

Craven District Council Local Plan, 2012-2032

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment - Statement of Environmental Particulars in accordance with Regulation 16(4) of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

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1. Introduction

Craven Local Plan

- 1.1 The Craven Local Plan sets out a spatial strategy and policies for change, development and conservation in Craven District outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park (YDNP) for the period 2012 to 2032. The Local Plan sets out the broad spatial planning policy framework and vision for the Craven Local Plan area, as well as the necessary development sites and infrastructure to support this growth. It is used to decide planning applications and sets out how land is to be used for elements like housing, business, recreation and conservation; how the right development is to be achieved in the right location at the right time; and how sustainable development can be achieved overall.
- 1.2 The Craven Local Plan, together with Neighbourhood Plans and the Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan (which sets out a strategy for minerals and waste planning in North Yorkshire outside YDNP and is prepared by North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC), the City of York Council (CYC) and the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNP)), will form the development plan for Craven outside the YDNP.
- 1.3 The Craven Local Plan is required by law and has been tailor-made to suit Craven and its communities. It is committed to international obligations and is mindful of national planning aspirations, including the national planning priorities set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and the more detailed guidance provided in the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG). The NPPF provides a broad set of national planning priorities, which include housing growth, economic growth, social progress and environmental enhancement.
- 1.4 The Craven Local Plan pursues these national priorities in a way that makes sense for the local area, because it responds to local circumstances and evidence and has been developed in consultation with local people and other stakeholders with an interest in Craven. As a result, the Craven Local Plan is a plan for sustainable growth. A copy of the local plan can be found at: <https://www.cravencdc.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/new-local-plan>.
- 1.5 Craven District Council adopted its Local Plan on 12th November 2019. The Local Plan sets out a strategic approach to development across the Craven Local Plan area, with detailed development management policies and site allocations, to guide the delivery of appropriate development in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) until 2032. This new Local Plan supersedes the 1999 version of the Craven Local Plan.
- 1.6 The Craven Local Plan was considered by an independent Planning Inspector at an Examination in Public, which including Hearings in October 2018. Subsequently, a list of proposed Main Modifications to the submitted Local Plan was published for consultation in February and March 2019. There was another consultation on some Further Main Modifications in July and August 2019. Following consideration of the consultation responses by the Inspector appointed to conduct this examination process, the Inspector's report into legal compliance and the soundness of the Local Plan was subsequently published in October 2019.

- 1.7 The Inspector concluded that the Local Plan is legally compliant and sound, subject to a series of Main Modifications being made. The Craven Local Plan, incorporating these recommended Main Modifications, is hence deemed capable by the Inspector of adoption.
- 1.8 A parallel process of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was undertaken alongside plan-making. SA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely effects of an emerging plan, and reasonable alternatives, with the overall objective on achieving sustainable development.
- 1.9 In line with Regulation 16 of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations, the Council is required to prepare a Statement of Environmental Particulars, which is to be published consequent upon the adoption of the Local Plan and its accompanying Environmental Report. The objective of the SA Statement is to present the 'story' of the interaction of the SA with the making of the Local Plan up to the point of adoption. The information to be provided in the statement is listed in Article 9 of the SEA Directive and Regulation 16 of the SEA Regulations. It needs to summarise how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan, how the results of consultations have been taken into account, and the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with. It also is required to present the measures decided concerning the monitoring of plan implementation. Specifically, there is a requirement to explain the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.
- 1.10 This is the SA Statement for the Craven Local Plan, and it hence provides detail on the above requirements listed in Section 1.10. This Statement concludes by presenting a checklist of legal requirements, with a view to demonstrating the legal compliance of the SA process undertaken with the SEA Regulations.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.11 Under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (EAPPR) 2004, there is a requirement to comply with the post local plan adoption requirements of Regulation 16 of these regulations. These include the need for an environmental report and a statement of the environmental particulars required by Regulation 16(4) EAPPR 2004. The Sustainability Appraisal Report (SA Report) incorporates the Environmental Report required as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Craven Local Plan. In compiling the SA Report, the Council has also had regard to the findings of the separate Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in relation to the assessment of whether the Local Plan would have effects on any designated European sites.
- 1.12 The purpose of the SEA is to 'provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.' The SEA:

- Identifies, describes and evaluates the significant environmental effects of implementing the local plan and any alternatives;
- Identifies actions to prevent, reduce or as fully as possible offset any adverse effects;
- Provides an early and effective opportunity to engage in preparation of the plan – through consultation;
- Monitors the implementation of the local plan to identify any unforeseen environmental effects and take remedial action where necessary;
- Reports all of the above in an environmental report.

1.13 The environmental report was published together with the adopted local plan in November 2019. The Statement of Environmental Particulars is a statutory requirement under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. It sets out how the findings of the Environmental Report have been taken into account and how views expressed during the consultation period have been taken into account as the local plan has been finalised and formally approved. For further details about how the assessment was undertaken and its findings, please refer to the SA Report available under the page <https://www.cravenc.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/planning-policy-facts-and-figures/> of the Craven District Council website.

2. How environmental considerations have been integrated into the local plan

2.1 Each stage of the Local Plan preparation has been accompanied and informed by a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). SA, incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment, considers the impacts of the Local Plan on the environment, society and the economy. The relevant iterations of the SA reports throughout the Local Plan preparation period are available to view under the Planning Policy webpages of the Craven District Council website (using the link of <https://www.cravenc.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy>). The SA Report concluded that provided appropriate mitigation measures are put in place, the Local Plan will not cause significant adverse environmental, social or economic effects within the Local Plan area, or on neighbouring planning authority areas.

2.2 The Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulation 16 Statement of Particulars have been prepared in accordance with Section 16(4) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which requires local planning authorities to demonstrate:

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme;
- How the environmental report has been taken into account;
- How opinions expressed and results of public consultation have been taken into account;
- The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
- The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.

- 2.3 A Sustainability Appraisal Report was completed for the Local Plan in accordance with the following legislation:
- European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment ('the SEA Directive') states that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is mandatory for plans prepared for town and country planning and land use purposes. The SEA Directive is transposed into English planning law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004), which requires the Sustainability Appraisal of local development plan documents;
 - The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations (2012) state that a sustainability appraisal report must be completed for Local Plan documents in accordance with section 19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004).
- 2.4 A Sustainability Appraisal is an assessment of the possible economic, environmental and social effects of a plan undertaken from the outset of the preparation process to allow decisions to be made that accord with sustainable development. Therefore, the SA was used to evaluate the various reasonable policy alternatives and consider the likely implications for sustainable development, in an iterative manner, of the Local Plan throughout its preparation.
- 2.5 The SEA Directive requires local planning authorities to carry out a formal Strategic Environmental Assessment of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. The Strategic Environment Assessment process ensures that opportunities for public involvement are provided and the significant environmental effects arising from policies, plans and programmes are predicted, evaluated, mitigated and monitored.
- 2.6 Environmental considerations have been integrated into the strategy through the following ways:
- Local plan preparation – the local plan is focused on providing a framework for the development of new infrastructure across the plan's area, but sustainability issues, including those related to the environment, have been a central consideration in the development of the local plan. The achievement of environmental, social and economic benefits, consistent with sustainable development is one of the overall aims of the local plan.
The Local Plan states that in all instances the development proposed in the plan should avoid damaging the environment, and wherever possible, work with natural processes and seek to provide environmental benefits. Compliance with environmental legislation, taking account of the carbon cost of solutions, considering impacts on cultural heritage and taking account of the impacts on biodiversity and working to contribute to achieving the objectives of the Water Framework Directive are amongst the key messages within the Local Plan.
 - Stakeholder engagement – the Local Plan has been prepared in consultation with appropriate expertise within the statutory consultation bodies of Historic England,

Environment Agency and Natural England and other external stakeholders. Craven District Council have undertaken numerous public consultations on the local plan throughout its progress to adoption. There were generally supportive responses to the strategic approaches set out in the consultation document and the local plan has been developed taking account of the responses received.

- SEA – through the SEA, environmental effects have been identified together with appropriate mitigation measures throughout the preparation process of the Local Plan.

2.7 The key milestones and associated dates in the preparation of the Craven Local Plan from 2012 to 2019 are hereby outlined:

Craven Local Plan Milestone	Date
Early community engagement events and workshops with parish councils and key stakeholders on issues and options for the local plan	2012 and 2013
First draft Craven Local Plan approved for public consultation by Craven Spatial Planning Sub-Committee (CSPSC)	18 th August 2014
Public consultation on first draft Craven Local Plan	September to November 2014
Second draft Craven Local Plan approved for public consultation by CSPSC	30 th March 2016
Public consultation on second draft Craven Local Plan	April to May 2016
Third draft Craven Local Plan approved for public consultation by CSPSC	14 th June 2017
Public consultation on third draft Craven Local Plan	June to July 2017
Publication Draft Craven Local Plan approved by Full Council	7 th December 2017
Draft Craven Local Plan published and representations invited	2 nd January 2018
Submission of the Publication Draft Craven Local Plan to the Secretary of State	27 th March 2018
Examination Hearings	October 2018
Main Modifications Consultation	February to April 2019
Further Main Modifications Consultation	July to August 2019
Inspector's Report	9 th October 2019
Adoption of the Craven Local Plan	12 th November 2019

2.8 The following paragraphs provide a description of the key Steps in the SA process to coincide with the milestones in the preparation of the Local Plan. The progression of the making of the Local Plan, and how the SA fitted into this process, is available to view through successive documents at: <https://www.cravencd.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/new-local-plan>.

2.9 The progression of the Local Plan commenced in 2012. The process initially revolved around the shaping of a spatial strategy and housing figure for the Craven Local Plan area. Participatory workshops were held for parish councils and other stakeholders. Three

workshop exercises were used to discuss a spatial strategy, a housing figure and an approach to allocations, policies and neighbourhood planning. The Council's Spatial Planning Sub-Committee used stakeholder feedback from the September workshops to guide further work by the Planning Policy Team. The Spatial Planning Sub-Committee considered which settlements might have land allocated for housing development, how much development might be appropriate for each settlement and what criteria might be used to identify preferable sites. The Spatial Planning Sub-Committee approved publication of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and the related Site Checklist.

- 2.10 In September 2012, the Council had preliminary community engagement events and workshops with Parish Councils and other key stakeholders on issues and options for the Local Plan. Three workshop exercises were used to discuss a spatial strategy, a housing figure and an approach to allocations, policies and neighbourhood planning. In October 2012, the Planning Policy team created a document entitled 'Presentation on Feedback from Stakeholder Workshops'. This document highlighted feedback gathered on Spatial Strategies, Policies, Housing Growth Options and Residential Sites in terms of informal sustainability appraisal processes. The feedback on sites was based on sustainability checks for the sites which were undertaken during the workshops.
- 2.11 In 2013, the Spatial Planning Sub-Committee considered key points from community drop-in events held in the summer of that year, and it authorised the Planning Policy team to prepare a draft local plan for further engagement with communities, parish councils and other stakeholders in 2014. A draft SA Scoping Report was produced in December 2013 [Note: this document was subsequently updated in January 2018, principally to include consultation comments with recommended changes from Natural England, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and North Yorkshire County Council].
- 2.12 In September 2014, to coincide with a six-week public consultation on the first draft of the Local Plan, the Council published a document entitled 'Sites Preferred and Not Preferred for Consultation'. By this time, a large number of sites have been forward by land owners and developers for consideration as allocated sites in the Local Plan. This document sets out a summary of the preliminary sustainability checks carried out, whether a site was viewed as favourable, unfavourable or neither during the summer 2013 engagement with residents, businesses and organisations in the Local Plan area.
- 2.13 In September 2015, there was a summarised Spatial Strategy Options paper produced. It provided an update on the eight Spatial Strategy options put forward to date. The document stated that in due course, a final set of options—each representing a realistic alternative—will be subjected to full sustainability appraisal, the results of which will help the council to settle on its chosen spatial strategy, to be taken forward in the next draft of the local plan.
- 2.14 The Council ran an eight-week public consultation on a second informal (pre-publication) draft of its new local plan in 2016, including eight drop-in surgeries held in Settle (2 sessions), Glusburn, Skipton (2 sessions), Bentham, Ingleton and Cross Hills. The first iteration of the SA Report (part (a)) was published in April 2016 to coincide with the second draft of the Local Plan. This report examines different Spatial Strategy options for the Local Plan area, and it was subject to public consultation. Part (b) of the first iteration of the SA Report was published in

June 2017 to coincide with the third draft of the Local Plan. It included analysis on Housing Growth options, Plan Policies, and Site Selection, to accompany the analysis of the Spatial Strategies. The council ran a six-week public consultation on a third (pre-publication) draft of its new local plan in 2017, including a drop-in event in Skipton. This followed the consultations on previous drafts in 2014 and 2016, and included a new consultation on preferred sites.

- 2.15 In January 2018, the draft Craven Local Plan was published for submission to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, and representations were invited on the published plan. The second iteration of the SA report was published to coincide with the publication of the draft Local Plan. This second iteration provided an updated analysis of the Spatial Strategy, Housing Growth Options, Residential and Employment Site alternatives and policy appraisals;
- 2.16 Following publication in January 2018, the Craven Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State together with supporting documents in March of that year. A Planning Inspector, appointed by the Secretary of State, conducted an examination into the Local Plan's soundness. Representations made during publication were considered as part of the examination hearings of the Local Plan (which were held during October of that year). A further refined third iteration of the SA Report was published in March 2018 to coincide with the submission version of the Local Plan. This document was submitted to the Secretary of State alongside all of the other relevant supporting documents.
- 2.17 Following submission of the Publication Draft Craven Local Plan in March 2018 and related Examination hearings held in October 2018, the Inspector considered that a number of Main Modifications (amendments) should be made to the Local Plan, in order to make it sound. The council ran a six-week public consultation on the proposed Main Modifications from 19th February to 1st April 2019. A fourth iteration of the SA Report was published in February 2019 to take into consideration the proposed Main Modifications to the Local Plan arising from the examination of the Local Plan. There was also an SA summary table produced to show the Main Modification reference and if a change to the SA score was required in response to each Main Modification.
- 2.18 Following submission of the Publication Draft Craven Local Plan in March 2018, the examination hearings held in October 2018 and Main Modifications to the plan proposed in February 2019 (see below), the Inspector considered that three Further Main Modifications were required, in order to make the plan sound. The Inspector considered the responses to the proposed Main Modifications in assisting to come to his conclusion. The council ran a six-week public consultation on the proposed Further Main Modifications from 18th July to 29th August 2019, inclusive. In July 2019, text for a Sustainability Appraisal Process Addendum was produced to explain that there were no effects on the SA scoring system based on the Further Main Modifications.
- 2.19 The Council received the Inspector's 'Report on the Examination of the Craven Local Plan' from the Planning Inspectorate on 9th October 2019 – it concluded that: *“The Council has requested that I recommend MMs [Main Modifications] to make the Plan sound, legally compliant and capable of adoption. Overall I conclude that with the recommended modifications set out in the accompanying Appendix the Plan satisfies the requirements of*

Section 20(5) of the 2004 Act and meets the criteria for soundness in the National Planning Policy Framework.” A fifth and final iteration of the SA Report was published in November 2019 to accompany the adoption of the Local Plan. The policies and proposals it assessed are those of the Local Plan as proposed for adoption, and hence it incorporates any changes resulting from the Inspector’s recommended Main Modifications.

3. How the environmental report has been taken into account

- 3.1 The Environmental Report found that the social, environmental and economic effects of the Local Plan’s Spatial Strategy would be predominately positive. Structured local plan development proposals should result in positive impacts on people and society. The local plan should take into account the anticipated effects of climate change. As a result the local plan should also contribute to the ability of the area and society to adapt to climate change.
- 3.2 The Environmental Report identified that significant safeguarding and improvements to biodiversity interests can result from many of the identified green infrastructure elements in allocated sites. However, there can also be potential conflicts. A Habitats Regulations Assessment has been undertaken to consider these issues in more detail.
- 3.3 Given that sustainability considerations have been at the heart of the preparation of the Local Plan, the majority of measures are identified to mitigate adverse effects of proposed development or to build on the benefits of targeted environment policies which are incorporated into the Local Plan. The Environmental Report has strengthened the need for these considerations to be incorporated into the development of strategies and projects arising from the Local Plan.
- 3.4 The SA framework comprises a series of sustainability objectives (covering social, economic and environmental issues) that are used to test the performance of the plan being assessed. SA is an iterative process carried out alongside the key stages of development of the Local Plan. There has been a SA iteration to accompany each of the key stages of the local plan process – pre-publication, publication, submission, main modifications stage, and adoption.
- 3.5 Therefore sustainability considerations are now strongly interwoven into the plan policies. As a result of every policy being tested for its sustainability integrity, amendments have been made to policies as they have been refined to maximise their effectiveness in achieving the environmental objectives set in the Sustainability Appraisal.
- 3.6 To highlight how the SA was interwoven into the plan policies, section 3.7 shows how the findings of earlier iterations of the SA resulted in changes to the draft Local Plan so that it is possible to see instances of how the SA process has influenced the final content of the Local Plan.
- 3.7 In combination with feedback from consultation responses, the scoring system of the SA process in relation to the eight Housing Growth Options was able to guide the draft Local Plan in choosing the suitable Housing Growth option for the Craven Local Plan area. This Housing Growth option was an appropriate refinement of the process of shaping a housing figure, as

was referenced in Section 2. In relation to a range of Local Plan Policies, the sustainability appraisal shaped their content and wording in many cases. For example, the wordings of the policies focused on the environment are refined and improved based on the scoring relating to the sustainability objectives of the SA.

4. How opinions expressed during the consultation period have been taken into account

- 4.1 There were numerous consultations informing the progression of the local plan during the period 2014 to 2019. This section refers to the key views expressed in relation to the Environmental Report in order to meet the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans Programmes Regulations 2004. The consultation documents relevant to the Local Plan can be found in the planning policy pages of the Craven District Council website.
- 4.2 There were no transboundary consultations as there are no effects on other EU Member States (Britain still being an EU Member at the time of these consultations). The consultations involved gathering the viewpoints and opinions of statutory and non-statutory bodies, development organisations and members of the public. Section 2 contains further information on the consultation process.
- 4.3 Consultation during the Local Plan's preparation has been carried out in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for Planning (Examination Document SD002, listed within Craven's District Council's Planning Policy webpages). Letters and emails were sent to every person and organisation on the Council's database, including statutory bodies and Parish and Town Councils, advertisements were published on the Council's website and local newspapers and social media were also utilised for advertisement purposes.
- 4.4 Public exhibitions were also carried out and documents made available at the Council's offices, libraries and online. Throughout each stage the Council has sought views electronically and on paper. The Council's Statement of Consultation and Policy Response Papers (Examination Documents EL1.005 and EL1005a – EL1.005d; <https://www.cravendc.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/new-local-plan/craven-district-council-local-plan-examination/>) set out the main issues arising from each stage of the consultation process, and how representations have been taken into account.

Key Issues

- 4.5 There were numerous issues raised in response to the consultations. In terms of the environmental elements of the sustainability appraisal, they generally related to the assessment of the potential effects of new residential and employment development on spatial strategy, landscape & flood risk, biodiversity, brownfield land and historical & cultural heritage within and around existing towns and villages. The table below highlights some key issues and responses relating to these four topic areas across numerous consultations, relating to three Pre-Publication Drafts (September 2014, April 2016 & June 2017), Publication (January 2018), Main Modifications (February 2019), and Further Main

Modifications (July 2019). The comments in the table are from statutory bodies, Parish Councils and members of the public.

Key Environmental Issues	Response of Craven District Council
<p><u>Spatial Strategy</u></p> <p>Consideration of the revisions to Policies SP1 (Meeting Housing Need) and SP4 (Spatial Strategy and Housing Growth), and advise that these changes are considered in the Habitats Regulations Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal.</p>	<p>The Spatial Strategy is structured so that the most appropriate spatial distribution of residential and employment allocations was chosen. The Sustainability Appraisal has assessed numerous Spatial Strategy options, and chosen the most appropriate version to contain the correct balance of social, environmental and economic objectives.</p>
<p><u>Landscape & Flood Risk</u></p> <p>The proximity and setting of some allocated sites in northern Skipton to the Yorkshire Dales National Park was noted. Further assessment and evidence may be necessary at the plan stage in order to ensure that impacts can adequately avoided or mitigated.</p> <p>There were outstanding concerns with regards to the Craven Local Plan and Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan and the potential for impact from allocations on the Pennine Way National Trail and Yorkshire Dales National Park. The proximity of allocated Extra Care site GA009 to the boundary of the National Park was noted.</p> <p>Reference is required to be made to the sequential test where necessary with allocated sites where flood risk is evident within the site boundaries.</p>	<p>The National Park Authority was consulted on these allocations and Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments were undertaken, in order to ensure that adverse impacts on the setting and special qualities of the National Park can be adequately mitigated.</p> <p>The National Park was consulted on site GA009. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment was undertaken in order to demonstrate that avoidance or mitigation measures are possible for this site to avoid negative impacts on the setting and special qualities of the National Park. There was identification of the potential to contribute to a wider green corridor route through enhancements on site GA009, as well as the opportunity to incorporate social infrastructure related to community green infrastructure.</p> <p>Many of the allocated sites lie entirely within flood zone 1. Some of the larger sites with flood zone 2 areas have green infrastructure provision overlaying these areas. The sequential test is applied and explained on other allocated sites where necessary.</p>
<p><u>Biodiversity</u></p> <p>The largest concentration of housing is focussed on Skipton and the proximity of Skipton to the North Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Northern Pennine Moors Special Protection Area (SPA) and West Nidderdale, Barden and Blubberhouses Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) was noted.</p>	<p>The potential for recreational pressures and loss of functionally connected land potentially used by SPA and SSSI birds are considered in both the Habitats Regulations Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal, and specific avoidance and mitigation measures are detailed in the site policies. These measures include green infrastructure and recreational provision on the larger site allocations within Skipton. The green</p>

<p>The Draft Bradford Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment identifies a 2.5km zone of influence around the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA and South Pennine Moors SSSI with regards to the potential for loss of important off site habitat for breeding SPA and SSSI birds. Some allocated sites in Glusburn & Crosshills lie within this buffer.</p>	<p>infrastructure is linked to wider green corridors in Skipton and detailed mapping of green infrastructure assets is provided to help the delivery of these biodiversity gains. The requirement for SuDS is contained in many of the development principles for the site allocations.</p> <p>The allocated sites in Glusburn & Crosshills are considered in the Habitat Regulations Assessment. There is creative provision of green infrastructure to mitigate against the recreational impact of the allocated sites.</p> <p>In addition, no other settlements in the Craven local plan area within the 2.5km zone of influence were chosen for allocated sites.</p>
<p><u>Local Green Spaces</u></p> <p>Support for identified Local Green Spaces based on the protection of landscape, , wildlife, viewpoints and for the recreational amenity of local residents.</p>	<p>The Council has put forward a variety of Local Green Spaces in the settlements where allocated residential sites are proposed. This is to promote recreational amenity, and to protect important green spaces in terms of biodiversity and landscape protection.</p>
<p><u>Green Wedge</u></p> <p>There is support for the policy on Green Wedges to ensure that the intrinsic character of Craven and its discrete communities are kept physically separate.</p>	<p>The Local Plan Policy on Green Wedges maintains the existing Green Wedges between High and Low Bentham, and between Crosshills & Glusburn and Sutton. There is a new area of Green Wedge between Sutton and settlements in Bradford.</p>
<p><u>Brownfield Land</u></p> <p>The Council is right to acknowledge that Grade 3 agricultural land, which is the highest grade of land in the Craven Local Plan area, should not be used for development unless such development can be justified.</p>	<p>The Council have highlighted Grade 3 and Grade 4 agricultural land as the primary land classifications in the Craven Local Plan area. The sustainability appraisal's scoring system informed the Local Plan to prioritise the usage of Grade 4 land where available for development before the use of Grade 3 land, all other aspects being approximately equal.</p>
<p><u>Historical & Cultural Heritage</u></p> <p>Given the character of the Local Plan area, the wealth of environmental assets and the challenge of identifying suitable sites for development, there is going to be a need to allocate sites which may potentially result in harm to elements of Craven's historic</p>	<p>The evidence base to the Local Plan clearly explains the rationale behind why such allocated sites have been identified and the public benefits that the development of these areas would bring. The Sustainability Appraisal for such sites also shows the relevant positive scoring in the corresponding</p>

<p>environment.</p> <p>For allocated sites that lie in the identified Conservation Areas of the settlements, the Council has a statutory duty under the provisions of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 to pay “special attention” to “the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance” of its Conservation Areas, and the NPPF makes it clear that the loss of a building which makes a positive contribution to the significance of a Conservation Area should be regarded as resulting in substantial harm to that area. Consequently, if any of the buildings on this site make a positive contribution to the Conservation Area, they should be retained.</p>	<p>Sustainability Objectives, in terms of mitigating the impact on Craven’s historic environment.</p> <p>The evidence base identifies the positive contribution the relevant sites make to the Conservation Area, and whether any existing buildings on them should be retained and reused. Within the development principles for the sites in the Local Plan, there are mitigation measures to avoid and/or reduce any negative impacts on the relevant Conservation Areas. Within the development principles for relevant allocated sites, it is stated that development should preserve or enhance those elements which contribute to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.</p>
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Table 4.5: Key Consultation Issues and Council Responses

4.6 After the Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State in March 2018, there was further consideration of issues raised by the representations to the Main Modifications consultation between February and April 2019. The Inspector recommended Main Modifications on some environmental matters in his report on the examination of the Local Plan, so that the Local Plan as to be adopted has taken into account these matters. These considered environmental matters are now summarised, in terms of the Inspector’s numbered issues in his report.

- Issue 8: The Inspector considered a range of environmental matters relating to the designated European sites, including Loss of Habitat, Recreational Pressure, and Air Quality. He stated that subject to the recommended Main Modifications, it is his conclusion that the policies and allocations in the Plan will not have a significant adverse impact on the integrity of the North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, the South Pennine Moors SAC and Phase 2 SPA, the Ingleborough Complex SAC, the Craven Limestone Complex SAC or the Bowland Fells SPA;
- Issue 12: The Inspector considered whether the approach to Local Green Spaces and Green Wedges is justified, effective and consistent with national planning policy. Specifically, the Inspector examined Policy ENV13 (Green Wedges) and Policy ENV10 (Local Green Space). The Inspector concluded that subject to the recommended Main Modifications, both policies were justified, effective and consistent with national policy;
- Issue 13: The Inspector considered whether the Local Plan provides sufficient measures to protect, preserve and enhance the natural, built and historic environments and includes appropriate policies to address climate change. Here, the Inspector examined policies on heritage (Policy ENV2), good design (ENV3), biodiversity (ENV4), flood risk (ENV6 and SD2), land, air and water quality (ENV7 and ENV8), renewable and low

carbon energy (ENV9), and footpaths, bridleways, byways and cycle routes (ENV11 and ENV12). The Inspector concluded that the policies in question are justified, effective and sound subject to recommended Main Modifications.

- 4.7 In terms of the assessment of legal compliance, the Inspector's report acknowledges in paragraph 292 that the Council has carried out a SA of the Local Plan and of the Main Modifications where necessary. The Inspector notes that it has considered alternative housing growth scenarios, including the provision of additional housing to meet the full need for affordable housing, and different spatial strategies. The Inspector states that the Council has carried out an adequate SA of the Local Plan and reasonable alternatives have been considered to a sufficient degree.
- 4.8 The Inspector's Report notes that a HRA has been carried out in support of the Local Plan which includes an Appropriate Assessment (paragraph 293). The Inspector states that Iteration III of the HRA and the accompanying Addendum also consider the implications of the recommended Main Modifications.
- 4.9 The Inspector states that HRA and SA documents demonstrate how a combination of the spatial distribution of development and the use of extensive areas of green infrastructure will mitigate the effects of additional recreational disturbance (paragraph 294). The Inspector states that subject to the recommended Main Modifications, the policies and allocations in the Local Plan will not have a significant adverse impact on the integrity of the North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, the South Pennine Moors SAC and Phase 2 SPA, the Ingleborough Complex SAC, the Craven Limestone Complex SAC or the Bowland Fells SPA.
- 4.10 The Inspector's report states that the Local Plan Policies SD1, SD2, ENV3, ENV6, ENV7, ENV8 and ENV9 will help ensure that the development proposed in the Local Plan will contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change (paragraph 297). The Inspector's report states the policies include requirements relating to energy efficiency, renewable and low carbon energy and mitigating flood risk. The Inspector notes that the distribution of development in Policy SP4 also seeks to focus significant new development in locations which are, or can be, made sustainable.
- 4.11 The Inspector's report concludes that the Local Plan meets the relevant legal requirements, including in the 2004 Act (as amended) and the 2012 Regulations (paragraph 298).

5. Reasons for adopting the local plan in its final form

- 5.1 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (12) (2) (b) requires that the SA/SEA evaluates reasonable alternatives, taking into account the scope and objectives of the plan. Reasonable alternatives have been considered by the Council in the preparation of the Local Plan.
- 5.2 Craven District Council has taken into account the:
- Consultation responses to the Local Plan;

- The appropriate changes made to the Local Plan in response to the consultations;
- The findings of the SEA and the responses to the numerous consultations on the Environmental Report alongside the progressive stages of the Local Plan;
- The acceptance of the findings of the Habitat Regulation Assessment by relevant statutory bodies such as Natural England and the Environment Agency.

5.3 Based on these progressive alterations and updates to the Local Plan in response to consultation outcomes, the statutory consultation bodies of Natural England, Historic England and Environment Agency accepted the content of the Craven Local Plan. The adopted Craven Local Plan is therefore the result of the number of continuous effective changes that have been made following consultations on draft versions of the Local Plan.

5.4 The Inspector's report on the examination of the Craven Local Plan was released in October 2019 (available at: <https://www.cravenc.gov.uk/media/8684/craven-local-plan-inspectors-report-with-appendix-1-vfinal.pdf>), and the Inspector's scrutiny has led to some changes to the Local Plan. The Inspector's findings on issues 1, 2, 5, 9, 10 and 11 of his report help to show that the Local Plan is the most appropriate strategy in the light of reasonable alternatives. These issues are discussed in turn below:

- Issue 1: The Inspector emphasises that the establishing of the future need for housing is not an exact science. Assessing the Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) for housing is based on an exercise of reasoned judgements on a careful assessment of the relevant evidence. In the Inspector's view, the Council has followed this approach. It is the Inspector's conclusion that the Local Plan is informed by a robust, objective assessment of housing need and is positively prepared in identifying a housing requirement to ensure that needs will be met;
- Issue 2: Subject to the recommended Main Modifications, the inspector concludes that the settlement hierarchy and spatial distribution of growth are justified and consistent with national planning policy. The Inspector is also satisfied that the SA has considered a range of reasonable alternatives, including more dispersed growth and a greater focus on the built-up areas of the southeast sub-area;
- Issue 5: The Inspector concludes that there is a reasonable prospect of a five-year supply of deliverable housing sites on adoption, and that the policies and allocations in the Local Plan will ensure that the housing requirement will be met;
- Issue 9: Subject to the recommended Main Modifications, the Inspector concludes that the strategy for job growth and employment is justified and consistent with national planning policy;
- Issue 10: Subject to the recommended Main Modifications, the Inspector concludes that the strategy for the rural economy, tourism and retail is justified, effective and consistent with national planning policy;

- Issue 11: Subject to the recommended Main Modifications, the Inspector concludes that the Local Plan makes adequate provision to ensure that the necessary infrastructure and community facilities will meet the day-to-day needs of local communities.

5.5 In his report, the Inspector referred to his findings of the SA. The Inspector notes that the Council has carried out a SA of the Plan and of the Main Modifications where necessary. He stated that the SA considered alternative housing growth scenarios, including the provision of additional housing to meet the full need for affordable housing, and different spatial strategies. The Inspector states that the Council has carried out an adequate SA of the Plan and reasonable alternatives have been considered to a sufficient degree.

5.6 The Inspector states that the SA and HRA documents demonstrate how a combination of the spatial distribution of development, and the use of extensive areas of green infrastructure will mitigate the effects of additional recreational disturbance. The Inspector states that subject to the recommended Main Modifications, the policies and allocations in the Plan will not have a significant adverse impact on the integrity of the North Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, the South Pennine Moors SAC and Phase 2 SPA, the Ingleborough Complex SAC, the Craven Limestone Complex SAC or the Bowland Fells SPA.

6. Monitoring

6.1 Measures are required to monitor the effects of the adopted Craven Local Plan over its lifetime. While it is possible to monitor the environmental factors referred to in the Environmental Report, it will be sometimes difficult to attribute any changes as a direct outcome of the Local Plan. Nevertheless, it is reasonable to monitor key environmental indicators to determine whether any adjustments to the Craven Local Plan may be necessary in the future to improve the environmental outcomes.

6.2 The Sustainability Appraisal is an iterative process. The success and effectiveness of the Local Plan will need to be monitored to ensure any unforeseen adverse effects are identified and acted upon. The suggested SA monitoring framework includes the following elements:

- The potentially significant impact that needs to be monitored or the area of uncertainty;
- A suitable monitoring indicator;
- A target (where one has been devised);
- The potential data source; and
- The frequency of the monitoring.

6.3 Monitoring should be ongoing during the whole life of the Local Plan, and the monitoring framework reviewed regularly to ensure that monitoring is fit for purpose. The suggested targets and indicators are designed to be used as guidance only, as depending on how they are implemented they may require some future refinement. Information on monitoring and implementation of the Local Plan will be contained within the annual Authority Monitoring Report.

- 6.4 It is clear that monitoring is an essential part of the plan-making process. By gathering a range of information from various sources, Craven District Council can ensure that policies are achieving the Local Plan objectives and delivering sustainable development, and identify any unintended, negative effects of a policy's implementation. Monitoring also gives a better understanding of the important social, economic and environmental factors influencing the District. By doing this, the authority can determine whether any changes are required.
- 6.5 Craven District Council will use a series of indicators to monitor the effectiveness of policies within the Local Plan and publish the results every year in their annual Authority Monitoring Report (as required by the Localism Act of 2011). Within Section 9 of the adopted Craven Local Plan document, there is a table of proposed monitoring indicators. The indicators will be monitored and reported on after the Local Plan is adopted. The indicators that have been chosen make use of available information to ensure that they can be monitored on a regular basis.
- 6.6 In addition to the indicators in the aforementioned table, Craven District Council will continue to report on a number of contextual indicators, which will provide key information on the District including demographic changes, unemployment statistics, house prices etc. These contextual indicators will help to provide an overall picture of whether the Vision of the Local Plan for Craven is being realised. The table below is a slightly shortened version of the table contained in Chapter 9 of the Craven Local Plan, and displays the monitoring indicators of most relevance to the Sustainability Appraisal.

Plan Objective	Relevant Local Plan Policies	Indicator	Target
PO1	<p>SP4: Spatial Strategy and Housing Growth</p> <p>SP5 to SP11: Strategy for Skipton, Settle, Bentham, Glusburn & Crosshills, Ingleton, Gargrave and Tier 4A and 4B villages.</p> <p>SP5 to SP11: Strategy for Skipton, Settle, Bentham, Glusburn & Crosshills, Ingleton, Gargrave and Tier 4A and 4B villages.</p> <p>SP12: Infrastructure Strategy and Development Delivery</p> <p>ENV8: Water Resources, Water Quality and Groundwater.</p> <p>ENV12: Footpaths, Bridleways and Cycle Routes</p>	<p>Housing completions by settlement, expressed as: number of net additional dwellings and percentage of total completions, housing completions on allocated sites, housing completions on unallocated (windfall) sites, split by previously developed and greenfield land.</p> <p>Amount of money secured through Section 106 agreements for the delivery of: infrastructure, sports, open space, built sports, and recreation facilities, education provision, and community facilities.</p>	<p>Housing completions by settlement to follow the settlement strategy set out in Policy SP4.</p> <p>In settlements where development sites have been allocated under policies SP5 to SP11, housing development to generally take place on allocated sites in preference to windfall sites.</p> <p>The majority of windfall development to take place on previously developed land.</p>
PO2	<p>ENV1: Countryside and Landscape</p> <p>ENV2: Heritage</p> <p>ENV3: Good Design</p> <p>ENV4: Biodiversity</p> <p>ENV5: Green Infrastructure</p> <p>ENV10: Local Green Space</p> <p>ENV11: The Leeds and Liverpool Canal</p>	<p>Number of planning applications approved where there are unresolved issues from Natural England or Historic England.</p> <p>Number of designated heritage assets on the Historic England 'Heritage at Risk' Register.</p>	<p>No planning applications should be granted against the advice of Historic England or Natural England without good reason.</p> <p>No inappropriate development to take place on sites allocated as Local</p>

		Development on sites identified as Local Green Space that falls outside the allowances of the policy.	Green Space.
PO3	ENV1: Countryside and Landscape ENV7: Land and Air Quality ENV13: Green Wedges	Protection of best and most versatile (Grade 3) agricultural land Development on land allocated as Green Wedge Changes in sites designated for their importance for nature conservation (SINCs).	No windfall development to take place on Grade 3 agricultural land No development to take place within the Green Wedge Monitor changes on previous years.
PO5	SP3: Housing Mix and Density H2: Affordable Housing	Average density of housing completions Number of one, two, three and four (& over) bedroom dwellings completed as a percentage of total completions. Net additional affordable homes provided, split by type and tenure. Number of affordable homes granted planning consent. Number of sites of 11 dwellings or more, or exceeding 1,000 m2 combined gross floorspace, achieving 30% affordable housing on site. Money secured for off-site provision of affordable housing through S106 agreements.	Achieve an average net housing density of 32dph. The size of new houses and mix of housing types to broadly reflect the recommendations of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment, its successor, or other appropriate and up to date evidence of housing need. Monitor provision compared to requirement. 30% of proposed new dwellings as affordable housing on developments of 11 dwellings or more / more than 1,000m2 combined gross floorspace. Monitor provision.
PO6	EC5: Town, District and Local Centres EC5A: Residential Uses in Town and Village Centres	Changes of use with Skipton and Settle Town Centres away from commercial, retail, leisure, cultural and community functions Change of use away from retail in the Primary Shopping Area of Skipton Changes of use to residential at ground floor level within the Primary Shopping Area of Skipton, and within town and village centres of Settle, Bentham, Crosshills and Ingleton. Number of vacant units in Skipton and Settle Town Centres. Comparison and Convenience floorspace (m2) created in town and village centres of Skipton, Settle, Bentham, Crosshills and Ingleton.	No loss of ground floor retail units to residential in primary retail area of Skipton. Minimal levels of changes in other town and village centres so as not to undermine the retail, commercial and leisure function of the centre. Monitor changes in previous years. Meeting the identified floorspace needs in the town and village centres as identified in policy EC5 – target floorspace figure.

PO7	<p>SP2: Economic Activity and Business Growth</p> <p>EC1: Employment and Economic Development</p> <p>EC2: Safeguarding Existing Employment Areas</p> <p>EC4: Tourism</p>	<p>Take-up of employment land allocated under policies SP5, SP6 and SP9 and area of allocated employment land remaining available (ha), over the monitoring year and since the adoption of the Local Plan. Employment development on unallocated sites in towns, villages and rural areas (ha) over the monitoring year.</p> <p>Total amount of additional employment floorspace completed by type (m2)</p> <p>Total amount of employment floorspace by type on previously developed land (m2)</p> <p>Area of existing employment land and existing employment land commitments (allocated under Policy EC2) lost through development/ change of use to uses other than B1, B2 or B8 (ha).</p> <p>Development on land protected for future transport connectivity improvements.</p>	<p>Steady take up of employment land allocated under policies SP5, SP6 and SP9.</p> <p>Tracking the trend of employment development on unallocated sites over the plan period.</p> <p>Meeting targets for employment land provision over the plan period.</p>
PO8	ENV6: Flood Risk	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice.	No development proposals to be granted consent against the advice of the Environment Agency.
PO9	ENV9: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	Planning permissions granted for renewable energy schemes.	Monitor
PO10	<p>EC3: Rural Economy</p> <p>EC4: Tourism</p> <p>EC4A: Tourism-Led Development at Bolton Abbey</p>	<p>Number of rural buildings converted to Live/Work use.</p> <p>Loss of Live/Work units to residential.</p> <p>Number of type of approvals for tourism development.</p>	<p>Monitor new and lost provision.</p> <p>Monitor provision.</p>

Table 6.6: A List of Plan Objectives, Relevant Local Plan Policies, Indicators and Targets as part of the Monitoring Process.

7. Conclusions on the SA process

- 7.1 This SA statement demonstrates that a robust SA process has been progressed alongside the making of the local plan, with appraisal findings and consultation responses feeding into decision-making at key junctures. In terms of compliance with both the SEA (Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004) and Local Planning Regulations

(Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012), SA Reports iterations were published alongside both pre-publication drafts, and also the publication and submission versions of the Craven Local Plan. The SA Reports presented the required information, namely the information required by Regulation 12 of the SEA Regulations. A further iteration of the SA Report was then published in February 2019 in respect of the proposed modifications to the plan. These reports served to inform representations on the local plan, and then served to inform plan finalisation.

7.2 This SA Statement is the final step in the SA process for the preparation of this local plan. The objective of the SA Statement is to explain the story of the SA process and its relevance alongside the making of the local plan. It also presents measures concerning monitoring of the local plan. Table 7.2 serves to demonstrate that this report presents the required information.

The SA Statement must....	How has this report presented the required information?
Summarise how environmental (and wider sustainability) considerations have been integrated into the local plan	This report has sought to provide examples of key sustainability considerations that have been highlighted through appraisal and consultation, which in turn were taken into account, and have been integrated into the plan. The relative merits of competing site options and spatial strategy alternatives were appraised in terms of a range of sustainability issues/objectives, with a view to informing selection of the best performing sites / spatial strategy.
Summarise how the SA Report and consultation responses received, as part of the Draft Local Plan / SA Report consultation, have been taken into account when finalising the plan.	This statement seeks to explain an iterative process, particularly in respect of exploring reasonable alternatives. Reference is made to consultation responses received and all consultation responses were taken into account by the plan makers at the subsequent plan-making stage, and by the SA consultant, both when refining understanding of the SA scope, and when establishing new / updated reasonable alternatives.
Summarise the reasons for choosing the plan adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with.	Section 2 explains how the Council responded to the alternatives appraisal ahead of the plan being finalised for consultation at the preferred options, proposed publication / submission and proposed modifications stages. The Inspector's report set out detailed reasons in support of his conclusion on plan soundness, with reference to reasonable alternatives.
Summarise the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the local plan.	See Section 6 for details of monitoring.

Table 7.2: What the SA Statement must include, and how the information is to be presented