170	1
Lisburn	95SS	1
Liverpool	E41000268	1
Moyle	95UU	1
North Devon	E41000082	1
North East Derbyshire	E41000077	1
North Kesteven	E41000171	1
Oadby and Wigston	E41000167	1
Plymouth	E41000026	1

Poole	E41000029	1
Scottish Borders	S12000026	1
Sedgemoor	E41000209	1
Shepway	E41000144	1
Slough	E41000039	1
Solihull	E41000285	1
South Cambridgeshire	E41000064	1
South Gloucestershire	E41000025	1
South Hams	E41000083	1
South Somerset	E41000210	1
South Tyneside	E41000279	1
Southwark	E41000319	1
Spelthorne	E41000234	1
St. Helens	E41000269	1
Stafford	E41000218	1
Stratford-on-Avon	E41000242	1
Stroud	E41000114	1
Sunderland	E41000280	1
Swale	E41000145	1
Swindon	E41000030	1
Test Valley	E41000125	1
The Vale of Glamorgan	W40000013	1
Torridge	E41000085	1
Uttlesford	E41000109	1
Vale of White Horse	E41000206	1
Wandsworth	E41000323	1
Warwick	E41000243	1
Wellingborough	E41000188	1
West Lindsey	E41000174	1
West Lothian	S12000040	1

Wokingham	E41000041	1
Adur	E41000244	0
Antrim	95AA	0
Ards	95BB	0
Armagh	95CC	0
Arun	E41000245	0
Aylesbury Vale	E41000056	0
Babergh	E41000221	0
Ballymena	95DD	0
Ballymoney	95EE	0
Banbridge	95FF	0
Barking and Dagenham	E41000293	0
Barnet	E41000294	0
Bedford	E41000054	0
Blaby	E41000161	0
Blaenau Gwent	W40000017	0
Boston	E41000168	0
Bournemouth	E41000028	0
Brentwood	E41000100	0
Bridgend	W40000012	0
Broadland	E41000176	0
Bromsgrove	E41000251	0
Caerphilly	W40000016	0
Cannock Chase	E41000213	0
Canterbury	E41000138	0
Cardiff	W40000014	0
Carmarthenshire	W40000009	0
Carrickfergus	95HH	0
Castle Point	E41000101	0
Castlereagh	95II	0

Ceredigion	W40000007	0
Christchurch	E41000087	0
City of Edinburgh	S12000036	0
Clackmannanshire	S12000005	0
Coleraine	95JJ	0
Conwy	W40000003	0
Cookstown	95KK	0
Corby	E41000182	0
Cotswold	E41000111	0
Craigavon	95LL	0
Croydon	E41000299	0
Denbighshire	W40000004	0
Derbyshire Dales	E41000074	0
Derry	95MM	0
Dover	E41000140	0
Down	95NN	0
Dungannon	95OO	0
East Ayrshire	S12000008	0
East Cambridgeshire	E41000061	0
East Devon	E41000079	0
East Dorset	E41000088	0
East Hampshire	E41000117	0
East Lothian	S12000010	0
East Northamptonshire	E41000184	0
East Renfrewshire	S12000011	0
Eastleigh	E41000118	0
Eilean Siar	S12000013	0
Enfield	E41000301	0
Epping Forest	E41000104	0
Epsom and Ewell	E41000229	0

Exeter	E41000080	0
Falkirk	S12000014	0
Fenland	E41000062	0
Fermanagh	95PP	0
Fife	S12000015	0
Forest Heath	E41000222	0
Forest of Dean	E41000112	0
Glasgow City	S12000046	0
Gloucester	E41000113	0
Gosport	E41000120	0
Gravesham	E41000141	0
Great Yarmouth	E41000177	0
Hackney	E41000303	0
Harborough	E41000163	0
Haringey	E41000305	0
Harlow	E41000105	0
Harrow	E41000306	0
Hastings	E41000094	0
Havant	E41000122	0
Herefordshire, County of	E41000019	0
High Peak	E41000076	0
Hinckley and Bosworth	E41000164	0
Horsham	E41000248	0
Huntingdonshire	E41000063	0
Isle of Wight	E41000046	0
Islington	E41000310	0
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	E41000178	0
Kingston upon Hull, City of	E41000010	0
Larne	95QQ	0
Lewes	E41000095	0

Lewisham	E41000314	0
Luton	E41000032	0
Magherafelt	95TT	0
Maldon	E41000106	0
Malvern Hills	E41000252	0
Mansfield	E41000200	0
Medway	E41000035	0
Melton	E41000165	0
Mendip	E41000208	0
Merthyr Tydfil	W40000022	0
Merton	E41000315	0
Mid Devon	E41000081	0
Mid Suffolk	E41000224	0
Mid Sussex	E41000249	0
Midlothian	S12000019	0
Monmouthshire	W40000019	0
Moray	S12000020	0
Neath Port Talbot	W40000011	0
New Forest	E41000123	0
Newark and Sherwood	E41000201	0
Newham	E41000316	0
Newport	W40000020	0
Newry and Mourne	95VV	0
North Down	95XX	0
North Hertfordshire	E41000131	0
North Norfolk	E41000179	0
North Warwickshire	E41000239	0
North West Leicestershire	E41000166	0
Norwich	E41000180	0
Nuneaton and Bedworth	E41000240	0

Omagh	95YY	0
Orkney Islands	S12000023	0
Pembrokeshire	W40000008	0
Perth and Kinross	S12000024	0
Powys	W40000021	0
Purbeck	E41000090	0
Redbridge	E41000317	0
Redditch	E41000253	0
Reigate and Banstead	E41000232	0
Rhondda Cynon Taf	W40000015	0
Richmond upon Thames	E41000318	0
Rochford	E41000107	0
Rother	E41000096	0
Rugby	E41000241	0
Rushcliffe	E41000202	0
Rushmoor	E41000124	0
Rutland	E41000017	0
Sevenoaks	E41000143	0
Shetland Islands	S12000027	0
South Ayrshire	S12000028	0
South Bucks	E41000058	0
South Derbyshire	E41000078	0
South Holland	E41000172	0
South Norfolk	E41000181	0
South Northamptonshire	E41000187	0
South Staffordshire	E41000217	0
Southampton	E41000045	0
Southend-on-Sea	E41000033	0
St Albans	E41000132	0
Staffordshire Moorlands	E41000219	0

Stevenage	E41000133	0
Stirling	S12000030	0
Strabane	95ZZ	0
Suffolk Coastal	E41000226	0
Surrey Heath	E41000235	0
Taunton Deane	E41000211	0
Teignbridge	E41000084	0
Telford and Wrekin	E41000020	0
Tendring	E41000108	0
Thanet	E41000146	0
Three Rivers	E41000134	0
Thurrock	E41000034	0
Torbay	E41000027	0
Torfaen	W40000018	0
Tunbridge Wells	E41000148	0
Walsall	E41000286	0
Waltham Forest	E41000322	0
Waverley	E41000237	0
Wealden	E41000097	0
West Devon	E41000086	0
West Dorset	E41000091	0
West Dunbartonshire	S12000039	0
West Somerset	E41000212	0
Weymouth and Portland	E41000092	0
Winchester	E41000126	0
Woking	E41000238	0
Worcester	E41000254	0
Worthing	E41000250	0
Wrexham	W40000006	0
Wychavon	E41000255	0

Wycombe	E41000059	0
Wyre Forest	E41000256	0

In order to protect against disclosure of personal information, records have been swapped between different geographic areas. Some counts will be affected, particularly small counts at the lowest geographies.