

# Habitat Regulations Assessment

## Examination of Likely Significant Effects

Prepared in relation to the Publication of the  
Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan, 2018-2032



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Prepared for: Gargrave Parish Council

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Notes:

- (1.) As part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process, a previous member of the Craven District Council's Planning Policy team undertook a Screening Report on a draft version of the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan during 2016. In their response, Natural England stated that further information was required in order to determine if the contents of the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan satisfied the Habitats Regulations requirements;
- (2.) This Examination of Likely Significant Effects document is hence the next stage in the Habitats Regulations Assessment process, which is produced in response to the aforementioned requirements of Natural England. In the time period between the Screening Report for the Neighbourhood Plan and this document, Craven District Council has published their Local Plan (2012-2032), which greatly assists in the analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan.
- (3.) This document has been prepared for Gargrave Parish Council by an independent planning and ecological consultant. This assessment is undertaken on behalf of the Planning Policy team of Craven District Council, as part of the district council's role in supporting the development of neighbourhood plans within the district.

Photograph on front page of report:

The Leeds-Liverpool Canal running through Gargrave; image copyright of Craven District Council.

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## Executive Summary

Gargrave Parish Council has prepared a Neighbourhood Plan with the intention to guide new development in the designated neighbourhood area of Gargrave until 2032, alongside the published Local Plan (2017-2032) of Craven District Council. The Neighbourhood Plan sets out a vision and objectives and a number of planning policies. This document analyses the likely significant effects of the Neighbourhood Plan on key natural environment designations, to fulfil the requirements of the Habitat Regulations.

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 and neighbourhood plan making, and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This document 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.

Gargrave is mostly located in the local authority area of Craven District Council, and thus the Craven Local Plan area. A small part of the Neighbourhood Plan area to the north east is located within the Yorkshire Dales National Park boundary. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is a separate planning authority that produces a park-wide local plan, which encompasses part of Craven District.

The surrounds of Gargrave and the Craven plan area in general have 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 close to the boundaries of the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan area, and also those European sites that may be affected by development within the administrative boundary. Information relating to their qualifying features and conservation objectives are described to better understand potential development impacts on these sites.

A neighbourhood plan sets out local planning policies and identifies how some land is to be used, assisting the local plan in influencing what will be built where. Development principles should be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Like local plans, neighbourhood plans must be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy in accordance with the NPPF and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

The Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan proposes four housing sites for new residential development in the village up to 2032, with a total yield of at least 61 units. This number has the intention of building a degree of flexibility should one or more sites not come forward for various reasons. The proposed housing sites will contribute towards meet the objectively assessed housing need for Gargrave required by Craven District Council.

The Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan must be considered in combination with other relevant development plans in the proximity of the Craven area to assess any cumulative effects. Craven District Council, 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 Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan. The local plans associated with these planning jurisdictions are examined with the published version of the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan, in order to determine possible in-combination effects.

The published Craven Local Plan is the most significant, and it has an accompanying Appropriate Assessment which concludes that there is an unlikely to be any significant cumulative effects arising from the proposals within it. Bradford Core Strategy is also important, 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 neighbourhood plan, it is shown that significant adverse effects for any of these impact pathways on European designated sites are unlikely to arise.

This document coincides with the publication version of the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan. The document is sent to Natural England for their comments as part of the representations stage of the published Neighbourhood Plan.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 The Neighbourhood Plan and the Habitat Regulations

Representatives of Gargrave Parish Council have prepared a Neighbourhood Plan (for the period 2018 – 2032) for its designated neighbourhood plan area. The vision and objectives for the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan were prepared by its Working Group following consideration of the results of the various public consultations on the emerging draft plan. The stated vision for Gargrave in the Neighbourhood Plan is that, by 2032, Gargrave should be a high quality rural village with enhanced facilities, strong community spirit, a protected and improved environment and a destination for health and cultural tourism. The following key planning issues are addressed in the neighbourhood plan:

- Housing – type and quantity, numbers, location;
- Employment – location and type, scale, supporting businesses, location;
- Protecting the Environment, Green Spaces and Character;
- Infrastructure – roads, rail, alternative transport, wastewater and flooding, school, dentists and doctors.

The specifics of the Neighbourhood Plan, in terms of its spatial strategy and policies, relevant to the document are described and analysed in Chapter 5 and in Appendix V 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 neighbourhood 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 neighbourhood plan making process. This process is firstly in the form of a Screening Assessment to assess the potential impacts, and then an Examination of Likely Significant Effects document if required.

## **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 and neighbourhood plans should include 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 Habitat 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 document assesses the impacts of Gargrave Parish Council’s Neighbourhood Local Plan policies and site allocations, with regard to the requirements of 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.

Paragraph 106 states that a qualifying body which submits a proposal for a neighbourhood development plan must provide such information as the competent authority may reasonably require for the purposes of the assessment under regulation 105 or to enable it to determine whether that assessment is required. In this regulation, "qualifying body" means a parish council, or an organisation or body designated as a neighbourhood forum, authorised for the purposes of a neighbourhood development plan to act in relation to a neighbourhood area as a result of section 61F of the TCPA 1990 (authorisation to act in

relation to neighbourhood areas), as applied by section 38C of the 2004 Planning Act (supplementary provisions).

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 which are thought to be relevant to the Craven Local Plan are shown in two accompanying maps in Appendices I and II. 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. From the list, those designated European sites that are believed to be most relevant to the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan are described in Chapter 4.

Hence, from previous paragraphs it is clear that in order to ascertain whether or not designated site integrity will be affected, an examination 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 Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan**

The plan area is the geographical area covered by the plan, featuring the village of Gargrave itself, and some of its immediate surrounding areas. The Parish Council made the decision to prepare a neighbourhood plan for the Parish in 2013 and applied for designation to Craven District Council. The Designated Neighbourhood Plan was approved by Craven District Council in January 2014 following formal public consultation. A small part of the designated area is within the Yorkshire Dales National Park and therefore approval for the designated area was also required from the National Park Authority, which was received in March 2014.

## **1.5 Purpose and Structure of this Document**

The Screening Report for the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan was undertaken by a previous member of Craven District Council's Planning Policy team in early 2016. The draft report was sent to a representative of Natural England for comments and any suggested changes at that time. Natural England returned comments to state that further information would be required to confirm that the neighbourhood plan would not have adverse impacts on the integrity of designated European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans, and more analysis and information were required.

A Stage 2 of the HRA 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. This document is entitled Examination of Likely Significant Effects. The analysis in this document should be greatly assisted by the published Craven Local Plan and the analysis of it under the Habitat Regulations requirements. If adverse effects on site integrity are identified in this document, measures to avoid or sufficiently mitigate these adverse effects will need to be considered and incorporated into the neighbourhood plan.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Guidance and Best Practice

In accordance with the Habitat 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 Habitat 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. In terms of a neighbourhood plan, an Appropriate Assessment is referred to here as an Examination of Likely Significant Effects. This is because the assessment for a neighbourhood plan largely sits within the HRA analysis for the wider Local Plan. The Craven Local Plan was published in December 2017 with an accompanying Appropriate Assessment, which greatly assists the analysis of this neighbourhood plan.

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 Habitat Regulations assessments note that when assessing plans and projects under the Habitat 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. As mentioned elsewhere, an Appropriate Assessment is referred to as an Examination of Likely Significant Effects for neighbourhood plans.

- 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 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 document assessing Likely Significant Effects for the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by an independent consultant.

There has been continuing interaction between the Parish Council's neighbourhood plan team, the consultant and members of the Craven District Council's Planning Policy team during the development phase for the neighbourhood plan. The purpose of this interaction was to (1) encourage the development of strong and sustainable biodiversity and environmental policies in the neighbourhood 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. This document, along with the publication version of the Neighbourhood Plan, is available for the statutory consultee of Natural England to comment on during the representation phase for the published Neighbourhood Plan.

## **2.4 The Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan**

The Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan has set out a list of policies related to for example, housing, employment, green space and biodiversity in the District. The plan has named and analysed a number of locations for preferred housing sites. Overall, the neighbourhood plan for Gargrave is designed according to sustainable long term objectives for the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan area in relation to recent and forecast spatial growth patterns.

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 neighbourhood plan's policies, strategies and site allocations. Chapter 5 focuses on the site allocations of the neighbourhood plan, and Appendix V analyses the range of policies of this neighbourhood plan. Chapter 4 discusses in detail the structure and the conservation objectives of each Special Area of Protection and Special Conservation Area under analysis.

### **3. Description of the Neighbourhood Plan Area**

#### **3.1 Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan Area**

Gargrave is a picturesque large village and civil parish in the Craven district, situated in North Yorkshire, England. It is approximately 7 km (4.4 miles) from the town of Skipton to the southeast. In the 2011 census, the village had a population of 1,755 people. The village is situated at the southern edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The Aire River and the Leeds and Liverpool Canal pass through the village. Records show the area has been inhabited since Roman times.

The main roadway through the village is the A65 Leeds to Kendal road. A railway station is located within the village, which has services to Morecambe and Carlisle to the northwest, and Skipton and Leeds to the southeast. Gargrave has bus links to the urban areas of Skipton, Preston, Barnoldswick and Malham.

The majority of the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan area is located within the local authority area of Craven District Council, which itself is one of the district authorities in the county of North Yorkshire. A small portion of the neighbourhood plan is situated within the boundary of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The Craven District 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. Much of Gargrave's architecture is from the Victorian era, and is constructed using traditional Yorkshire stone. This heritage is historically associated with the building of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, the railways, early watermills, textile mills and the housing of mill workers.

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.

#### **3.2 Gargrave in the context of 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 Local Plan area, which has approximately 45,757 residents, according to this ONS estimate. The Craven Local 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 A-road and rail networks, with both transport connections available to Gargrave towards Skipton and onwards to Leeds and Bradford.

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. Gargrave (along with Ingleton to the northwest) 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 and 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 and east 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 predominately rural nature of the District. Indeed, the Craven District was listed within the top ten most sparsely populated local authority areas in England in 2017.

Given the settlement context detailed above, Gargrave is shown in the Craven Local Plan as a Tier 3 settlement in its settlement hierarchy (along with Ingleton, and Glusburn & Crosshills). The Craven Local Plan recognises that Gargrave has a good range of services, including a primary school, shops, public houses, and a rail and bus transport facilities. The role and status of Gargrave within the settlement hierarchy of the Craven Local Plan is discussed in further detail in Chapter 5.



### 3.3 Natural Environment of the Neighbourhood Plan area

Gargrave has a high quality natural environment. As mentioned previously, the village is situated on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and it also has the Pennine Way National Trail passing through the village to the south. The Pennine Way National Trail runs for approximately 427 km (267 miles) from Kirk Yetholm on the Scottish border to Edale in the Peak District. Therefore, Gargrave is a popular destination for hikers and cyclists. As noted, the infant River Aire passes through the village, its source at Aire head springs near Malham in Malhamdale being a few kilometres away to the west.

Craven as a whole 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). Gargrave has a number of notable wildlife species, including Eurasian otter (*Lutra Lutra*) by the Leeds-Liverpool canal.

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.

## 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 close to the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan boundary, and also those European sites that may be affected by development in the administrative boundary. These designated sites are listed in Table 1 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.

<b>SPAs</b>	<b>SACs</b>	<b>Ramsar</b>
North Pennine Moors	South Pennine Moors	Malham Tarn
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	North Pennine Moors	
	Craven Limestone Complex	

Table 1: 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 elements of the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan. Tables showing the Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) identified for each designated site, and the elements of the then draft Craven Local Plan with which they may be associated, were presented in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the Screening Report for the Craven Local Plan (November 2016).

## **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.

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. European sites considered within the scope of this assessment include all those sites identified as possibly to be significantly affected by local plan developments. This list is a sub-section of the designated European site list for the Craven Local Plan area, featuring European designated sites thought to be most relevant to the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan. 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 ‘Habitat Regulations 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 and SPAs 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 Habitat 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) 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 ladanii*); 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.

#### **(d) 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 gravely 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 careulea*. 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 Blechnum (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.

### **(e) 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 sternerii*) 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 bartsia 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.

**(f) 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*, *Macroplea appendiculata*, *Coenosia paludis tiensuu* and *Maro lepidus casemir*. 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.

## 5. Proposed Policies and Development in the Plan

### 5.1 Introduction

A Neighbourhood Plan (sometimes called a Neighbourhood Development Plan) is a way of assisting local communities to influence the planning of the area in which they live and work. It can be used to:

- Develop a shared vision for the neighbourhood;
- Choose where new homes, shops, offices and other development should be built;
- Identify and protect important local green spaces;
- Influence what new buildings should look like.

Unlike Local Plans, Neighbourhood Plans are not prepared by the local planning authority. There are two types of 'qualifying body' that can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. These bodies are:

- Parish and town councils – in areas where a parish or town council exists, these are the only bodies that can prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. A Neighbourhood Plan produced by a parish or town council does not have to cover the whole area of the parish or town. A Neighbourhood Plan can cover just part of the parish or town. Alternatively, a Neighbourhood Plan can extend across parish boundaries;
- Neighbourhood forums – where a parish or town council does not exist, community members, including those with business interests in the area, can come together to create a neighbourhood forum. Only one neighbourhood forum is allowed to exist for each neighbourhood to be covered by a Neighbourhood Plan. There are certain rules that will determine whether a neighbourhood forum has been correctly set up.

Neighbourhood Plans are optional and there is no legal requirement for a community to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. The policies in the Local Plan will still apply to the neighbourhood, whether it is decided to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan or not.

The local planning authority is required to give the neighbourhood plan makers assistance and advice, but it cannot control the Neighbourhood Plan preparation process or produce a Neighbourhood Plan on behalf of the local community in question. The local planning authority will be required to check the proposed Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that it

meets all the relevant legislation and regulations. It will also check that it generally conforms to the strategic elements of its own Local Plan.

## 5.2 Gargrave planning issues in the context of the Craven Local Plan

The Craven Local Plan (2012 – 2032) was published in December 2017. A local plan sets out 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.

In practice, the district council 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. Gargrave Parish Council identified key planning issues in their neighbourhood plan following public consultation, namely:

- Housing (type, quantity and location);
- Employment (location, type, scale and the need to support business);
- Protecting the village's environment, green spaces and character;
- Infrastructure (transport, flooding, wastewater, services).

## 5.3 The Craven Local Plan Settlement Hierarchy and Site Allocations

Within the Craven Local Plan, the settlement hierarchy for towns and villages in the plan area is shown below. Gargrave is listed in Tier 3, as a Local Service Centre.

**Principal Town (Tier 1):** Skipton.

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

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

**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 Craven Local Plan and to respond to the underpinning evidence, the spatial strategy shown in Table 2 was selected as the required distribution of growth and the preferred option to deliver sustainable patterns of development in Craven.

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
<b>Total</b>		<b>100.0%</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>2,888</b>

Table 2: Proposed Settlement Hierarchy for the Craven Local Plan area.

A number of spatial alternatives have been considered and assessed in the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process of the draft Craven Local Plan and were subject to consultation in April 2016. The SA concluded that the preferred option is the most sustainable approach to



meet the planning objectives identified, and there were no substantive objections to the preferred spatial strategy.

With planning permissions obtained since the start of the current Craven Local Plan in 2012, the gross residual housing requirement for allocation in Gargrave is 116 homes (based on September 2017 analysis). The approximate yield of the four selected sites in Gargrave is stated as at least 61 homes. This shortfall in numbers has been met in the Craven Local Plan with the units of an Extra Care facility (at a higher density) on a site in the northeast of the village (named as GA009 in the Craven Local Plan). The Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan has not designated this site, but shows this site as a potential site for an Extra Care facility in one of their maps (Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan, 2018; map 1, page 6).

#### **5.4 The Craven Local Plan's distribution of preferred sites within Gargrave**

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

##### **Tier 3, Local Service Centre: Gargrave**

Under Craven District Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) process, relatively large areas of land were put originally forward in Gargrave to the north and northeast of the village. These were made up of a total of seven 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 of the Local Plan process, 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. With the exception

of site GA009 allocated for Extra Care housing, primary focus on village centre and southern sites was hence 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 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, and hence protect the integrity of the Pennines walkway.

### **5.5 Site Allocations in the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan**

There has been good agreement between Gargrave Parish Council and Craven District Council in choosing sites for proposed residential development in the village. The two largest and most significant sites of the four residential sites selected in the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan, G2/2 (GA004 in the Craven LP) and G2/4 (GA031 in the Craven LP), have both been chosen by the two councils as preferred sites. The site G2/2 was well supported in the informal consultation undertaken by the parish council. It is an ideal brownfield site in the centre of the village. This site allocation would accommodate 14 dwellings in line with the allocation of the published Local Plan.

Site G2/4 was also well supported in the informal consultation undertaken by the parish council. The site has good access to Marton Road. Similar to Craven District Council, the Parish Council has not included a southern portion of the original site size put forward, to protect the integrity of the Pennine Way National Trail to the south. Policy G12 of the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan also provides good detail on the importance of protecting the Pennine Way National Trail. The neighbourhood plan's site allocation is in common with that of Craven District Council in allocating 44 dwellings.

Craven District Council published evidence relating to housing densities to be applied to the Craven Local Plan's preferred housing sites. The conclusions of this work is that 32 dwellings per hectare is an indicative density that is recommended to be applied (based on looking at the density and mix of 10 housing schemes with planning permission around the local plan area). This density has been applied to both of the above sites in the Gargrave Parish Council.

Gargrave Parish Council has included two relatively small sites in the village envelope which are not identified as preferred sites in the Craven Local Plan. The Gargrave Parish Council views these sites (G2/1 and G2/3) as infill sites and providing 2 houses, and between 1-8 houses respectively.

As noted previously, Gargrave Parish Council does not specifically promote the site in the northeast of the village (GA009 in the Craven Local Plan) for Extra Care units. They do however recognise the site as a Craven Local Plan allocation (Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan, 2018; map 1, page 6). Policy G4 of the neighbourhood plan also supports care home provision in the village.

Therefore overall, in comparison to some other settlements in the Craven Local Plan, Gargrave has good brownfield and infill options available for residential allocations. This reduces the demand for greenfield sites adjacent to the village to meet residential requirements.

## **6. Neighbouring Plans and Projects**

### **6.1 Neighbouring Authority Areas and Plans**

The Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan must be considered in combination with other relevant development plans within the Craven area and in proximity to Craven. This is because, although the spatial allocation of residential and other development in Gargrave alone may not cause significant adverse effects on designated sites, it may do in combination with other spatial development allocations in the wider region.

Craven District Council, Bradford Metropolitan District Council, Harrogate Borough Council, Lancaster City Council, Pendle Borough Council, Ribbles Valley Borough Council, and Yorkshire Dales National Park Planning Authority have all planning jurisdictions and development plans adjoining or close to the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan area. Within Craven District, Bradley Parish Council and Cononley Parish Council also have Neighbourhood Plans in preparation and close to completion at the time of writing. It is considered that the Local Plan of Craven District Council is by far the most relevant, and this will be considered in detail in this chapter. The Core Strategy of the Bradford Metropolitan District Council will also be considered in this chapter, due to its relatively large housing allocation, and also the plan of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Planning Authority because of its proximity to the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan area.

The other local plans associated with these aforementioned planning jurisdictions will be examined with the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan, in order to determine possible in-combination effects in this Examination of Likely Significant Effects. The neighbourhood plans of Bradley and Cononley are not thought to be of significance given their very low housing allocations. The following paragraphs explain the significance, if any, of each of the neighbouring plans to the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan.

### **6.2 Craven District Council**

The Craven plan area is situated at the western end of the county of North Yorkshire, encompassing an area of 371 square kilometres. The total area of Craven District is 1,406 square kilometres, with the remainder of the Craven District being within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is a separate planning authority that produces a park-wide local plan, as discussed in Section 6.8. Craven District has a total population of 55,801. About 82% of the total District population live in the Craven plan area.

Craven District Council published their Local Plan covering the period 2012 to 2032 in December 2017, and the published plan recognises the following key issues:

- Falling resident workforce – the existing housing stock is increasingly occupied by one or two person older/retired households;
- Affordable housing need – house prices and rents relative to local incomes are high;
- Greenfield development – the limited supply of brownfield land means that to meet objectively assessed development needs, greenfield sites will be required for development;
- High Quality Environment – meeting objectively assessed development requirements will need to be reconciled with the appropriate protection of the plan area's outstanding environment, including its natural and historic assets;
- Employment land – demand from local business for space to grow and limited serviced employment land available;
- Transport – there are opportunities for improved connectivity and economic links with Lancashire and West Yorkshire via road and rail networks.

The Craven Local Plan analysed the size and role of the settlements within the plan area in devising its preferred spatial strategy. Consideration in this settlement hierarchy has been given to each settlement's respective function and level of service. The town of Skipton is by far the largest settlement and it receives 50% of the allocated residential growth, which is 230 dwellings per annum over the 20 year lifetime of the local plan. Therefore, to meet the housing needs of Craven, provision is made for 4,600 net additional dwellings in the plan area over the period 2012 to 2032, which is a minimum provision. Housing monitoring showed that 768 net dwellings were completed between 1 April 2012 and 30 September 2017. Hence the balance of the housing provision for the remainder of the plan period to be provided through new site allocations identified in the local plan, sites with planning permission or under construction, and housing allowances for small rural settlements and open countryside is 3,832 net additional dwellings (as of September 2017 analysis).

The published Craven Local Plan has an accompanying Habitats Regulations Appropriate Assessment. This document concluded that there exist no significant adverse effects relating to designated European sites from strategies and policies in the plan.

### **6.3 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.

#### **6.4 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 recently 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. The Local Plan was published in January 2018. 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.

## **6.5 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 576.2km<sup>2</sup>, 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 & Land 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.

## **6.6 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 169.4km<sup>2</sup> 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.

## **6.7 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 583.2km<sup>2</sup>, 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.

## **6.8 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 2,178km<sup>2</sup>. 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.

## **6.9 Assessment of Cumulative Effects**

The Craven Local Plan has amongst the lowest allocations in this selected group, at 4,600 homes. The Appropriate Assessment determined that, through the designated spatial hierarchy and the settlement strategy of this plan, and its proposed mitigation measures, any significant adverse effects are unlikely. 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 Ribbles Valley Borough Council planning for approximately 4,000 dwellings. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has the lowest proposed allocation, at 1,100 houses.

It is important to establish the most significant development allocations in relation to their geographical arrangement to the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan, 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 Gargrave Neighbourhood 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 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 and 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 and 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 Gargrave Neighbourhood 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 neighbourhood 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 neighbourhood 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 neighbourhood 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.

There are thought to be possible adverse effects on the SACs and SPAs of the North and South Pennine Moors, in addition to the Craven Limestone Complex SAC and the Malham Tarn Ramsar site, which may result from the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan alone or in combination with other plans. 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 the SPAs and SACs adjacent to the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan area which may experience additional recreational pressure as a result of the policies and objectives of this neighbourhood plan. Some of these European designated sites are located within the Yorkshire Dales National Park, such as the Craven Limestone Complex SAC. These European designated sites are not located near to large urban areas, and the housing provision in the neighbouring 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 Gargrave and by far the largest town in the local plan area, Skipton, which will receive the largest amount of new housing in the Craven Local Plan. South Pennine Moors SPA and SAC may be under pressure from the housing allocations in the Bradford Core Strategy, and as such housing allocations in the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan are required to be analysed.

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 and 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, including Gargrave. 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. Allocations in Gargrave fare somewhat better with three of the four allocated residential sites in the village centre. 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 crane fly 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.

#### **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<sub>2</sub>) and particles (PM<sub>10</sub>) in relation to human health, and oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>) 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 into 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<sub>2</sub>), ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>), and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), 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<sub>x</sub> 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<sub>x</sub> 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<sub>2</sub> 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<sub>x</sub> and Critical Loads for nitrogen deposition and acid deposition (<http://www.apis.ac.uk>), as follows:

#### NO<sub>x</sub>

- Visible symptoms for example, leaf discoloration;
- 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<sub>x</sub> from roads is the background concentration of NO<sub>x</sub> 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<sub>x</sub> 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/m<sup>3</sup> and the background level not attributable to relevant traffic is:

- 15ug/m<sup>3</sup> would not lead to an exceedance of the air quality of 30ug/m<sup>3</sup>;
- 25ug/m<sup>3</sup> would result in an exceedance of the air quality standard;
- 35ug/m<sup>3</sup> 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<sub>x</sub> 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<sub>x</sub> are typically in the range of 15-20ug/m<sup>3</sup>. Hence, a major road concentration increment of 10-15ug/m<sup>3</sup> 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<sub>x</sub> 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<sub>x</sub> concentrations attributed to the major road and the background concentration has been defined as the total background NO<sub>x</sub>. For areas of SACs and SSSIs not within 50m of a major road, the contribution from roads has been defined as the NO<sub>x</sub> concentrations from road traffic attributed to the 1km x 1km square, and the background concentration has been calculated as the total background NO<sub>x</sub> minus the NO<sub>x</sub> concentrations from road traffic attributed to the 1km x 1km square.

NO<sub>x</sub> makes an important contribution to both nitrogen deposition and acid deposition, but is not the sole contributor. Airborne NH<sub>3</sub> makes a significant contribution to nitrogen deposition, and airborne SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> make significant contributions to acid deposition. Sensitivities to nitrogen deposition and acid deposition are, therefore, associated with wider issues than NO<sub>x</sub> concentrations. However, exposure to NO<sub>x</sub> concentrations is the major route by which road traffic contributed to nitrogen deposition and acid deposition. Consequently, the evaluation of site sensitivity to NO<sub>x</sub> 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](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 Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan and Craven Local Plan areas, 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. Hence the village of Gargrave falls under the coverage of Yorkshire Water. This company 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 including Gargrave. 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 continue with more housing in the plan area.

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 the SACs

The village of Gargrave is shown as a Tier 3 settlement in the Craven Local Plan, and has approximately 3.5% of the total preferred housing allocation of the Local Plan. Therefore it is important to reinforce existing recreational facilities and establish new recreational alternatives in and around the village, in preference to increasing usage of the neighbouring Yorkshire Dales National Park and the designated European sites. Gargrave has a good range of existing green park space. The allocated residential sites are in a favourable position to take advantage of this recreational space. Three of the four preferred residential sites in Gargrave are in the village centre, and the remaining site on Marton Road has been reduced from its original submitted size, to protect the surroundings of the Pennine walkway.

The Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan has put great emphasis on protecting and creating green spaces. There are eight sites designated as local green spaces, including a relatively large site north of the Leeds-Liverpool canal (shown in Appendix VI). The neighbourhood plan identifies other important examples of local green infrastructure which enjoy additional protection but which are not identified as local green spaces. The neighbourhood plan states that these areas do not satisfy the criteria for local green spaces in the NPPF but nonetheless the plan states that they all make an important contribution to the character of Gargrave and their value should be recognised in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan includes an additional Policy G11, entitle 'Protecting and Enhancing Local Recreational Facilities'. This policy names seven local recreational facilities to be protected. It states there will be a presumption in favour of the re-use of such facilities for recreational, health, and community type uses. The change of use of existing facilities to other uses will not be permitted unless alternative provisions are granted, or there is no longer a need for the facility. A Green Infrastructure (GI) approach will be promoted for all new public open space proposals in order to support community access and protect and enhance the natural and historic environment. Proposals must be designed to provide open space, sport and recreation uses which are accessible to all, safeguard and enhance the natural and historic environment; and protect priority species and enhance habitats and sites of special biodiversity interest.

### 8.3 Loss of Feeding Sites and Possible Foraging Areas for Bird Species

Firstly, it must be noted that that three of the four proposed housing sites identified in the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan are within the built up area of the village – namely Site Allocation G2/1: Land to the east of West Street, Site Allocation G2/2: Neville House, Neville Crescent, and Site Allocation G2/3: Paddock at Knowles House. The only site which can be viewed as extending the built up area of the village is G2/4: Land to the west of Walton Close. The net loss of rural and greenfield sites is therefore lower than many other neighbouring plans, and the loss of potential feeding sites is low overall.

As previously discussed in Chapter 7, there is a potential adverse effect of loss of supporting feeding sites in Gargrave because of new housing development. The Site Allocation G2/4 is located further away from the designated European sites within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Species records from the Ecological Data Centre were obtained for each preferred residential site as part of preparation for the Craven Local Plan. Records for G2/4 (or GA031 in the Craven Local Plan) show that there is no species recorded on this site which are named as a qualifying feature of the Northern Pennine Moors SPA or South Pennine Moors SPA. For example, there are no records of the Golden Plover bird species on this site, which is a qualifying feature of the North Pennine Moors SPA.

### 8.4 Air Quality Impacts near SPAs and SACs

The mostly likely sources of air pollution, as a result of the Craven Local Plan and Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan provisions, will be from road transport. There are approximately 326 districts in England, of which about 200 districts have declared AQMA for one or more pollutants. The vast majority have been declared for nitrogen dioxide with a third also declaring for PM<sub>10</sub>. 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.

Travel destination statistics are available which show 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](http://www.nomiweb.co.uk). In 2011, there was a working population of 20,894 people

in Craven, whose travel movements was recorded. Of this figure, over half of the working population (11,763 - 56.3%) stayed within the Craven District for their employment. There are no statistics available at the level of Gargrave, but travel trends for this village can be reasonably extrapolated from overall trends in Craven, particularly as Gargrave is quite centrally located within the Craven plan area.

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 neighbourhood 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 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 neighbourhood plan through augmented atmospheric pollution from increased traffic movements on European designated sites. It is highly unlikely that the critical pollution levels of NO<sub>x</sub> 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 µg NO<sub>x</sub> (as NO<sub>2</sub>) m<sup>-3</sup> and the critical level is 30 µg NO<sub>x</sub> (as NO<sub>2</sub>) m<sup>-3</sup>. For South Pennine Moors SAC, the current concentration is 14.17 µg NO<sub>x</sub> (as NO<sub>2</sub>) m<sup>-3</sup> and the critical level is 30 µg NO<sub>x</sub> (as NO<sub>2</sub>) m<sup>-3</sup>. There are also favourable results for the Craven Limestone Complex SAC, shown below.

#### 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 µg NO<sub>x</sub> (as NO<sub>2</sub>) m<sup>-3</sup>      **Concentration:** 6.07 µg NO<sub>x</sub> (as NO<sub>2</sub>) m<sup>-3</sup>

**Data Year:** 2013 – 2015      **Exceedance:** -23.93 µg NO<sub>x</sub> (as NO<sub>2</sub>) m<sup>-3</sup>

### 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 NO<sub>x</sub> (as NO<sub>2</sub>) m<sup>-3</sup>      **Concentration:** 14.17 µg NO<sub>x</sub> (as NO<sub>2</sub>) m<sup>-3</sup>

**Data Year:** 2013 – 2015      **Exceedance:** -15.83 µg NO<sub>x</sub> (as NO<sub>2</sub>) m<sup>-3</sup>

### Craven Limestone Complex SAC

**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 µg NO<sub>x</sub> (as NO<sub>2</sub>) m<sup>-3</sup>      **Concentration:** 7.52 µg NO<sub>x</sub> (as NO<sub>2</sub>) m<sup>-3</sup>

**Data Year:** 2013 – 2015      **Exceedance:** -22.48 µg NO<sub>x</sub> (as NO<sub>2</sub>) m<sup>-3</sup>

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 16-64 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). The 65+ population of Gargrave, given its village status, are most likely to be even higher than the Craven average.

Whilst the current high OAD in Craven and Gargrave, 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 over 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 and Gargrave 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. However, the current high OAD level in Craven, and the likely continual rise of this relatively high OAD, means that concentrations of NO<sub>x</sub> 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.

In Section 3, it was noted that Gargrave has relatively good public transport connections, particularly in comparison to other Craven settlements. A railway station is located within the village, which has services to Morecambe and Carlisle to the northwest, and Skipton and Leeds to the southeast. Gargrave has bus links to the urban areas of Skipton, Preston, Barnoldswick and Malham. This greatly assists to reduce pollution emissions.

## **8.5 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 Craven 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. There were no specific water or wastewater issues raised in the context of the village of Gargrave.

## **8.6 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. A similar approach was followed for Gargrave and taken forward in the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan. 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, including Gargrave, 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 Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan, in the context of the published Craven Local Plan, and Habitats Regulations Assessment process. It has described the proposed development in the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan in terms of its site allocations and spatial planning. 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 Gargrave Neighbourhood 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 Gargrave Neighbourhood 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, the South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA Phase 2, the Craven Limestone Complex SAC and Malham Tarn Ramsar site were examined. There is a relatively high amount of residential development proposed close to the South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA within the Bradford Metropolitan District. Hence this site was included in the study despite been slightly further away from Gargrave than the other designated sites.

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 Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan establishes a reasonable and pragmatic strategic approach to appropriately reduce the risk of adverse impacts. This includes allocating and distributing proposed development sites effectively, providing pathways for green infrastructure networks, and maintaining and establishing alternative recreational sites in the form of local green spaces and otherwise. The policies of the neighbourhood plan analysed in Appendix V are shown to have negligible impacts if described mitigation measures are implemented, or in many cases to have potentially positive impacts on designated site protection. Overall the neighbourhood plan demonstrates that any significant adverse effects are capable of being avoided and/or mitigated.



Additional recreational sites are brought forward in the form of local green space and green infrastructure 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 in and around Gargrave village.

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 neighbourhood 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 in Gargrave. Urban edge effects from the relatively low amount of development in Gargrave are thought to be minor or negligible.

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

### **9.3 Next Steps**

The Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan will be open to representations from the public and statutory bodies. This document is to be presented to Natural England for their consideration and review alongside their analysis of the Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan. If required, any updates and/or changes to 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 Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan. The document will support the Neighbourhood Plan during its examination process.

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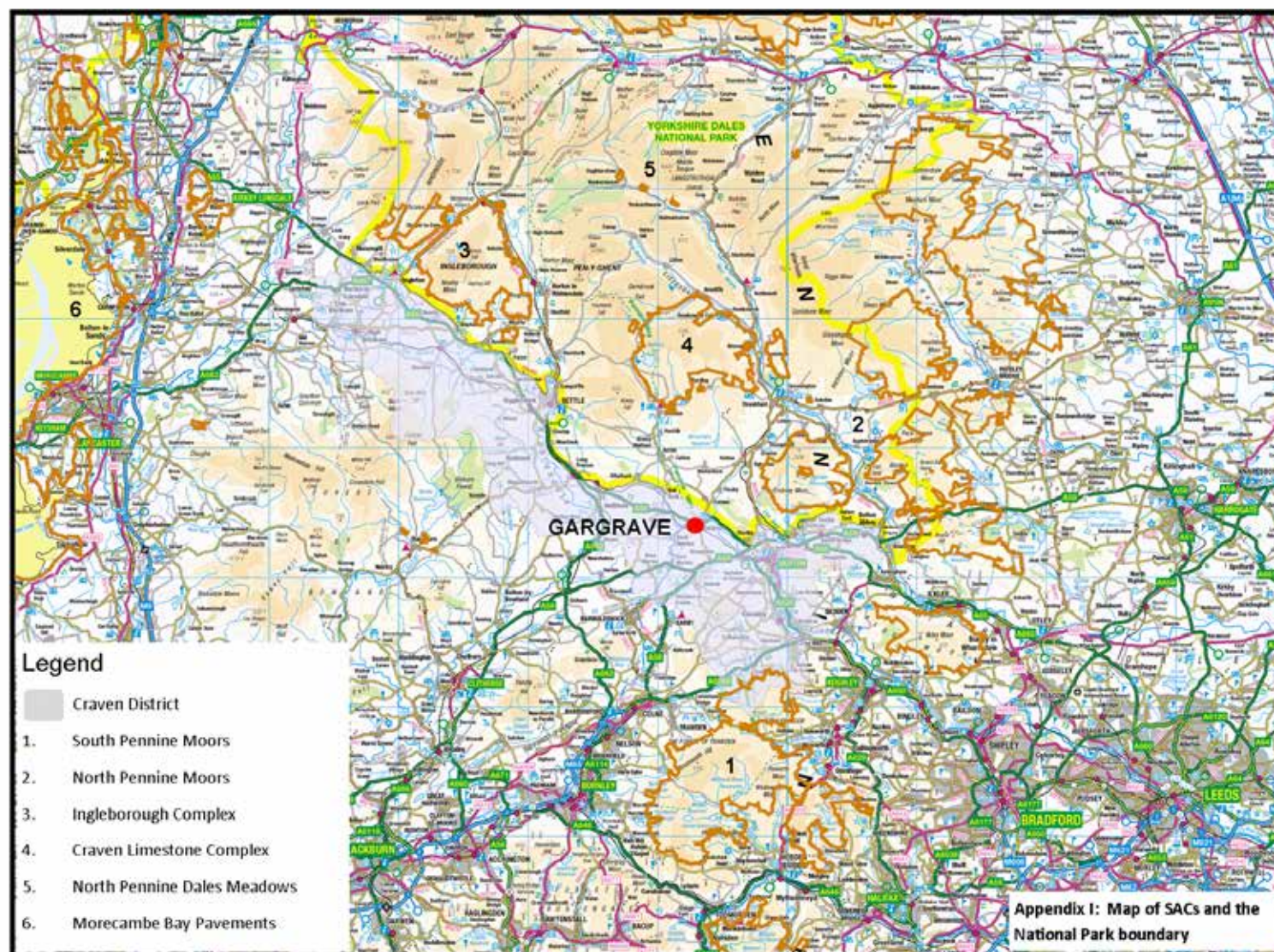
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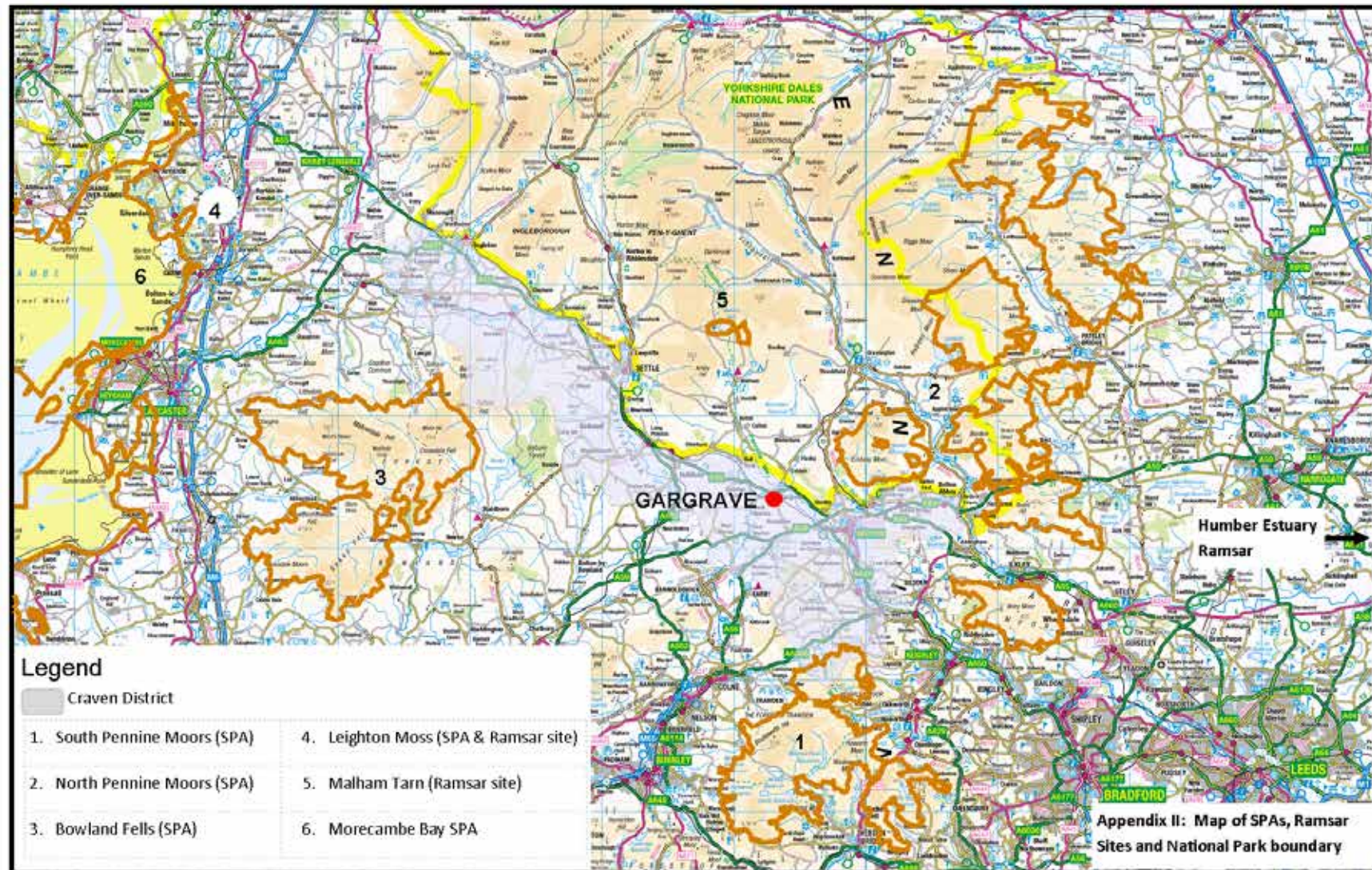
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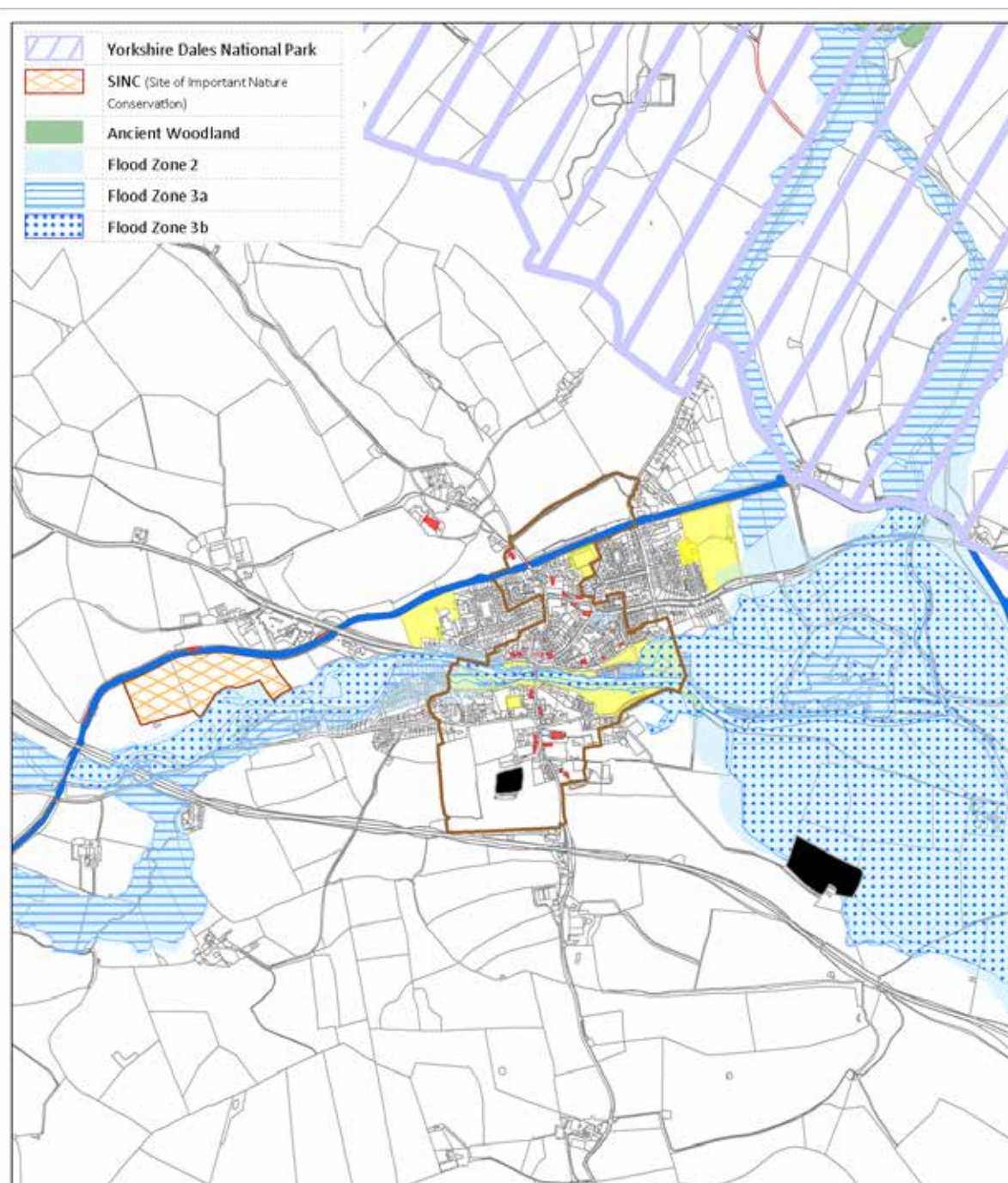












## Opportunities and Constraints Map for Gargrave



Scale: 1:15000 @ A4  
Based on Ordnance Survey Mapping  
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Ordnance Survey 100024694

(Key continued)	
	Conservation Area
	Listed Building
	Scheduled Ancient Monument
	Open Space, Civic Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities
	Leeds-Liverpool Canal

## Appendix III: Natural and Built Landscape Features in and around Gargrave Village





## Appendix V: Review of 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?
<b>G1 - New Housing within the Settlement Boundary (NP: page 36)</b>	Within the defined settlement boundary for Gargrave village, new housing development proposals will be permitted when they meet all of the 11 listed criteria. Developments which support opportunities for self-build projects will be encouraged, subject to other planning policies.	The neighbourhood plan 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.	North Pennine Moors SAC & SPA, South Pennine Moors SAC & SPA, Craven Limestone Complex SAC & Malham Tarn Ramsar.	There is likely to be no significant negative effects if the policy is implemented efficiently.	Yes

<p><b>G2 – Site Allocations, New Housing (LP: page 40)</b></p>	<p>The policy names the following sites for potential development:</p> <p>Site Allocation G2/1, Land to the east of West Street;</p> <p>Site Allocation G2/2, Neville House, Neville Crescent;</p> <p>Site Allocation G2/3, Paddock at Knowles House;</p> <p>Site Allocation G2/4, Land to the west of Walton Close.</p>	<p>A number of sites are identified for new housing development in Gargrave. A number of other sites made available are not being taken forward at the current time as there was insufficient community consensus or support. Also it is believed that the housing requirement can be met from the allocated sites identified.</p>	<p>North Pennines Moors SAC &amp; SPA, South Pennine Moors SAC &amp; SPA, Craven Limestone Complex SAC and Malham Tarn Ramsar.</p>	<p>There is likely to be no significant negative effects if the policy is implemented efficiently.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
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<p><b>G3 – Ensuring an appropriate range of tenures, types and sizes of housing (NP: page 46)</b></p>	<p>Residential development of at least 150 units will be supported over the plan period, subject to policies G1 and G2. All proposals for new housing development will have to demonstrate how they contribute to maintaining a mix of tenures, types and size of dwelling in the Parish.</p> <p>On housing schemes of 6 to 10 units, a financial or off site contribution to affordable housing will be required. On schemes of 11 or more units, on site contributions for affordable housing will be required. A target of 40% affordable housing will be sought in all schemes but this will be subject to viability.</p>	<p>The Craven Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) Update 2016 provides some relevant information in terms of identifying and planning for future housing requirements in the Craven area including Gargrave.</p>	<p>North Pennine Moors SAC &amp; SPA, South Pennine Moors SAC &amp; SPA, Craven Limestone Complex SAC and Malham Tarn Ramsar.</p>	<p>The policy makes provision for a number of additional dwellings during the total plan period, subject to policies G1 and G2.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>G4 – Supporting Care Home Provision in Gargave (NP: page 47)</b></p>	<p>Proposals for a new care home facility in Gargrave will be supported.</p>	<p>The new facility will be required to: Be located in an accessible location with good access to facilities and amenities; Support the re-provision of accommodation for residents in the existing facility at Neville House; Be located within the settlement boundary; Respond positively to design and other planning policies in the plan.</p>	<p>Unlikely, given the facility's location requirements as stated.</p>	<p>It is not likely that the facility site chosen would have an adverse effect on the designated European sites, given the stated location requirements.</p>	<p>Effective mitigation is possible.</p>

<b>G5 – Tourism and Rural Business Development (NP: page 51)</b>	Appropriate tourism related development which is in keeping with the village's rural location, setting and historic character will be supported.	Development for small scale business and tourism related activities will be supported where: Development is appropriate to the village setting in terms of design and materials; Proposals demonstrate consideration of impact on infrastructure and incorporate appropriate mitigation measures to minimise any adverse impacts; Adequate car parking is provided for employees and visitors; Development enhances and complements the existing important tourism industry in Gargrave, and does not impact negatively on the character and rural feel of the village; Proposals are for small scale business/start up units and facilities which support local tourism linked to the enjoyment of the countryside.	North Pennine Moors SPA & SAC, South Pennine Moors SPA & SAC, Craven Limestone Complex SAC, and Malham Tarn Ramsar.	Proposals which include the redevelopment or re-use of existing buildings or previously used sites will be given priority over proposals using green field locations.	Yes.
<b>G6 – Protecting Local Heritage Assets (NP: page 63)</b>	Designated and non-designated heritage assets enhance local distinctiveness and should be preserved in a manner appropriate to their significance.	All development should seek to protect and, where possible enhance, both designated and non-designated heritage assets and historic landscape character, and put in place measures to avoid or minimise impact or mitigate damage.	This policy is not likely to be relevant to any SPAs or SACs.	This policy is not likely to be relevant to any SPAs or SACs.	No mitigation is likely to be required.

<b>G7 – New Development in the Conservation Area (NP: page 64)</b>	New development in the Conservation Area is required to respond positively to the area's distinctive character and should be designed to enhance the setting of existing buildings and open spaces.	No direct relation to potential impact(s) on European and/or Ramsar sites.	None are likely to be affected.	None are likely to be affected.	No mitigation measures are likely to be required.
<b>G8 – Promoting High Quality Design (NP: page 66)</b>	All new development proposals will be required to demonstrate how they have taken account of the seven listed requirements.	No direct relation to potential impact(s) on European and/or Ramsar sites.	None are likely to be affected.	None are likely to be affected.	No mitigation measures are likely to be required.
<b>G9 – Planning Out Crime (NP: page 67)</b>	Proposals will be expected to demonstrate how the design has been influenced by the need to plan positively to reduce crime and the fear of crime, and how this will be achieved. The advice should be sought of a Police Designing Out Crime representative for all developments of 10 or more dwellings.	No direct relation to potential impact(s) on European and/or Ramsar sites.	None are likely to be affected.	None are likely to be affected.	No mitigation measures are likely to be required.
<b>G10 – Local Green Spaces (NP: page 70)</b>	The named eight sites in this policy are designated as local green space sites.	The policy identifies eight sites within the settlement boundary as preferred local green space sites.	The Craven Limestone Complex SAC, North Pennine Moors SPA & SAC, South Pennine Moors SAC & SPA, and Malham Tarn Ramsar, but in a positive	The local green space sites should act to take some recreational pressure from the designated European sites to the north and northeast.	None required.

			manner.		
<b>G11 – Protecting and Enhancing Local Recreational Facilities (NP: page 72)</b>	This policy seeks to protect local recreational facilities. There will be a presumption in favour of the re-use of such facilities for recreational, health, and community type uses.	Development which contributes towards the improvement of existing, or provision of new recreational facilities will be encouraged. A Green Infrastructure (GI) approach will be promoted for all new public open space proposals in order to support community access and protect and enhance the natural and historic environment.	Craven Limestone Complex SAC, North Pennine Moors SPA & SAC, and South Pennine Moors SPA & SAC, and Malham Tarn Ramsar, in a positive manner.	This policy is likely to have a positive effect on the designated European sites, as there will be a reduction in recreational pressure.	None required.
<b>G12 – Protecting and Enhancing the Rural Landscape Setting and Wildlife of Gargrave (NP: page 78)</b>	This policy covers the enhancement of landscape setting and wildlife, soils, Yorkshire Dales National Park, and the Pennine Way.	<p>New development is required to carefully consider the landscape setting of Gargrave. Proposals should demonstrate a positive contribution to the stated nine landscape design principles.</p> <p>The area's soils are valued as a finite multi-functional resource which underpins well-being and prosperity. Development proposals should take full account of their impact on soils, their intrinsic character and the sustainability of the many ecosystem services they deliver.</p>	North Pennine Moors SPA & SAC, South Pennine Moors SPA & SAC, Craven Limestone Complex SAC, and Malham Tarn Ramsar in a positive manner.	All of the sub-sections of this policy should act in a positive and effective manner to mitigate against any negative impacts on landscapes and other environmental features.	None required.

		<p>Great weight is given to the need to conserve and enhance the Yorkshire Dales National Park for its landscape and scenic beauty. Development proposals within the 2 km buffer of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Boundary should consider the potential impacts on the natural beauty and special qualities of the National Park. Proposals should set out how any adverse effects on wildlife sites such as Haw Crag Quarry SSSI, and the National Park will be avoided or mitigated.</p> <p>Proposals within the 2 km buffer of the Pennine Way National Trail should consider the potential impacts on the National Trail with adverse effects avoided or mitigated for.</p> <p>Overall, development should be located away from the most sensitive areas to minimise any negative environmental impacts. Mitigation measures should be considered only when this is not possible.</p>			
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<p><b>G13 – Significant Views (NP: page 80)</b></p>	<p>The named views are identified as significant in the Conservation Area Appraisal and are indicated on an accompanying map in the neighbourhood plan. Development should be sited and designed to enhance and better reveal these views and should not obstruct them. The approach should be set out clearly in any design and heritage settlements.</p>	<p>There is no direct relationship between the policy and the designated European sites.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No adverse effects are likely.</p>	<p>None required.</p>
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<b>G14 – Supporting Improvements to Accessibility (NP: page 85)</b>	Proposals to improve existing public transport links to local towns and facilities and to improve routes and networks for walking and cycling in the Parish will be supported.	The policy places emphasis in improving non private vehicle usage to and from the village. This can reduce air emissions contributing to climate change, and can improve local air quality. Recreational usage can also be improved using this policy.	The Craven Limestone Complex SAC, North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA, South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA, and Malham Tarn Ramsar can be influenced in a positive manner.	Implementation of this policy is likely to have a positive influence on the aforementioned designated European sites.	None required.
<b>G15 – Development in Areas of Flood Risk from Water Courses and Surface Water (NP: page 87)</b>	Until adequate surface water drainage measures / waste water treatment facilities have been installed to protect both existing properties and any new development, proposals for new development in Gargrave will only be considered acceptable in flood zone 1 and areas at low or very low risk from surface water or any other source with low or very low risk as identified on the most up-to-date Environmental Agency	Development proposals will be required to provide effective surface water drainage measures to protect existing and future residential areas from flooding. Opportunities will be sought to reduce the overall level of flood risk in the area through the layout and form of the development, and the appropriate application of sustainable drainage systems.	The Craven Limestone Complex SAC North Pennine Moors SAC/SPA, South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA and Malham Tarn Ramsar in a potentially positive way.	This is a policy which aims to enable the settlement to grow in a way that respects the potential risk of flooding and take adequate recognition of this. This policy should then act in a positive manner.	None required.

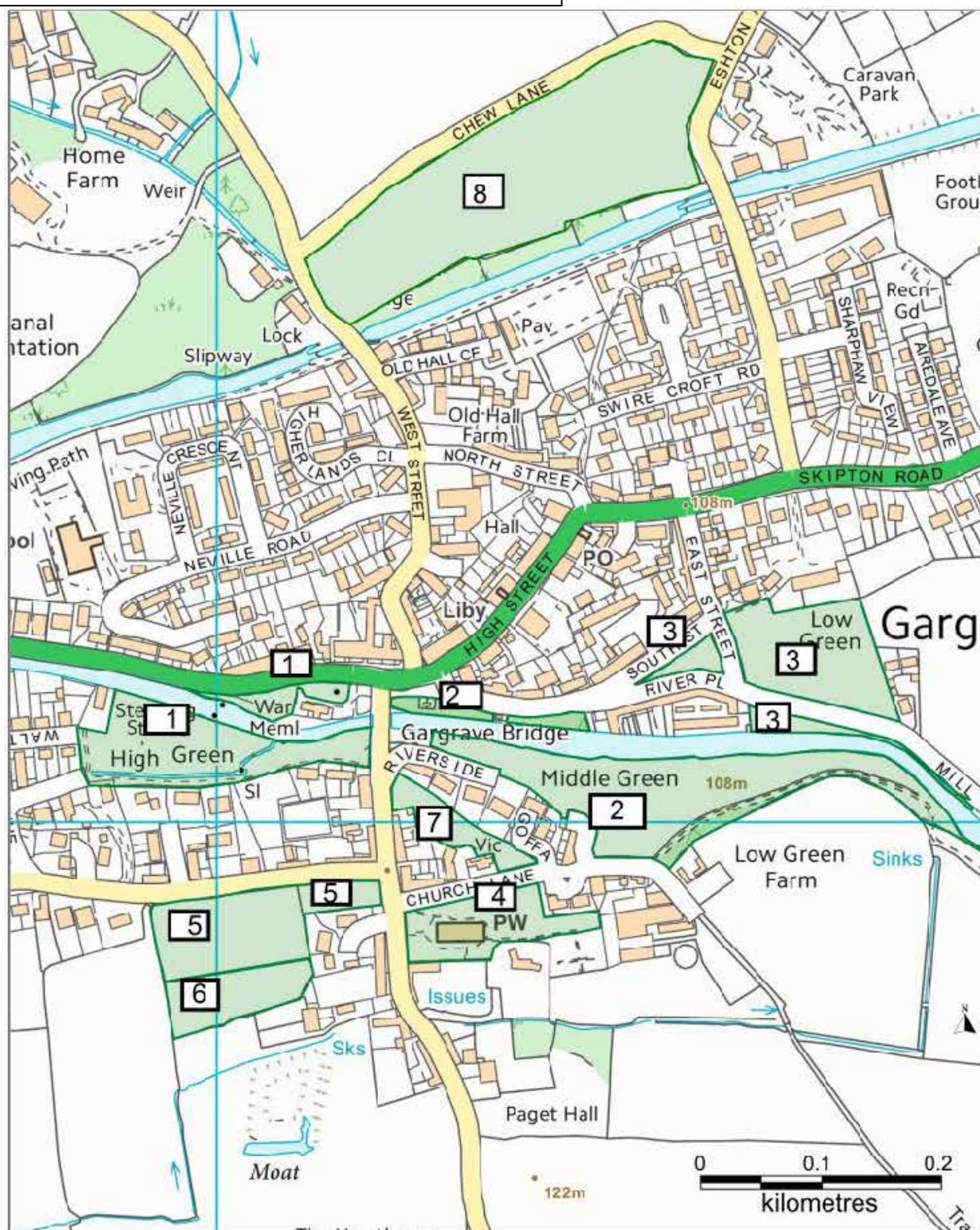
	flood maps for planning.				
<b>G16 – Design for Flood Resilience and Resistance (NP: page 88)</b>	All new development in Gargrave is required to be flood resilient. Development must be designed to reduce the consequences of flooding and to facilitate recovery from the effects of flooding.	There is not a direct relationship between this policy and the designated European sites.	None.	This policy is not expected to result in any likely adverse significant effects, as there is no direct relationship between this policy and the designated European sites.	None required.

<p><b>G17 – Design to Reduce Surface Water Run Off (NP: page 88)</b></p>	<p>New development must be designed to maximise the retention of surface water on the development site and to minimise runoff. Sustainable drainage systems must be implemented wherever possible.</p>	<p>The design of new buildings and infrastructure must take account of existing topography to manage the flow of water along specific flow routes away from property and into appropriate storage facilities.</p> <p>Water attenuation facilities such as lagoons, ponds and swales must be provided within development sites.</p> <p>Sustainable design of buildings such as use of “green” or “living” roofs and “blue roofs” which support rain water harvesting are supported. Storage of rain water for non-drinking water purposes such as watering gardens and flushing toilets is encouraged.</p>	<p>The Craven Limestone Complex SAC, North Pennine Moors SAC &amp; SPA, and South Pennine Moors SAC &amp; SPA, and Malham Tarn Ramsar in a positive manner.</p>	<p>This should be a beneficial policy for the natural environment. There is likely to be no significant negative effects.</p>	<p>None required.</p>
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## Appendix VI: Review of Proposed Residential Sites and Potential Effects on HRA Interests

Site Reference Number and Location	Net Developable Area (hectares) and Expected Yield	Site Description	Any HRA interests potentially affected, and likelihood and severity of effects	Description of mitigation measures if required
G2/1 (NP) and GA003 (LP) – Land to the east of West Street	0.05 hectares and 2 dwellings	This is a very small infill site surrounded by residential dwellings in the centre of the village.	There are no environmental effects envisaged from this small site in the centre of the village. The SPAs and SACs in the wider area are not likely to be affected.	It is not believed that there are mitigation measures required here in terms of the environment interests.
G2/2 (NP) and GA004 (LP) – Neville House, Neville Crescent	0.425 hectares and 14 dwellings	This is a brownfield site in the village built environs, and to the west of the conservation area. The site currently contains a building which operates as a care home for senior citizens.	There are no environmental effects envisaged provided construction operations are appropriately controlled, given the site's location next to the Leeds-Liverpool canal. The re-development of this brownfield site is unlikely to pose an adverse impact on the SACs or SPAs.	If there is to be a re-development of the current building on the site to alter it for market housing, then the construction operations need to be appropriately controlled, given the proximity of the site to the canal.
G2/3 (NP) and GA010 (LP) – Paddock at Knowles House	0.222 hectares and 1 to 8 dwellings	This small site is located on the south-eastern edge of village's built environment, bordering the conservation area. This site is dependent on the demolition of a neighbouring property for access to the A65 road.	The site is not developable at present, given that it has no access to the nearby road. Access is dependent on the demolition of a neighbouring residential property.	Development of this site is not deemed to constitute a threat to the SACs or SPAs.

G2/4 (NP) and GA031 – Land to the west of Walton Close	1.5 hectares and 44 dwellings	This site provides a major development opportunity for Gargrave and is the largest site allocation in the NDP. Development will require a careful and imaginative design solution and should address the named criteria.	Environmental or landscape impacts should be negligible, with the mitigation measures proposed.	The original site allocation area has been reduced in the southern half of the area, to prevent visual intrusion on the Pennine Way to the south. The policy states that a buffer or landscaping scheme should be provided to mitigate any adverse impacts on the Pennine Way, which runs within close proximity of the site. Designs should respond positively to the sloping topography of the site to create visual interest at a range of different levels. Building lines should follow the natural contours of the slopes.
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Key  Local Green Spaces