



**Leeds**  
CITY COUNCIL

# Site Allocations Plan

Updated Habitat  
Regulations Assessment  
Screening

Submission Draft

Leeds Local Plan  
Development Plan Document  
May 2017



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## **Contents:**

- 1. Habitat Assessment Screening – Publication Draft, September 2015 (and response from Natural England),**
- 2. Habitat Assessment Screening - Revised Publication Draft Outer North East, September 2016 (and response from Natural England),**
- 3. Habitat Assessment Screening – Pre-submission Changes February 2017 (and response from Natural England).**

- 1. Habitat Assessment Screening – Publication Draft, September 2015 (and response from Natural England).**

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Assessment has been carried out to determine if the Policies and site allocations of the Publication draft Leeds Site Allocations Plan (SAP) and Aire Valley Leeds Area Action Plan (AVLAAP) require an Appropriate Assessment, under the Habitats Regulations (Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, SI no. 2010/490). This is required as a result of the need to comply with the European Habitats Directive.
- 1.2 Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, means that 'Appropriate Assessments' are required where plans or projects that are not directly related to the management of the site and are likely to significantly affect a European protected or Ramsar site, or Likely Significant Effects (LSE) cannot be ruled out, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. With regard to this HRA Screening Assessment, the European Designations, Conservation Objectives and Qualifying Features relating to sites, is included at Appendix 1.
- 1.3 This approach reflects the LSE test within the Habitats Directive, the precautionary principle and effects in combination. The assessment of each plan's effects on site integrity would be undertaken within the Appropriate Assessment if needed. The focus of this Screening Assessment Determination is restricted to assessing LSE, which is a 'filter' rather than a detailed assessment of effects on site integrity. Within this context, LSE can be defined as follows, "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 designed, but excluding trivial or inconsequential effects (de minimis)" (Source: Natural England).

## **2. European Designations, Conservation Objectives and Qualifying Features (relating to Leeds Metropolitan District)**

- 2.1 Appendix 1 attached, sets out the European Designations, Conservation Objectives and Qualifying Features of potential relevance to the SAP & AVLAAP. This includes all sites within 10 km of the Leeds City Council MD and in addition, due to its strategic significance, the Humber Estuary has also been taken into account.
- 2.2 Information for each site has been obtained from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee website and Natural England. These sites are designated at the European Level as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and/or Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). This means they have a very high level of conservation protection by virtue of their importance as key habitats of European significance. Sites can be designated as both an SPA and a SAC and they are also simultaneously designated for their national importance as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). Within this overall context, it should be noted that the Humber Estuary is identified as a site that may be significantly affected. The Humber Estuary is a Ramsar site, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) advises that such sites should be assessed as if it were an SPA/SAC.
- 2.3 Although only a small part of the South Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, Hawksworth Moor is located within the Leeds City Council boundary (to the far

North west of the District); the potential impact on remaining areas of this site (and others) outside the administrative area of Leeds MD must also be assessed. The Humber Estuary is 26.5 km from the Leeds MD boundary and is therefore not close enough for any individual sites allocated in the SAP & AVLAAP, to have an impact on it. However, the cumulative effect of sites needs to be considered because of the potential for effects on the River Aire which flows into the Humber Estuary.

24 Within this context, the list of European sites considered by this HRA Screening Determination are summarised as follows:

- The North Pennine Moors (SAC/SPA): This is over 103,000 ha in size and exists in parts of County Durham, Northumberland, Cumbria and North Yorkshire;
- The South Pennine Moors (SAC/SPA Phase 2), most of which lies outside the Leeds MD. In total it covers 64,000 ha covering other parts of West and South Yorkshire and the Pennine areas of Lancashire;
- Kirk Deighton (SAC): This is approximately 4 ha in size and is located to the North East of Wetherby – 500 metres north of Leeds MD;
- Denby Grange Colliery Ponds (SAC): This is nearly 19 ha in size and located over 7km south of Leeds MD near the A637 in Wakefield District – this site has been included in Appendix 1 but not considered for LSEs due to physical distance from Leeds MD in relation to its qualifying features;
- Humber Estuary: (SAC/Ramsar site), which is approximately 37,000 ha covering Humberside and Lincolnshire

### 3. **SAP & AVLAAP Scope and Objectives**

3.1 The SAP and AVLAAP form part of the Local Development Framework or 'local plan' for Leeds. These Plans follow on and are set within the overall strategic context of the Leeds Core Strategy, which sets out an overall vision for the District to 2028. The Core Strategy was adopted by the City Council on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014 (following independent examination, where the Plan was found to be sound) and identifies a series of strategic and thematic policies for Leeds incorporating priorities for regeneration, the scale and distribution of growth (Housing and Employment), environmental protection and enhancement (including Green space, Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure) and infrastructure delivery.

3.2 In meeting the requirements of the European Directive, the Core Strategy was subject to its own Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Determination. This was subsequently agreed by Natural England. As part of this process, a number of Policies were strengthened (including Spatial Policy 1: Location of Development and G1: Green Infrastructure), to help mitigate any adverse nature conservation impacts upon Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). This approach was also considered to be sound by the Core Strategy Inspector.

3.3 In taking the requirements of the Core Strategy forward, the SAP and AVLAAP, identify land allocations for Housing, Employment, Green space and Retail. Through Spatial Policies 6, 7, 8 and 9, the Core Strategy identifies the overall

requirements for the scale and distribution of housing and economic growth. In addition, specific Policies are incorporated relating to Green space provision and the identification of Town and Local Centres. The Core Strategy also contains Policies relating to Natural Habitats and Biodiversity including Policy (G8) relating to the Protection of Important Species and Habitats (see below).

**POLICY G8: PROTECTION OF IMPORTANT SPECIES AND HABITATS**

Development will not be permitted which would seriously harm, either directly or indirectly, any sites designated of national, regional or local importance for biodiversity or geological importance or which would cause any harm to internationally designated sites, or would cause harm to the population or conservation status of UK or West Yorkshire Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP and WY BAP) Priority species and habitats. In considering development proposals affecting any designated sites and UK or WY BAP Priority species or habitats, the needs of the development and the requirements to maintain and enhance biological and geological diversity will be examined.

Other than the above requirement particular account will be taken of:

- The extent and significance of potential damage to the interest of any national, regional or local site, or UK or WY BAP Priority species or habitat; and
- Demonstration that the need for the development outweighs the importance of any national, regional or local site, or UK or WY BAP Priority species or habitat; and
- The extent that any adverse impact could be reduced and minimised through protection, mitigation, enhancement and compensatory measures imposed through planning conditions or obligations and which would be subject to appropriate monitoring arrangements.

- 34 The focus of the SAP is to identify allocations for Housing, Employment, Green space and Town and Local Centre boundaries. In identifying sites, consistent with Core Strategy Policy SP7, the District is sub divided into 11 Housing Market Characteristic Areas (HMCAs). Each HMCA has a specific housing target (in contributing to the overall District wide total) and also contributes to the overall target for General Employment Land. The green space allocations help to meet the standards set for different types of green space in Core Strategy Policy G3.
- 35 Within the context of Core Strategy Policies SP4 and SP5, the scope of the AVLAAP has been set as a District wide and Leeds City Region (LCR) priority for regeneration and economic development via the promotion of an 'Aire Valley Leeds Urban Eco-Settlement' and the location of the LCR Enterprise Zone. In reflecting these priorities, there is a commitment to deliver a minimum of 6,500 new homes and at least 250 ha of land for employment uses, together with significant opportunities for environmental improvements and enhancements via an integrated network of Green Infrastructure, within the AVLAAP Plan area to 2028. Against this framework, the AAP identifies allocations and detailed local policies, to promote regeneration, growth, environmental enhancements and improved accessibility, connectivity and infrastructure. It should be noted also, that when compared to the baseline of the UDP proposals for the Aire Valley, the AAP takes a different view on the scale and location of development. For example under the UDP, the lagoons at Skelton were previously identified as

offering some potential for development. This is not the case under the AAP, which retains this area as open land, forming part of the wider strategic network of Green Infrastructure. The Policies Map for the AVLAAP is attached as Plan 1.

#### **4. Screening Assessment Determination**

- 4.1 Within the context of the European Designations applicable to Leeds identified in para. 2.4 above, Plan 2 (attached) sets out the proposed SAP allocations (for Housing, Employment and Protected Areas of Search/safeguarded land) in relation to Aireborough/North West Leeds (Greenspace allocations within Leeds MD are also identified for information). For completeness, Plan 2 also includes existing identified sites, together with 2.5 km and 7km catchments in relation to the SPAs and SACs within City of Bradford Metropolitan District in relation to bird species and recreation use. It should be noted that the 7km catchment is derived from the Bradford HRA prepared for the Core Strategy, which included visitor survey information with regard to the South Pennines Moors SPA/SAC (Phase 2).
- 4.2 With regard to the Kirk Deighton SAC, the proposed housing, employment and green space SAP allocations are identified on Plan 3 for information.
- 4.3 As emphasised in para. 1.3 above, the focus of this Screening Assessment Determination, is upon the identification of LSEs arising from proposed allocations associated with their proximity/likely impact upon European Designations/Conservation Objectives. In reflecting this approach, Appendix 2, provides a schedule of LSEs for each European site, an assessment of the sensitivity of the site and potential threats to Conservation Objectives, the identification and use of Avoidance Measures and their impact upon the LSE.
- 4.4 The identification of LSEs has been informed by the Core Strategy HRA Screening Determination (previously approved by NE and subsequently found to be sound by the Core Strategy Inspector), further advice received from NE on the draft HRA Screening determination for the SAP and AVLAAP (11<sup>th</sup> May 2015), the Bradford Core Strategy and Waste Management DPD and HRA Screening and the Kirk Deighton SAC Site Improvement Plan (included at Appendix 1).

#### **Summary**

- 4.5 The Screening Determination can be summarised as follows:

#### **South Pennine Moors SPA (Phase 2) & North Pennine Moors SPA**

- No allocations within 2.5km of SPA boundaries, therefore no LSE for physical loss of land providing feeding sites for qualifying bird species/assemblage or predation by pets on qualifying bird species/assemblage and nests,
- Allocations exist within 7km of the SPA boundaries – therefore potential disturbance to nesting, feeding birds and supporting habitat through increased recreational visits may occur. However, the location of a major City/Forest Park in north west Leeds (Chevin Forest Park), the North West Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways initiative (see Appendix 3 and 4), green space funding/site requirements associated with allocations proposals

and the application of Core Strategy Policies provide a comprehensive range of Avoidance Measures, to conclude that a LSE will not occur.

#### Humber Estuary SPA

- The site is 26.5km to the east of Leeds therefore no LSE in relation to loss of land providing feeding sites for qualifying bird species/assemblage/recreational impacts through increased visitor numbers resulting in disturbance to qualifying bird species/assemblage. However, precautionary Avoidance Measures are considered appropriate to retain and enhance Qualifying Features, including open water at Skelton Lake, positive management of St Aidan's and Fairburn Ings by the RSPB in partnership with the City Council.

#### South Pennine Moors SAC

- Allocations within 7km of the SAC boundary, may lead to potential disturbance to qualifying habitat from increased recreational use supporting habitat. However, the location of a major City/Forest Park in north west Leeds (Chevin Forest Park), the North West Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways initiative (see Appendix 3 and 4), green space funding/site requirements associated with allocations proposals and the application of Core Strategy Policies provide a comprehensive range of Avoidance Measures, to conclude that a LSE will not occur.

#### North Pennine Moors (SAC)

- Distance of over 3km from Leeds MD boundary, and a further 2 km for housing allocations or employment within Leeds MD, together with no new road infrastructure proposed in the direction of the SAC, therefore no LSE. However, precautionary Avoidance Measures in line with those in place for any allocations within 7km for the North Pennine Moors SPA/SAC have been included. The location of a major City/Forest Park in north west Leeds (Chevin Forest Park), the North West Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways initiative (see Appendix 3 and 4), green space funding/site requirements associated with allocations proposals and the application of Core Strategy Policies provide a comprehensive range of precautionary Avoidance Measures, to conclude that a LSE will not occur.

#### Kirk Deighton SAC

- Habitat fragmentation, water abstraction, increased acid & nitrogen deposition from transport are identified as potential LSEs. Overall no LSE but a series of precautionary Avoidance Measures are identified to include future GCN surveys and application of LTP and Core Strategy Policies.

#### Humber Estuary (SAC)

- Increased water abstraction and waste water arising from new development and barriers to fish movement are identified as possible LSEs. In addition to the use of Avoidance Measures to address water abstraction/waste water, support for fish passes is identified as a precautionary Avoidance Measures.

46 Overall the HRA Screening Determination concludes that there are no LSEs for any individual European site, as a result of the AVLAAP and SAP.



**5. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) and Potential for In-combination Effects**

5.1 An integral requirement of the HRA Screening Determination process, is to provide an Assessment of Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) and the Potential for In – combination Effects, with other plans and projects. Appendix 5 provides a summary Table of European sites, identified LSEs, consideration of Avoidance Measures and relevant Plans and Strategies, prior to drawing conclusions on any In- combination Effects.

5.2 This Assessment has had regard to the preparation and status of development plans from neighbouring authorities and where relevant (in the case of the Humber Estuary) across the wider region. The overall conclusion drawn from this Assessment is that there are no in-combination effects, after consideration of relevant plans and strategies, regarding the occurrence of LSEs.

5.3 In assessing the potential for In-combination Effects, the City Council has had regard to the South Pennine Moors Visitor Survey conducted by Bradford Council in 2013. It surveyed 1,378 adult visitors in 806 groups to the SAC/SPA. These visitors came with 543 dogs. Of the visitors surveyed the contribution from Leeds can be identified using the postcode data provided.

5.4 The postcodes around the Leeds / Bradford border do not align with the local authority administrative boundaries but in general they are largely within one authority or another. The exceptions are shown in Appendix 6 and 7, where it is proposed that for the purposes of this Screening Determination, visitors from LS29 should be included within the Bradford visitor figures and visitors from LS21 within the Leeds figures on the basis of their larger settlements. Those visitors from postcodes within Leeds total 107 adults bringing 17 dogs. This equates to 8% of visitors and 3% of dogs. Whilst this is a small proportion of the overall total number of visitors, this Screening Determination (Appendix 2 and Appendix 5) has concluded that there are no LSEs in relation to recreation impacts because of the specific precautionary Avoidance Measures to enhance green space provision within Leeds.

5.5 In terms of new housing growth in Leeds MD, within the 7km zone of influence (identified via the South Pennine Moors Visitor Survey), there are currently 21,558 existing or already committed homes in this area (see Appendix 2 – European Designations and Leeds Site Allocations Proposals Map). The Site Allocations Plan is proposing to allocate a further 12 sites with a total additional housing of 1,139 homes (this equates to an additional population of approximately 2,500 people, at a rate of 2.2 persons per household). It should be noted that the majority of these sites (8 in total) are proposed to be sites within Phase 2 of the Plan. In practice, this means that they will not immediately come forward for development and will be delivered towards the middle and end of the plan period 2012 to 2028, depending on the presence of

a 5 year housing land supply. This timescale, would enable the wider green space improvements (for Otley Chevin and North-West Leeds) as outlined in this Screening Determination to become further established.

- 56 In terms of the overall impact of housing growth in Aireborough, new housing allocations will increase the housing stock (within the 7km catchment area) by 5%. In line with the Adopted Core Strategy, this part of Leeds has the smallest proportionate increase in housing, with only 3% of total growth directed to Aireborough. It should be noted that whilst the housing stock in this part of Leeds is proposed to increase by 5%, on the basis of new allocations in the Site Allocations Plan, for the authority as a whole the average increase is 9%.
- 57 In terms of future housing growth across Leeds and within Aireborough, integral to the Core Strategy is the aim to meet a variety of housing needs over the plan period. This includes meeting the needs of older people and single person households as well as family housing. Policy H4 of the Core Strategy therefore incorporates a requirement for an appropriate Housing Mix to be provided in the delivery of residential development. This Policy will therefore apply to the 12 additional sites within Aireborough where a variety of needs (consistent with the Strategic Housing Market Assessment evidence) will need to be addressed. Consequently, the 5% increase in housing will comprise a variety of types to meet identified needs. It can be assumed therefore that a significant proportion of these will not generate additional visitor trips to the South Pennine Moors due to the demographic profile of new residents. Where they do have the potential to trigger 'new recreation trips' / visitor demand, the precautionary Avoidance Measures set out in this Screening Determination are considered to be appropriate and proportionate. Notwithstanding this, through duty to cooperate mechanisms and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA), the City Council will continue to work collaboratively with neighbouring authorities including Bradford. Consequently, should any future issues arise regarding site access and management issues, appropriate interventions can be explored and any necessary actions agreed.

## **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 As outlined above, the preparation of the SAP and AVLAAP are set within the context of the adopted Core Strategy and the targets identified for the overall scale and distribution of growth across the District. This includes housing growth within the Aireborough HMCA which has a target of 2,300 homes, 3% of the overall housing requirement. As noted above, the Core Strategy was subject to a Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening and a number of Policies were strengthened (e.g. Spatial Policy 1: Location of Development) as a consequence of this process. The SAP and AVLAAP need to be in conformity with the Core Strategy and as a consequence, will need to reflect the policy requirements set out.
- 6.2 Consistent with the HRA Screening requirements, this assessment has focused upon the consideration of LSEs in relation to Conservation Objectives and the identification of Avoidance Measures (and in some instances precautionary Avoidance Measures) where appropriate. This includes commitments by the City Council to enhance Green space and Green Infrastructure provision within

Leeds MD via the positive management of Green space within NW Leeds (Appendix 3) and delivery of the Chevin Forest Park Action Plan (Appendix 4). These interventions serve to help manage the LSE of any recreational impacts upon the South Pennine Moors SPA (Phase 2), North Pennine Moors SPA and South Pennine Moors SAC and North Pennine Moors SAC. With regard to the AVLAAP, the Humber Estuary is situated over 26km to the east of Leeds. The HRA Assessment Screening Determination concluded that there are no LSEs in relation to recreation impacts because of the specific precautionary Avoidance Measures to enhance green space provision within Leeds.

- 63 The above measures and interventions also sit within the wider context of the application of Core Strategy Policies for the protection of important habitats and species, green space and green infrastructure. In addition the Publication draft Plans for the AVLAAP and SAP, also incorporate specific site requirements, to help mitigate any development impacts.
- 64 Based on this assessment and the coverage of LSEs, it is considered that an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations (Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, SI no. 2010/490) is not required as part of the SAP & AVLAAP Plans. This is because it is considered that after Avoidance Measures have been applied, the sites proposed for allocation do not give rise to any potential LSEs either alone or in-combination with other relevant Development Plan Documents (local plans). In addition, avoidance and mitigation mechanisms have already been established in the Policy framework provided in the adopted Development Plans, the Natural Resources and Waste Local Plan (2013) and the Core Strategy (2014).

**APPENDIX 1: EUROPEAN DESIGNATIONS, CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES & QUALIFYING FEATURES WHICH RELATE TO SITES**

| European Site   | National (SSSI) and European Conservation Objectives for Each SAC/SPA  | Location Relative to Leeds  | Qualifying Features  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p><b>SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPA)</b><br/>                     *also a Ramsar Site</p> |  |   |  |
| <p><b>SOUTH PENNINE MOORS PHASE 2</b></p>   | <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>• The population of each of the qualifying features, and,</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul> | <p>Partly within the Leeds MD Boundary, north eastern corner at Ilkley Moor</p> | <p><i>Falco columbarius</i>; Merlin (Breeding)<br/> <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>; European golden plover (Breeding)<br/>                     Breeding bird assemblage – Golden Plover; Lapwing; Dunlin; Snipe; Curlew; Redshank; Common Sandpiper; Short-eared Owl; Whinchat; Wheatear; Ring Ouzel; Twite.</p> |

| European Site              | National (SSSI) and European Conservation Objectives for Each SAC/SPA  | Location Relative to Leeds                                  | Qualifying Features   |
|----------------------------|--|---|---|
| <b>NORTH PENNINE MOORS</b> | <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>• The population of each of the qualifying features, and,</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul> | Over 3km north west of Leeds                                | <p><i>Circus cyaneus</i>; Hen harrier (Breeding)<br/> <i>Falco columbarius</i>; Merlin (Breeding)<br/> <i>Falco peregrinus</i>; Peregrine falcon (Breeding)<br/> <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>; European golden plover (Breeding)</p>  |
| <b>*HUMBER ESTUARY</b>     | <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the</p>   | Approx. 26.5 km east of Leeds, downstream of the River Aire | <p><i>Botaurus stellaris</i>; Great bittern (Non-breeding)<br/> <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>; Great bittern (Breeding)<br/> <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>; Common shelduck (Non-breeding)<br/> <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>; Eurasian marsh harrier (Breeding)<br/> <i>Circus cyaneus</i>; Hen harrier (Non-breeding)<br/> <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>; Pied avocet (Non-breeding)</p> |

| European Site                              | National (SSSI) and European Conservation Objectives for Each SAC/SPA  | Location Relative to Leeds          | Qualifying Features   |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|---|
|  | <p>Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>The population of each of the qualifying features, and,</li> <li>The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul> |                                     | <p><i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>; Pied avocet (Breeding)<br/> <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>; European golden plover (Non-breeding)<br/> <i>Calidris canutus</i>; Red knot (Non-breeding)<br/> <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>; Dunlin (Non-breeding)<br/> <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>; Ruff (Non-breeding)<br/> <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)<br/> <i>Limosa lapponica</i>; Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)<br/> <i>Tringa totanus</i>; Common redshank (Non-breeding)<br/> <i>Sterna albfrons</i>; Little tern (Breeding)<br/> Waterbird assemblage - in the non-breeding season, the area regularly supports 153,934 individual waterbirds (five year peak mean 1996/97 – 2000/01), including dark-bellied brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>, shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>, wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>, teal <i>Anas crecca</i>, mallard <i>Anas</i></p> |
| <b>SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SAC)</b> |  |                                     |   |
| <b>NORTH PENNINE MOORS</b>                 | <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p>   | <p>Over 3km north west of Leeds</p> | <p>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath<br/> European dry heaths<br/> <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands<br/> Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i>; Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals<br/> Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands; Montane acid grasslands<br/> Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone</p>  |

| European Site        | National (SSSI) and European Conservation Objectives for Each SAC/SPA  | Location Relative to Leeds                              | Qualifying Features   |
|----------------------|--|---|---|
|                      | <p>The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul> |   | <p>Blanket bogs<br/> Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>); Hard-water springs depositing lime<br/> Alkaline fens; Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens</p> <p>Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>); Acidic scree<br/> Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks<br/> Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Plants in crevices on acid rocks<br/> Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles; Western acidic oak woodland<br/> <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>; Marsh saxifrage</p> |
| <b>KIRK DEIGHTON</b> | <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its</p>   | <p>Approx. 500 m north of Leeds (north east corner)</p> | <p><i>Triturus cristatus</i>; Great crested newt</p>  |

| European Site              | National (SSSI) and European Conservation Objectives for Each SAC/SPA  | Location Relative to Leeds  | Qualifying Features  |
|----------------------------|--|---|--|
|                            | <p>Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul> |   |  |
| <b>SOUTH PENNINE MOORS</b> | <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the</li> </ul>  | <p>Within the Leeds MD Boundary, north eastern-most corner at Hawksworth Moor</p> | <p>Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath<br/> European dry heaths<br/> Blanket bogs*<br/> Transition mires and quaking bogs; Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface<br/> Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles</p> |



| European Site                             | National (SSSI) and European Conservation Objectives for Each SAC/SPA   | Location Relative to Leeds   | Qualifying Features                                  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p><b>DENBY GRANGE COLLIERY PONDS</b></p> | <p>qualifying natural habitats The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats, and,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely</li> </ul>   |  |  |
|   | <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>The structure and function of habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely</li> <li>The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> </ul> | <p>Approx. 7 km to the south of the Leeds District boundary. Screened out of any potential LSE impacts due to distance from Leeds District – due to physical distance likely to be travelled by the qualifying feature</p> | <p><i>Triturus cristatus</i>; Great crested newt</p> |

| European Site                 | National (SSSI) and European Conservation Objectives for Each SAC/SPA  | Location Relative to Leeds   | Qualifying Features   |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <p><b>*HUMBER ESTUARY</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul> <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>The populations of</li> </ul> | <p>Approx. 26.5 km east of Leeds, downstream of the River Aire</p> | <p>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Subtidal sandbanks<br/>Estuaries<br/>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats<br/>Coastal lagoons<br/><i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand<br/>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)<br/>Embryonic shifting dunes</p> <p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes"); Shifting dunes with marram</p> <p>Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); Dune grassland<br/>Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>; Dunes with sea-buckthorn<br/><i>Petromyzon marinus</i>; Sea lamprey<br/><i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>; River lamprey<br/><i>Halichoerus grypus</i>; Grey seal</p> |

| European Site | National (SSSI) and European Conservation Objectives for Each SAC/SPA   | Location Relative to Leeds | Qualifying Features |
|---------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------|
|               | <p>qualifying species, and,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul> |                            |                     |

## Kirk Deighton Special Area of Conservation (SAC) - Site Improvement Plan

| Priority and issue        | Action No. | Action Wording  | Relevance to land in Leeds District Boundary and HRA Screening Determination   | Action for Allocated Sites   |
|---------------------------|------------|---|--|--|
| Change in Land management | 1A         | Restoration of the over-mature hedgerows within the SAC to improve commuting, hibernation, resting and foraging habitat for Great crested newts.  | N/A  | None   |
|                           | 1B         | Aim to protect (through the planning process) terrestrial habitat and ponds outwith the SAC which are considered likely to support the metapopulation of Great crested newts linked to the SAC.   | Protection of ponds and terrestrial habitat outside SAC – this is relevant (although to a low degree due to distance). | Any ponds and favourable terrestrial habitat in allocated sites near Leeds boundary will be retained. New ponds will be created where opportunities allow. |
| Habitat Fragmentation     | 2A         | Conduct a survey to identify great crested newt breeding/feeding ponds out with the SAC which are likely to support newts from the SAC's metapopulation. This will add to our understanding of the habitat requirements of the SAC great crested newt population. | N/A  | None – but surveys of allocated sites near Leeds boundary will include GCNs  |
|                           | 2B         | Once the metapopulation investigation data is available consider the need for new pond/s, suitable for breeding great crested newts, within the SAC, working with the Environment Agency who will act in an advisory role.  | N/A  | None – but opportunities for wildlife ponds designed for amphibians will be considered for allocated sites near Leeds boundary                             |

**APPENDIX 2: ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS (LSEs)**

| European Site | Identified Likely Significant Effect (LSE)  | Sensitivity of site and threats to relevant Conservation Objectives  | Can Avoidance Measures be used to avoid a LSE? | Avoidance Measures   |
|---------------|---|--|--|--|
|               | <p>Taken from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Core Strategy HRA Screening Determination (previously approved by NE)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> NE letter dated 11 May 2015</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bradford MDC Core Strategy and Waste Management DPD HRA Screening</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Site Improvement Plan for Kirk Deighton SAC</li> </ul>   |  |  |  |
|               | <p><b>South Pennine Moors SPA (Phase 2)</b></p> <p>Loss of land providing feeding sites for qualifying bird species and bird assemblage within 2.5km of SPA boundary.</p> <p>Predation by pets on qualifying bird species and bird assemblage and their nests.</p> <p>Recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying bird species and bird assemblage from increased visitor numbers to the SPA resulting from any allocations, within 7km of the SPA boundary.</p> | <p>No proposed site allocations within 2.5km - therefore no LSE.</p> <p>No proposed site allocations within 2.5km - therefore no LSE.</p> <p>Site allocations are proposed within 7km of the SPA boundary and therefore there may be an LSE through: disturbance to ground-nesting birds; disturbance of feeding birds; and degradation of supporting habitat.</p> | <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Yes</p>               | <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>The geographical location of the Chevin Forest Park LNR, its size and ease of free access by a wide range of transport modes for a range of users (together with its quality as a Green Flag site) offers a viable alternative to travelling to the SPA.</p> <p>The Leeds City Council Parks &amp; Countryside "North-West Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways" project proactively promotes all the accessible green spaces (with an emphasis on</p> |

|                                |  |  |  |  |   |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|
|                                |  |  |  |  | natural green spaces) in north, north-west, and west Leeds to be used by local residents.<br><br>Appropriate funding from proposed site allocations within 7km of the SPA will be invested in accessible local green spaces to ensure high quality natural green space continues to be provided. Provision of green space, will also need to reflect the requirements of Green space & Green Infrastructure Policies set out in the adopted Core Strategy.                            |
| <b>North Pennine Moors SPA</b> |  |  |  |  |   |
|                                |  |  |  | No proposed allocations within 2.5km - therefore no LSE.   | N/A   |
|                                | Loss of land providing feeding sites for qualifying bird species and bird assemblage within 2.5km of SPA boundary                            |  |  | No proposed allocations within 2.5km - therefore no LSE.   | N/A   |
|                                | Predation by pets on qualifying bird species and bird assemblage and their nests.  |  |  | Distance of over 5km from site boundary for housing allocations - together with no road infrastructure connectivity proposed in direction of SAC site from any proposed allocations - therefore no LSE but see precautionary Avoidance Measures. | N/A - but see next column for Avoidance Measures  |
|                                | Recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying bird species and bird assemblage from increased visitor numbers to the SPA. |  |  |  | The geographical location of the Chevin Forest Park LNR, its size and ease of free access by a wide range of transport modes for a range of users (together with its quality as a Green Flag site) offers a viable alternative to travelling to the SPA.<br><br>The LCC Parks & Countryside "North-West Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways" project proactively promotes all the accessible green spaces (with an emphasis on natural green spaces) in north, north-west, and west |

|                                |   |  |  |   |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
|                                |   |  |  | Leeds to be used by local residents.<br><br>Appropriate funding from proposed allocations within 7km of the SPA will be invested in accessible local green spaces to ensure high quality natural green space continues to be provided.<br>Provision of green space, will also need to reflect the requirements of Green space & Green Infrastructure Policies set out in the adopted Core Strategy. |
| <b>Humber Estuary SPA</b>      |   |  |  |   |
|                                | Loss of land providing feeding sites for qualifying bird species and bird assemblage in close proximity of SPA boundary.  | The River Aire is connected to the Humber Estuary and qualifying birds may use it as a landscape feature for commuting/migration and foraging.<br><br>The site is 26.5km to the east of Leeds and therefore no LSE but see precautionary Avoidance Measures. | N/A - but see next column for precautionary Avoidance Measures | The River Aire is to be retained unaltered, and any habitat features suitable for use by qualifying birds will be retained and enhanced e.g. in the lower Aire valley there is a commitment to retaining open water at Skelton Lake, positive management of St. Aidan's and Fairburn Ings by RSPB in partnership with Leeds City Council.   |
|                                | Recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying bird species and bird assemblage from increased visitor numbers to the SPA.                                      | The site is 26.5km to the east of Leeds and therefore no LSE but see precautionary Avoidance Measures.   | N/A - but see next column for precautionary Avoidance Measures | Continued and enhanced provision of natural green space wetland areas within Leeds i.e. Fairburn Ings and (long-term) St. Aidan's and Skelton Lake  |
| <b>South Pennine Moors SAC</b> |   |  |  |   |
|                                | Recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying habitats from increased visitor numbers to the SAC resulting from any allocations within 7km of the SAC boundary | Allocations are proposed within 7km of the SAC boundary and therefore there may be an LSE through habitat degradation.   | Yes  | The geographical location of the Chevin Forest Park LNR, its size and ease of free access by a wide range of transport modes for a range of users (together with its quality as a Green Flag site) offers   |

|  |   |   |  |  |
|--|---|---|--|--|
|  | Increased acid and nitrogen deposition from industrial sites giving rise to emissions | Distance of over 2.5km from site boundary for housing and employment allocations - together with no road infrastructure connectivity proposed in direction of SAC site from any proposed allocations - therefore no LSE but see precautionary Avoidance Measures. | N/A - but see next column for precautionary Avoidance Measures | <p>a viable alternative to travelling to the SAC.</p> <p>The LCC Parks &amp; Countryside "North-West Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways" project proactively promotes all the accessible green spaces (with an emphasis on natural green spaces) in north, north-west, and west Leeds to be used by local residents.</p> <p>Appropriate funding from proposed allocations within 7km of the SAC will be invested in accessible local green spaces to ensure high quality natural green space continues to be provided.</p> <p>Provision of green space, will also need to reflect the requirements of Green space &amp; Green Infrastructure Policies set out in the adopted Core Strategy.</p> <p>West Yorkshire LTP3 - its 2nd key objective is "Low Carbon. To make substantial progress towards a low carbon, sustainable transport system for W Yorkshire, while recognising transport's contribution to national carbon reduction plans."</p> <p>Policies of the Local Transport Plan (LTP3) and Core Strategy are considered capable of achieving suitable amounts of modal shift to more sustainable transport modes, combined with a reduction in travel (per capita).</p> |
|--|---|---|--|--|



**North Pennine Moors SAC**

|  |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|--|---|--|
|  | <p>Recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying habitats from increased visitor numbers to the SAC</p> | <p>Distance of over 5km from SAC boundary for housing allocations - together with no road infrastructure connectivity proposed in direction of SAC site from any proposed allocations.</p> <p>Therefore no LSE but see precautionary Avoidance Measures.</p> | <p>N/A - but see next column for precautionary Avoidance Measures</p> | <p>The geographical location of the Chevin Forest Park LNR, its size and ease of free access by a wide range of transport modes for a range of users (together with its quality as a Green Flag site) offers a viable alternative to travelling to the SAC.</p> <p>The LCC Parks &amp; Countryside "North-West Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways" project proactively promotes all the accessible green spaces (with an emphasis on natural green spaces) in north, north-west, and west Leeds to be used by local residents.</p> <p>Appropriate funding from proposed allocations within 7km of the SAC will be invested in accessible local green spaces to ensure high quality natural green space continues to be provided.</p> <p>Provision of green space, will also need to reflect the requirements of Green space &amp; Green Infrastructure Policies set out in the adopted Core Strategy.</p> |
|  | <p>Increased acid and nitrogen deposition from transport or industrial sites giving rise to emissions</p>                  | <p>Distance of over 5km from site boundary for housing and employment allocations - together with no road infrastructure connectivity proposed in direction of SAC site from any proposed allocations - therefore no LSE but see precautionary Avoidance</p> | <p>N/A - but see next column for precautionary Avoidance Measures</p> | <p>West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (LTP3) - its 2nd key objective is "Low Carbon. To make substantial progress towards a low carbon, sustainable transport system for W Yorkshire, while recognising transport's contribution to national carbon reduction plans."</p>   |

|                          |   | Measures.   |  |   | Policies of the Local Transport Plan (LTP3) and Core Strategy are considered capable of achieving suitable amounts of modal shift to more sustainable transport modes, combined with a reduction in travel (per capita). |
|--------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Kirk Deighton SAC</b> |   |   |  |   |  |
|                          | Change in land management within the site   | N/A   | N/A  | N/A   | N/A  |
|                          | Habitat fragmentation caused by loss of ponds and terrestrial habitat used by GCN metapopulation outside the site (within 500m of site boundary). | Nearest allocation in Leeds is 2km from SAC boundary and therefore it is reasonable to assume no impact on the metapopulation. A precautionary check of GCN records has not revealed any GCN between SAC boundary and any proposed allocations in Leeds (north and north-west of Wetherby). Habitat suitability of land between SAC and nearest two proposed allocations has revealed sub-optimal habitat and a number of main roads.<br><br>Therefore no LSE but see precautionary Avoidance Measures. | N/A but see next column for precautionary Avoidance Measures | Precautionary Avoidance Measures to include GCN surveys on proposed allocations north and north-west of Wetherby and terrestrial habitat enhancements to assist future expansion of metapopulation. |  |
|                          | Increased water abstraction from new dwellings or economic development.   | Distance of 2km from site boundary and lack of hydrological connectivity to any proposed allocations - therefore no LSE.  | N/A  | N/A   |  |
|                          | Increased acid and nitrogen deposition from transport or industrial sites giving rise to emissions  | Distance of 2km from site boundary for housing and further for employment allocations - together with no road   | Yes  | West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (LTP3) - its 2nd key objective is "Low Carbon. To make substantial progress towards a low   |  |

|                           |  |  |  |   |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|---|
|                           |  | infrastructure connectivity proposed in direction of SAC site from any proposed allocations - possible LSE.  |  | carbon, sustainable transport system for W Yorkshire, while recognising transport's contribution to national carbon reduction plans."<br><br>Policies of the Local Transport Plan (LTP3) and Core Strategy are considered capable of achieving suitable amounts of modal shift to more sustainable transport modes, combined with a reduction in travel (per capita).   |
| <b>Humber Estuary SAC</b> |  |  |  |   |
|                           | Increased water abstraction from new dwellings or economic development.      | Reduction in volume of freshwater reaching Humber Estuary - possible LSE.  | Yes  | Yorkshire Water's Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) sets out how the region will meet water consumption demands from 2014/15 to 2039/40. The Leeds housing targets are within the figures used to create the adopted WRMP (which has been subject to a HRA Appropriate Assessment).<br><br>Management through planning application/building regulation process (including Sustainable Urban Drainage) & via Environment Agency as appropriate. |
|                           | Increased waste water production from new dwellings or economic development. | Decrease in water quality of freshwater reaching Humber Estuary - possible LSE   | Yes  | Management through planning application/building regulation process (including Sustainable Urban Drainage) & via Environment Agency as appropriate.   |
|                           | Additional barriers to fish movement.  | Barriers to River Lamprey moving up-river from Humber Estuary. There are no records of River Lamprey in Leeds waterways connected with the River Aire.<br><br>No new barriers to fish movement proposed.<br><br>Therefore no LSE but see | N/A - but see next column for precautionary Avoidance Measures | Continue to support fish passes with specific consideration for the needs of migrating River Lamprey.   |

|  |  |                                   |  |  |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|
|  |  | precautionary Avoidance Measures. |  |  |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|

**APPENDIX 3: LEEDS CITY COUNCIL. PARKS & COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE**  
**POSITIVE MANAGEMENT OF GREEN SPACE IN NORTH WEST LEEDS**

## Existing Natural Green space Provision in Aireborough

LCC's Parks & Countryside Section positively manages a network of green space sites in North West Leeds all of which are promoted to encourage public access. These sites are a mixture of typologies and sizes but are managed to provide a high quality visitor experience (individual site assessments of all Parks & Countryside parks in line with Green Flag scoring have taken place annually since 2005 to ensure improvements are taking place). Where a site meets the nationally recognised Green Flag Criteria it is classed as a Leeds Quality Park. A "Parks & Green space Strategy for Leeds" has been produced in 2008 and can be seen at <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/docs/Small%20PGS%20strategy%5B2%5D.pdf> Page 32 of this Strategy shows Community Parks in blue and other sites in red that have met Green Flag scoring criteria – such sites in North-West Leeds include Yeadon Tarnfield Park, Rawdon Micklefield Park, Horsforth Hall Park, Guiseley Nunroyd Park and Otley Chevin Forest Park. These Community Parks and Leeds Quality Parks or Green Flag sites all provide a locally significant catchment for visitors across the urbanised areas of Guiseley, Rawdon, Yeadon, Horsforth and Otley.

In relation to providing natural green space close to the proposed allocation sites and existing residential population of North West Leeds the most significant Parks & Countryside site is a Local Nature Reserve that is on the boundary of the Aireborough and Outer North- West HMCAs – Otley Chevin Forest Park. This site provides a park of natural green space for dog walkers and other recreational activities that is of a similar level of attractiveness to Ilkley Moor and Hawksworth Moor in terms of a relatively remote natural setting for visitors.

### Otley Chevin Forest Park (the Chevin)

This Local Nature Reserve has been publicly accessible since the 1950s. Since 1950 it has increased in size due to LCC purchasing additional portions of land to the 180ha. available today. The Chevin is very popular with a wide range of recreational users because it has very good free access by car (including 5 car parks), public transport and an extensive network of paths. There is a visitor centre and café available at the White House buildings. Parks & Countryside manage The Chevin specifically for people and wildlife to co-exist side- by-side a Management/Action Plan is attached as Appendix 4 to this document/available to view at <http://chevinforest.co.uk/uploads/pdfs/Downloads/Management%20Plan.pdf>

Page 167 of this has an Aim "To Provide Suitable Opportunities For a Range of Visitors" and a number of Objectives to achieve this Aim. There is a section which summarises visitor survey results (Page 133). Parks & Countryside carried out a Residents Survey across Leeds to understand which parks Leeds residents visit of why – this was done for three consecutive years between 2004 and 2006 (30 000 random questionnaires sent every year). Specific comments that relate to The Chevin are included on Page 134 and 135 of the Management Plan. From this visitor survey it is estimated that The Chevin has 480 000 visitors per year. A significant proportion of management resources are dedicated to keeping the site clean and attractive to visit, with numerous dog bins and information on the wildlife that is present.

From various surveys and from communication with the Estate Manager of The Chevin between 2009 and 2012 it seems clear that The Chevin attracts local people from the catchment area of Yeadon, Rawdon, Guiseley and Otley. One survey from 1983 reveals out of 216 visitors: 166 came from within the district of Leeds; 36 from the district of Bradford; and 14 from over 20 miles away. A more recent analysis of the Parks & Countryside Leeds Residents Survey in 2005 indicates that 60% of visitors arrive at The Chevin by car, and that most visitors come from within 10km –

### 3. How far people travel to visit the Chevin

Looking at figure 3, the majority of people visiting the site came from the local area.

- 18 people lived within a 2 mile radius
- 11 people lived within a 2 to 4 mile radius
- 3 people lived within a 4 to 8 mile radius
- 3 person lived within an 8 to 10mile radius
- 1 person lived outside a 10 mile radius

Figure 3



see below screenshot from this survey:

Data from the 2005 Leeds Residents Surveys is available to understand why Leeds residents visit the Chevin rather than their nearest park – this data is available on request. As well as a Management Plan, Parks & Countryside also have a detailed Service Improvement Plan for

the Chevin – an example from 2008 is available upon request. Below is an extract from this Service Plan:

#### 4. Objectives of the Service

- 4.1 The Park aims to provide formal and informal recreational and educational opportunities for the young and old (of all physical and mental abilities) through a range of experiences that lead to an improved quality of life.

Govt. policy emphasises the provision of safe access to land for local communities in order to improve their quality of life (PPG17 – Planning for Open space, Sport and Recreation). The Green Flag Award Scheme provides the relevant criteria in order to achieve this important objective for the site:

- Welcoming
- Safe
- Clean
- Well maintained
- Local community involvement
- Heritage features managed
- Well-marketed

In addition to this Natural England recommends every person should have access to Natural Open Space on their doorstep (1ha. per 1000 population of an area) in order to enhance their quality of life and encourages local authorities to declare Local Nature Reserves in order to meet this objective. This Park is the largest Local Nature Reserve in Leeds (alongside Fairburn Ings LNR) and therefore provides a large proportion of Natural Open Space for the people of Leeds i.e. enough for 180 000 people out of a total of approx. 720 000 people (population of Leeds).

The above survey information and commitment to manage the Chevin to a high quality leads to the conclusion that Otley Chevin Forest Park has a wide enough catchment to attract people for a natural green space experience from the Otley, Guiseley, Yeadon, Rawdon and Horsforth area on a regular basis.

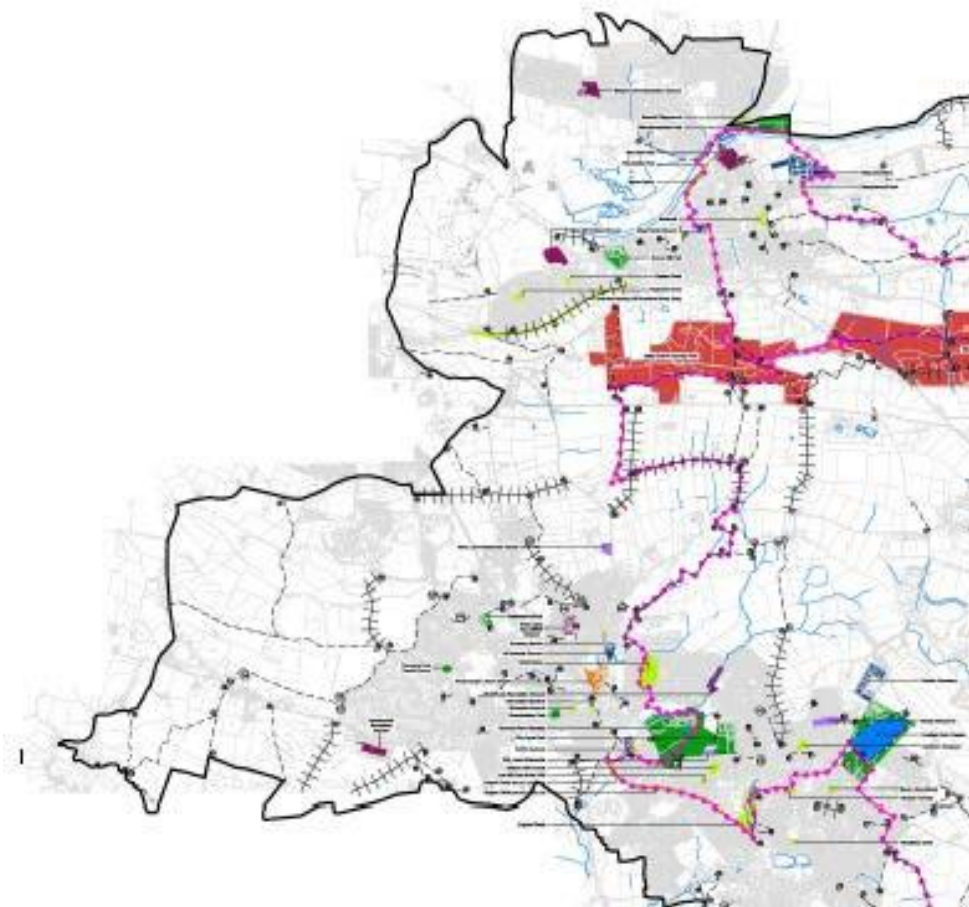
According to the Estate Manager of the Chevin between 2009 and 2012 the Chevin is capable of receiving a relatively high number of visitors from nearby urban areas and although there are wildlife habitats and species of a sensitive nature it is more desirable to allow low level damage to these features at the Chevin than the more sensitive habitats of a European nature at Ilkley Moor and Hawksworth Moor.

### North West Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways Project

In addition to the level of recreational provision at Otley Chevin Forest Park, Parks & Countryside also have a North-West Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways Project <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/leisure/Pages/country-parks-and-green-gateways.aspx>

This initiative promotes the green spaces in north and north-west Leeds and links these through a recreational path network. It should be emphasised that none of these sites or paths directs users to Hawksworth Moor, instead it is focussed on a circular trail route from the City Centre of Leeds along the Meanwood Valley and across the Chevin before connecting southwards to Rawdon, Yeadon, Guiseley and Rodley before returning to the City Centre (as part of a wider integrated network of Green Infrastructure, within Leeds MD – see the following Plan).





The promoted route for the North West Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways Trail is shown above in pink (note the paths joining with Hawksworth Moor are the existing definitive or permissive ones). This Project will actively promote the existing green spaces owned and managed by Leeds City Council in Otley, Yeadon, Rawdon, Guiseley and Horsforth and how they link together, it will not be promoting Hawksworth Moor as it is not owned or managed by Leeds City Council.

**APPENDIX 4: LEEDS CITY COUNCIL, PARKS & COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE, -CHEVIN FOREST PART – ACTION PLAN (EXTRACT)**

Extract from Chevin Forest Park Management Plan showing Aim and Objectives in relation to “Recreational Use of the Site” (other Aims and Objectives exist for other issues such as “Biodiversity”, “Local Community Involvement”, and “Marketing” etc.).

The full Management Plan can be viewed at:

<http://chevinforest.co.uk/uploads/pdfs/Downloads/Management%20Plan.pdf>

### Recreational Use Of The Site

| AIM        | To Provide Suitable Opportunities For A Range of Visitors  |
|------------|--|
| OBJECTIVES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure paths and access features are suitable for walkers, horse-riders and cyclists all year</li> <li>• Ensure orienteering route is maintained and maps are available to the public</li> <li>• Encourage continued use of the site by a range of external groups for organised activities</li> <li>• Ensure boundary features are maintained in a good condition</li> <li>• Promote and enhance parts of the site that are suitable for a range of different disabled users</li> <li>• Ensure the mobility scooters are advertised for appropriate use</li> <li>• Ensure the mobility scooter routes are safe to use and clearly way-marked for users</li> <li>• Ensure the disabled-friendly Education building is publicised for appropriate use</li> <li>• Identify the expectations of visitors</li> <li>• Consider the provision of toilets/refreshments and information about The Chevin to the public from the existing buildings</li> <li>• Ensure car parks are suitable for visitors</li> <li>• Ensure dog fouling and litter does not detract from visitors' enjoyment</li> <li>• Ensure seating facilities are provided across the site at suitable locations</li> <li>• Ensure formal grassland areas are provided at picnic areas and other suitable locations</li> <li>• Assist establishment of trees in the existing Memorial Tree Area</li> </ul> |

**APPENDIX 5: ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS (LSEs) AND POTENTIAL FOR IN COMBINATION EFFECTS**

| EUROPEAN SITE                     | Identified Likely Significant Effect (LSE). taken from:  | After consideration of Avoidance Measures will a LSE result? | Relevant Plans, Strategies etc. (other than Leads) | In Combination Effect - after consideration of Relevant Plans, Strategies etc. (other than Leads) will a LSE occur ? |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| South Pennine Moors SPA (Phase 2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core Strategy HRA Screening Determination (previously approved by NE)</li> <li>• NE letter dated 11 May 2015</li> <li>• Bradford MDC Core Strategy and Waste Management DPD HRA Screening</li> <li>• Site Improvement Plan for Kirk Deighton SAC</li> </ul> |  |  |  |
|                                   | Loss of land providing feeding sites for qualifying bird species and bird assemblage within 2.5km of SPA boundary  | No   | Bradford LDF Core Strategy                         | No – no impact from allocations in Leads in this 2.5km buffer.   |
|                                   | Predation by pets on qualifying bird species and bird assemblage and their nests   | No   | Bradford LDF Core Strategy                         | No – no impact from allocations in Leads within close proximity of SPA.  |

|                                |   |    |  |   |   |
|--------------------------------|---|----|--|---|---|
|                                | Recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying bird species and bird assemblage from increased visitor numbers to the SPA resulting from any allocations within 7km of the SPA boundary | No |  | Bradford LDF Core Strategy  | No – no significant impact from allocations in Leeds. Greenspace improvements to Otley Chevin and various sites in North-West Leeds will mitigate any additional visits to the SPA. |
| <b>North Pennine Moors SPA</b> |   |    |  |   |   |
|                                | Loss of land providing feeding sites for qualifying bird species and bird assemblage within 2.5km of SPA boundary   | No |  | Craven District Council emerging Local Plan<br>Harrogate District Council emerging Local Plan<br>Bradford LDF Core Strategy | No – no impact from allocations in Leeds, as a result of the Leeds MD boundary falls beyond 2.5km catchment.  |
|                                | Predation by pets on qualifying bird species and bird assemblage and their nests  | No |  |   | No - no impact from allocations in Leeds, as a result of the Leeds MD boundary falls beyond 2.5km catchment.  |
|                                | Recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying bird species and bird assemblage from increased visitor numbers to the SPA   | No |  | Craven District Council emerging Local Plan<br>Harrogate District Council emerging Local Plan<br>Bradford LDF Core Strategy | No - no significant impact from allocations in Leeds. Greenspace improvements to Otley Chevin and various sites in North-West Leeds will mitigate any additional visits to the SPA. |

|                                  |  |           |   |   |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------|---|---|
| <p><b>Humber Estuary SPA</b></p> | <p>Loss of land providing feeding sites for qualifying bird species and bird assemblage in close proximity of SPA boundary</p>                     | <p>No</p> | <p>All LDFs from various local authorities in proximity to the Humber Estuary, including (but not limited to) Wakefield, Selby, Doncaster, East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston Upon Hull, North Lincolnshire, West Lindsey, North East Lincolnshire, and east Lindsey.</p> | <p>No – no impact from allocations in Leeds, as the designation lies 25km from Leeds.<br/><br/>All Development Plans adopted or currently being prepared will need to comply with Sustainability Appraisal and HRA requirements in terms of identifying issues, mitigation and independent examination.</p> |
|                                  | <p>Recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying bird species and bird assemblage from increased visitor numbers to the SPA</p> | <p>No</p> | <p>All LDFs from various local authorities in proximity to the Humber Estuary, including (but not limited to) Wakefield, Selby, Doncaster, East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston Upon Hull, North Lincolnshire, West Lindsey, North East Lincolnshire, and east Lindsey.</p> | <p>No - impact from allocations in Leeds.<br/>All Development Plans adopted or currently being prepared will need to comply with Sustainability Appraisal and HRA requirements in terms of identifying issues, mitigation and independent examination.</p>  |

|                                |   |    |  |   |  |
|--------------------------------|---|----|--|---|--|
| <b>South Pennine Moors SAC</b> | Recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying habitats from increased visitor numbers to the SAC resulting from any allocations within 7km of the SAC boundary | No |  | Bradford LDF Core Strategy  | No - no significant impact from allocations in Leeds. Greenspace improvements to Otley Chevin and various sites in North-West Leeds will mitigate any additional visits to the SAC.  |
|                                | Increased acid and nitrogen deposition from industrial sites giving rise to emissions   | No |  | Bradford LDF Core Strategy  | No - impact from allocations in Leeds  |
| <b>North Pennine Moors SAC</b> |   |    |  |   |  |
|                                | Recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying habitats from increased visitor numbers to the SAC   | No |  | Craven District Council emerging Local Plan<br>Harrogate District Council emerging Local Plan<br>Bradford LDF Core Strategy | No - no significant impact from allocations in Leeds. Green space improvements to Otley Chevin and various sites in North-West Leeds will mitigate any additional visits to the SAC. |
|                                | Increased acid and nitrogen deposition from transport or industrial sites giving rise to emissions  | No |  | Craven District Council emerging Local Plan<br>Harrogate District Council emerging Local Plan<br>Bradford LDF Core Strategy | No – no impact from allocations in Leeds   |

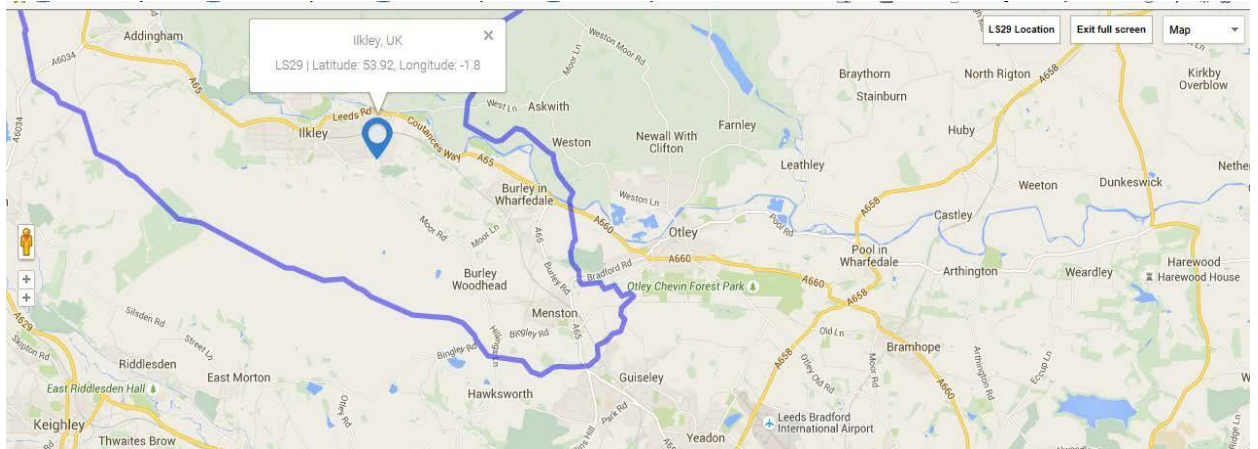
|                           |  |    |  |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|----|--|--|--|
| <b>Kirk Deighton SAC</b>  | Change in land management within the site  | No |  | Harrogate District Council emerging Local Plan   | No - no impact from allocations in Leeds   |
|                           | Habitat fragmentation caused by loss of ponds and terrestrial habitat used by GCN metapopulation outside the site (within 500m of site boundary) | No |  | Harrogate District Council emerging Local Plan   | No - no impact from allocations in Leeds   |
|                           | Increased water abstraction from new dwellings or economic development   | No |  | Harrogate District Council emerging Local Plan   | No - no impact from allocations in Leeds   |
|                           | Increased acid and nitrogen deposition from transport or industrial sites giving rise to emissions   | No |  | Harrogate District Council emerging Local Plan   | No - no impact from allocations in Leeds   |
| <b>Humber Estuary SAC</b> | Increased water abstraction from new dwellings or economic development   | No |  | All LDFs from various local authorities in proximity to the Humber Estuary, including (but not limited to) Wakefield, Selby, Doncaster, East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston Upon Hull, North Lincolnshire, West Lindsey, North East Lincolnshire, and east Lindsey. | No - no impact from allocations in Leeds.<br>All Development Plans adopted or currently being prepared will need to comply with Sustainability Appraisal and HRA requirements in terms of identifying issues, mitigation and |



|  |   |    |  |  |   |
|--|---|----|--|--|---|
|  |   |    |  |  | independent examination.  |
|  | Increased waste water production from new dwellings or economic development | No |  | All LDFs from various local authorities in proximity to the Humber Estuary, including (but not limited to) Wakefield, Selby, Doncaster, East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston Upon Hull, North Lincolnshire, West Lindsey, North East Lincolnshire, and east Lindsey. | No - no impact from allocations in Leeds.<br><br>All Development Plans adopted or currently being prepared will need to comply with Sustainability Appraisal and HRA requirements in terms of identifying issues, mitigation and independent examination. |
|  | Additional barriers to fish movement  | No |  | All LDFs from various local authorities in proximity to the Humber Estuary, including (but not limited to) Wakefield, Selby, Doncaster, East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston Upon Hull, North Lincolnshire, West Lindsey, North East Lincolnshire, and east Lindsey. | No - no impact from allocations in Leeds.<br><br>All Development Plans adopted or currently being prepared will need to comply with Sustainability Appraisal and HRA requirements in terms of identifying issues, mitigation and independent examination. |

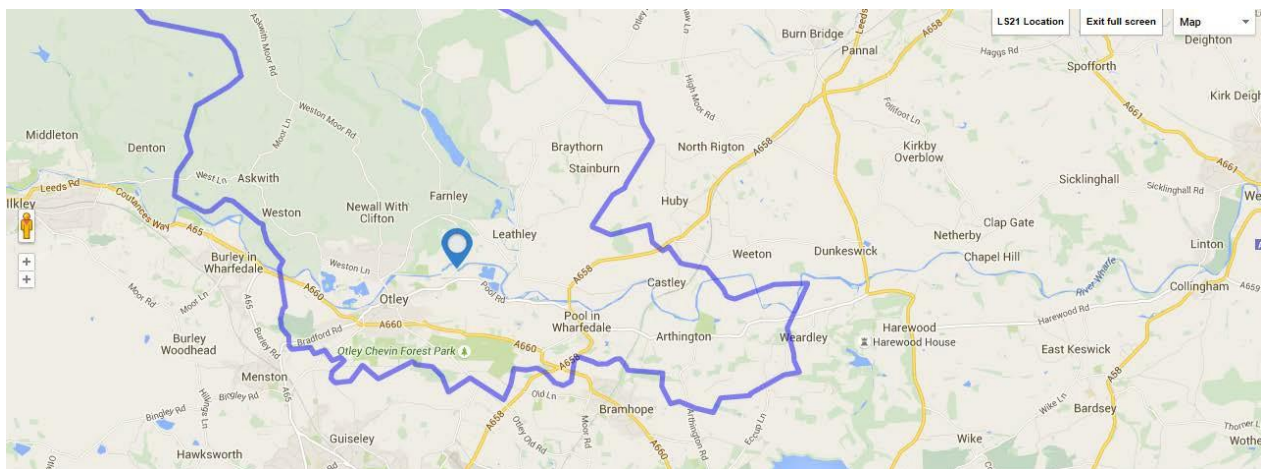
## **APPENDIX 6: SIGNIFICANT OVERLAPPING POSTAL DISTRICTS**

### **LS29 Postal District**



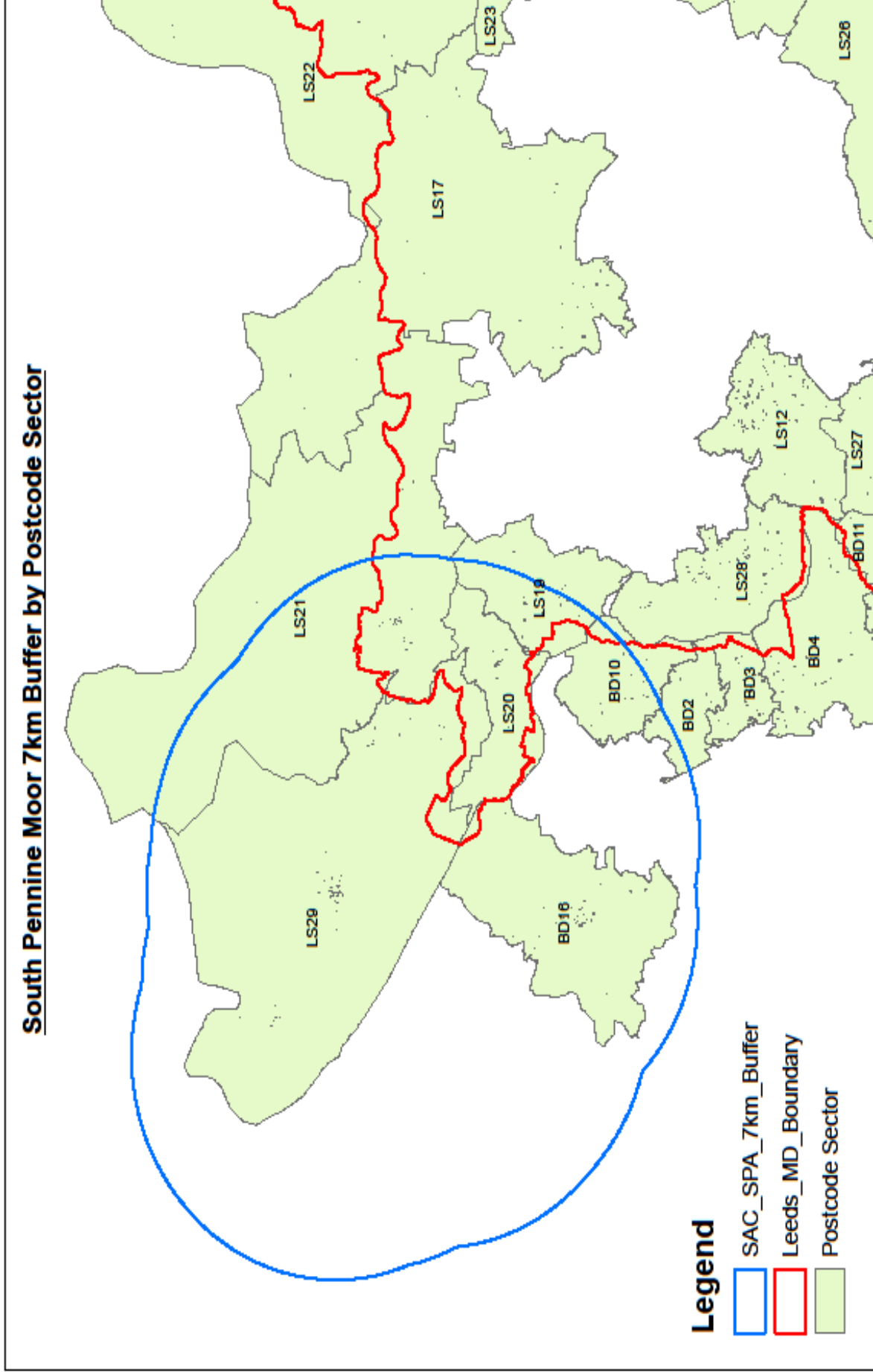
The LS29 postcode District contains very few properties in Leeds and the only main area of housing is the former Highroyds Hospital comprising around 500 units to the north east of Guiseley. The remainder of the area contains the settlements of Ilkley, Addingham, Menston and Burley in Wharfedale. Visitors from this postcode are not included in the Leeds figures.

### **LS21 Postal District**



The LS21 postcode District stretches significantly into Bradford and Harrogate Districts. However, for the purposes of the analysis and given that Otley and Pool – in-Wharfedale are within this postal district all returns for LS21 have been counted towards the Leeds figures.

**APPENDIX 7: SOUTH PENNINE MOOR 7KM BUFFER BY POSTCODE SECTOR**



**APPENDIX 7: LETTER FROM NATURAL ENGLAND- HABITATS REGULATIONS  
ASSESSMENT: SCREENING DETERMINATION**

Date: 20 August 2015  
Our ref: 161748  
Your ref:



David Feeney  
Head of Forward Planning & Implementation  
City Development  
Leeds City Council

[david.feeney@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:david.feeney@leeds.gov.uk)

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Customer Services  
Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear David

**Planning consultation:** Habitats Regulations Assessment: Screening Determination for Leeds Site Allocations Plan and Aire Valley Leeds Area Action Plan (August 2015)

**Location:** Leeds

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 05 August 2015 which was received by Natural England on the same day.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

**Previous Advice**

Within my email to you dated 15 July 2015 we welcomed the additional information regarding the Council's green space and parks management programmes and the capacity of the Chevin to absorb increased levels of public use and intercept visitors who would otherwise use the South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA).

We advised however that to determine whether the existing green spaces and management programmes would accommodate an increase in recreational use and therefore rule out likely significant effects (LSE), greater certainty regarding the likely increase in visitor numbers was required. This information could be obtained through the analysis of Rombalds/Ilkley Moor visitor data collected by Bradford City Council.

**Habitats Regulations Assessment (August 2015)**

The updated Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) contains additional paragraphs 5.3 to 5.7 and new appendices 6 and 7. Having reviewed the additional analysis of Leeds' current contribution to recreational pressure on the South Pennine Moors (extracted from Bradford's data) and the likely increase as a result of allocations within the 7km zone, Natural England is satisfied with the HRA's conclusion that the open space improvement measures identified provide sufficient certainty that LSE alone and in combination will be avoided.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact John King on

03000604129. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

John King MRTPI  
Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire

**2 Habitat Assessment Screening - Revised Publication Draft  
Outer North East, September 2016 (and response from Natural  
England).**



**SITE ALLOCATIONS PLAN  
REVISED PUBLICATION DRAFT: AREA  
PROPOSALS FOR OUTER NORTH EAST**

**Leeds Local Development Framework**

**Development Plan Document**

**Habitats Regulations Assessment: Screening  
Determination for Outer North East**

**September 2016**



| <b>Contents</b>  | <b>Page</b> |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Introduction  | 2           |
| 2. European Designations, Conservation Objectives and<br>Qualifying Features (relating to Leeds Metropolitan District)                           | 3           |
| 3. Context: SAP & AVLAAP Scope and Objectives  | 4           |
| 4. Screening Assessment Determination  | 4           |
| 5. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) and Potential for<br>In-combination Effects   | 4           |
| 6. Conclusion  | 5           |
| <br><b>Appendices</b>  | <br>6       |
| Appendix 1: European Designation, Conservation Objectives & Qualifying<br>Features Which Relate To Sites In The One HMCA                         |             |
| Appendix 2: Revised Publication Draft Plan Proposals for the One HMCA  |             |
| Appendix 3: Assessment of Likely Significant Effects (Lses) - Excluding In-<br>Combination Effects   |             |
| Appendix 4: Kirk Deighton Special Area of Conservation (Sac) - Site<br>Improvement Plan  |             |
| Appendix 5: Assessment of Potential Likely Significant Effects (Lses) For<br>Leeds Sap Outer North East and Potential For In Combination Effects |             |
| Appendix 6: Location of the Leeds Sap One Housing Revised Proposals 2016<br>(Extract) In Relation To the Kirk Deighton Sac                       |             |

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Assessment has previously been carried out (August 2015) to determine if the Policies and site allocations of the Publication draft Leeds Site Allocations Plan (SAP) and Aire Valley Leeds Area Action Plan (AVLAAP) require an Appropriate Assessment, under the Habitats Regulations (Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, SI no. 2010/490). This is required as a result of the need to comply with the European Habitats Directive.
- 1.2 Within this context and following public consultation on the SAP and AVLAAP Publication draft Plans (22<sup>nd</sup> September – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015), a further Publication Plan stage consultation is necessary in relation revised proposals for the Outer North East (ONE) Housing Market Characteristic Area (HMCA). This is due to the withdrawal of the new settlement proposal at Headley Hall (MX2-33) by the landowner, shortly before the commencement of consultation in September 2015. Consequently, it has been necessary for the City Council to bring forward alternative proposals for the ONE HMCA, as a component of the overall Site Allocations Plan. This Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Assessment relates directly to the revised proposals for the ONE HMCA and should be considered as an Addendum to the HRA Screening Assessment prepared in August 2015.
- 1.3 Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, means that ‘Appropriate Assessments’ are required where plans or projects that are not directly related to the management of the site and are likely to significantly affect a European protected or Ramsar site, or Likely Significant Effects (LSE) cannot be ruled out, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. With regard to this HRA Screening Assessment, within the ONE HMCA there is only one European Designation relating to this area but located outside the Leeds Metropolitan District boundary (Kirk Deighton, Special Area of Conservation – SAC). The Conservation Objectives and Qualifying Features relating to this site, is included at Appendix 1.
- 1.4 The approach set out in the HRA Screening Assessment, reflects the LSE test within the Habitats Directive, the precautionary principle and effects in combination. The assessment of each plan’s effects on site integrity would be undertaken within the Appropriate Assessment if needed. The focus of this Screening Assessment Determination is restricted to assessing LSE, which is a ‘filter’ rather than a detailed assessment of effects on site integrity. Within this context, LSE can be defined as follows, “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 designed, but excluding trivial or inconsequential effects (de minimis)” (Source: Natural England).

## **2. European Designations, Conservation Objectives and Qualifying Features (relating to Leeds Metropolitan District)**

2.1 Appendix 1 attached, sets out the European Designation, Conservation Objectives and Qualifying Features of potential relevance to the Revised SAP proposals for the ONE HMCA. This information relates to a single SAC site at Kirk Deighton.

2.2 Information on this site has been obtained from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee website and Natural England. This site has been designated at the European Level as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). This means they have a very high level of conservation protection by virtue of their importance as key habitats of European significance.

2.4 Within this context, the European site considered by this HRA Screening Determination is:

- Kirk Deighton (SAC): This is approximately 4 ha in size and is located to the North of Wetherby – 500 metres north of LeedsMD.

## **3. Context: SAP & AVLAAP Scope and Objectives**

3.1 The SAP and AVLAAP form part of the Local Development Framework or 'local plan' for Leeds. These Plans follow on and are set within the overall strategic context of the Leeds Core Strategy, which sets out an overall vision for the District to 2028. The Core Strategy was adopted by the City Council on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014 (following independent examination, where the Plan was found to be sound) and identifies a series of strategic and thematic policies for Leeds incorporating priorities for regeneration, the scale and distribution of growth (Housing and Employment), environmental protection and enhancement (including Green space, Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure) and infrastructure delivery.

3.2 In meeting the requirements of the European Directive, the Core Strategy was subject to its own Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Determination. This was subsequently agreed by Natural England. As part of this process, a number of Policies were strengthened (including Spatial Policy 1: Location of Development and G1: Green Infrastructure), to help mitigate any adverse nature conservation impacts upon Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). This approach was also considered to be sound by the Core Strategy Inspector.

## **4. Screening Assessment Determination**

4.1 In providing an overall context for the Screening Assessment of the Kirk Deighton SAC, Plan 1 (included in Appendix 2) sets out the proposed SAP allocations presented as part of the September - November 2015 public consultation on the Publication Draft Plan. Plan 2 sets out the revised proposals for the ONE HMCA (to be subject to public consultation in September in 2016). These proposals are

detailed further in the schedule also included in Appendix 2. Whilst there are a number of changes, including to new residential allocation to the East of Wetherby (HG-266) and a new settlement proposal at Parlinton Estate, Aberford, these are some distance away from the Kirk Deighton SAC. It should be noted that the housing allocation (HG2-19), was originally included within the Publication draft SAP Autumn 2015 and has been incorporated into the revised proposals for ONE.

- 4.2 As emphasised in para. 1.3 above, the focus of this Screening Assessment Determination, is upon the identification of LSEs arising from proposed allocations associated with their proximity/likely impact upon European Designations/Conservation Objectives. In reflecting this approach, Appendix 3: via a summary Table sets out an assessment of potential likely significant effects (LSEs), for the Kirk Deighton SAC. This includes an assessment of the sensitivity of the site and potential threats to Conservation Objectives.
- 4.3 The identification of Potential LSEs has been informed by the Core Strategy HRA Screening Determination (previously approved by NE and subsequently found to be sound by the Core Strategy Inspector), further advice received from NE on the HRA Screening determination for the SAP and AVLAAP (August 2015) and the Kirk Deighton SAC Site Improvement Plan (included at Appendix 4).

#### Summary

- 4.4 The Screening Determination can be summarised as follows:

#### Kirk Deighton SAC

- ☐ Habitat fragmentation, water abstraction, increased acid & nitrogen deposition from transport are identified as Potential LSEs. The Plan includes a series of precautionary avoidance measures, including future GCN surveys and application of Local Transport Plan (LTP) and adopted Core Strategy Policies, which along with the location of the proposed allocation for development, means that there is no LSE at Kirk Deighton.

### **5. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) and Potential for In-combination Effects**

- 5.1 An integral requirement of the HRA Screening Determination process, is to provide an Assessment of Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) and the Potential for In-combination Effects, with other plans and projects. Appendix 5 provides a summary Table an assessment of potential likely significant effects (LSEs) for the Leeds SAP Outer North East and potential for in combination effects. This in turn sets out, consideration of relevant Plans and Strategies, in relation to the Kirk Deighton SAC, prior to drawing conclusions on any In-combination Effects.

5.2 This Assessment has had regard to the preparation and status of development plans from neighbouring authorities. The overall conclusion drawn from this Assessment is that there are no in-combination effects, after consideration of relevant plans and strategies, regarding the occurrence of LSEs.

## **6. Conclusion**

6.1 As outlined above, the preparation of the SAP and AVLAAP are set within the context of the adopted Core Strategy and the targets identified for the overall scale and distribution of growth across the District. As noted above, the Core Strategy was subject to a Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening and a number of Policies were strengthened (e.g. Spatial Policy 1: Location of Development) as a consequence of this process. The SAP and AVLAAP need to be in conformity with the Core Strategy and as a consequence, will need to reflect the policy requirements set out.

6.2 Due to the factors set out in para. 1.2 above, a further HRA Screening Assessment has been undertaken for the revised Publication draft proposals for the ONE HMCA. Consistent with the HRA Screening requirements, this assessment has focused upon the consideration of LSEs in relation to Conservation Objectives. These include the application of Core Strategy Policy requirements and sites requirements set out in the SAP (including the revised proposals for the ONE HMCA).

6.3 Based on this assessment and the coverage of LSEs, it is considered that an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations (Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, SI no. 2010/490) is not required in relation to the revised Publication draft proposals for the ONE HMCA. This is because it is considered that due to the physical proximity of the new site proposals do not give rise to any potential LSEs either alone or in-combination with other relevant Development Plan Documents (local plans). Mitigation mechanisms have already been established in the Policy framework provided in the adopted Development Plans, the Natural Resources and Waste Local Plan (2013) and the Core Strategy (2014).

## APPENDICES

**APPENDIX 1: EUROPEAN DESIGNATION, CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES & QUALIFYING FEATURES WHICH RELATE TO SITES IN THE ONE HMCA**

| European Site                              | European Conservation Objectives for SAC  | Location Relative to Leeds  | Qualifying Features                            |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SAC)</b> |   |   |  |
| <b>KIRK DEIGHTON</b>                       | <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul> | Approx. 500 m north of Leeds District Boundary located within Harrogate Borough Council administrative area | <i>Triturus cristatus</i> ; Great crested newt |

**APPENDIX 2: REVISED PUBLICATION DRAFT PLAN PROPOSALS FOR THE ONE HMCA**

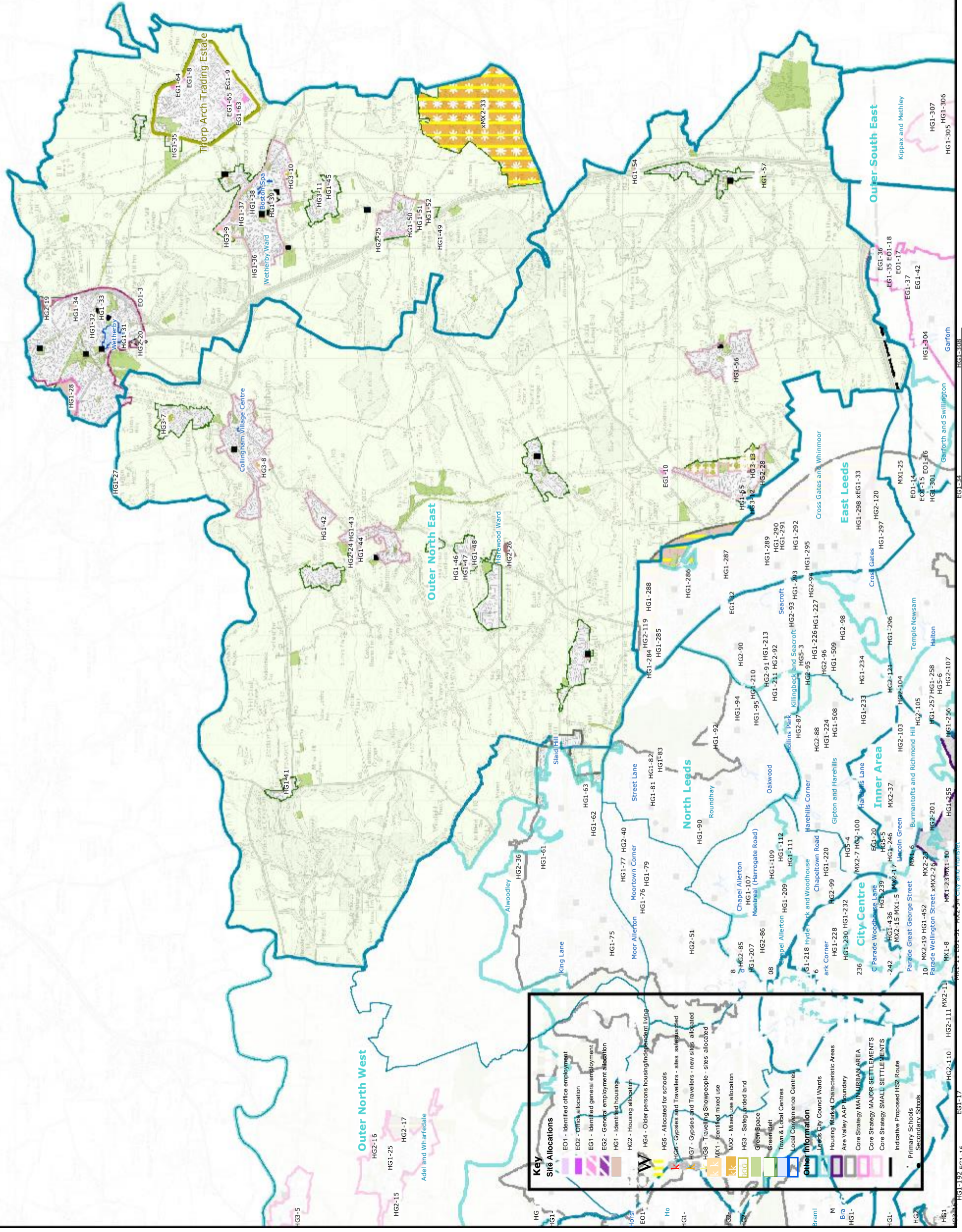
**Plan 1: Leeds SAP Outer North East Housing Market Characteristic Area (HMCA) Publication Draft 2015**

**Plan 2: Leeds SAP Revised Proposals for the Outer North East HMCA 2016**

**Revised Proposals for the Outer North East HMCA 2016: Summary Schedule of Changes to Housing Sites**

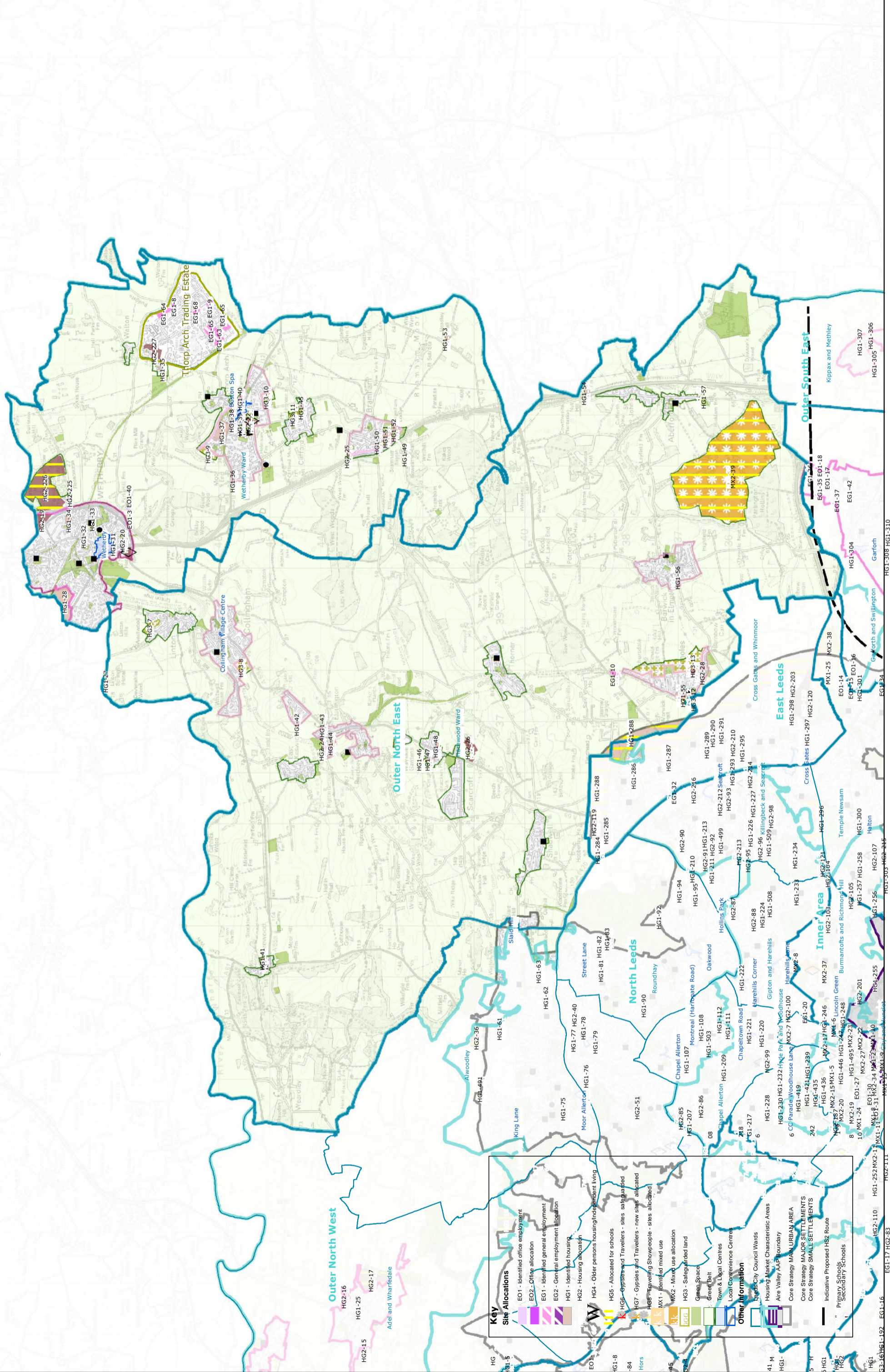


# Plan 1: Leeds SAP Outer North East Housing Market Characteristic Area (HMCA) Publication Draft 2015



| Key                      |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Site Allocations</b>  |  |
|                          | EO1 - Identified office employment                 |
|                          | EO2 - Office allocation                            |
|                          | EG1 - Identified general employment                |
|                          | EG2 - General employment allocation                |
|                          | HG1 - Identified housing                           |
|                          | HG2 - Housing allocation                           |
|                          | HG4 - Older persons housing/independent living     |
|                          | HG5 - Allocated for schools                        |
|                          | HG6 - Gypsies and Travellers - sites safeguarded   |
|                          | HG7 - Gypsies and Travellers - new sites allocated |
|                          | HG8 - Travelling Showpeople - sites allocated      |
|                          | MX1 - Identified mixed use                         |
|                          | MX2 - Mixed use allocation                         |
|                          | MX3 - Safeguarded land                             |
|                          | Green Space  |
|                          | Green Belt   |
|                          | Town & Local Centres                               |
|                          | Local Convenience Centres                          |
| <b>Other Information</b> |  |
|                          | Leeds City Council Wards                           |
|                          | Housing Market Characteristic Areas                |
|                          | Aire Valley AAP Boundary                           |
|                          | Core Strategy MAJOR URBAN AREA                     |
|                          | Core Strategy MAJOR SETTLEMENTS                    |
|                          | Core Strategy SMALL SETTLEMENTS                    |
|                          | Indicative Proposed HSR Route                      |
|                          | Primary Schools                                    |
|                          | Secondary Schools                                  |

# Plan 2: Leeds SAP Revised Proposals for the Outer North East HMCA 2016



**Key**

**Site Allocations**

- EO1 - Identified office employment
- EO2 - Office allocation
- EG1 - Identified general employment
- EG2 - General employment allocation
- HG1 - Identified housing
- HG2 - Housing allocation
- HG4 - Older persons housing/independent living
- HG5 - Allocated for schools
- HG6 - Gypsies and Travellers - sites safeguarded
- HG7 - Gypsies and Travellers - new sites allocated
- HG8 - Travelling Showpeople - sites allocated
- MX1 - Identified mixed use
- MX2 - Mixed use allocation
- MX3 - Safeguarded land
- Green Space
- Green Belt
- Town & Local Centres
- Local Convenience Centres

**Other Information**

- Leeds City Council Wards
- Housing Market Characteristic Areas
- Aire Valley AAP Boundary
- Core Strategy MAJOR URBAN AREA
- Core Strategy SMALL SETTLEMENTS
- Core Strategy MAJOR SETTLEMENTS
- Core Strategy SMALL SETTLEMENTS
- Indicative Proposed HS2 Route
- Priority Schools
- Secondary Schools

## Revised Proposals for the Outer North East HMCA 2016: Summary Schedule of Changes to Housing Sites

### Overview – Housing

|                               |                        |                     |       |            |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------|------------|
| HMCA target: 5000             |                        |                     | Total | +/- target |
|                               | Identified sites total | Housing allocations |       |            |
| Publication Draft Plan        | 1530                   | 3437                | 4967  | -33        |
| Post Publication consultation | 1491                   | 3516                | 5007  | +7         |

### HG1 – Identified housing allocations

#### Changes to identified sites

Following the planning permission refresh (April 2016) the following changes to identified housing sites occurred:

| Address                               | Plan ref | SHLAA ref | Capacity (New) | (+/-) Post Publication Draft |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Churchfields, Boston Spa              | HG1-37   | 777       | 153            | -17                          |
| Village Farm, Harewood                | HG1-41   | 757       | 8              | -10                          |
| Linton Springs, Linton                | HG1-27   | 787       | 7              | -9                           |
| Spenn Common Lane, Bramham            | HG1-53   | 3152      | 9              | +9                           |
| Wetherby Health Centre, Wetherby      | HG1-30   | 3186      | 0              | -8                           |
| Raintree Lodge, Linton Road, Wetherby | HG1-29   | 793       | 0              | -4                           |
| <b>Total</b>                          |          |           |                | <b>-39 units</b>             |

Overall these changes resulted in a net reduction of the identified sites capacity by 39 units to a total of 1491 units.

### HG2 – Proposed housing allocations

#### Deleted allocations

| Address               | Plan ref | SHLAA ref | Publication Draft | Settlement | Green Belt      | Site size (ha) | Capacity    |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Headley Hall, Bramham | MX2-33   | 3391      | Allocated         | New        | Yes             | 276            | 3000        |
| <b>Total</b>          |          |           |                   |            | <b>- 276 ha</b> |                | <b>3000</b> |

## Proposed new allocations

| Address                           | Plan ref | SHLAA ref          | Settlement   | Green Belt | Site size (ha) | Capacity (Plan period) |
|-----------------------------------|----------|--------------------|--------------|------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Land to the north of HMP Wealstun | HG2-227  | 5300               | Rural (TATE) | No         | 6.3            | 142                    |
| Land to the East of Wetherby      | HG2-226  | 1233/215<br>4/3125 | Wetherby     | No         | 47.7           | 1080                   |
| Parlington Estate                 | MX2-39   | 5320               | New          | Yes        | 261.7          | 1850                   |
| Land at The Rowans, Wetherby      | HG2-225  | 5285               | Wetherby     | No         | 0.6            | 18                     |
| <b>Total</b>                      |          |                    |              |            |                | <b>3516</b>            |

The proposed site at the Parlington Estate has an overall capacity of up to 5000 dwellings with supporting uses. Up to 11.5 hectares of general employment land is also proposed within the mixed use allocation. It is envisaged that 1850 units could be delivered on site during the plan period given the likely lead-in times and build out rates.

## Amendments to previous allocations (Publication Plan 2015)

**HG2-20 (Mecure Hotel, Wetherby)** – The site boundary has been extended to the west to incorporate a new SHLAA site submission (5263). The new capacity for the site is 86 units, an increase of 19 units.

**HG2-22 & HG2-23 (Church Street, Boston Spa)** – These two sites have been merged. The net capacity of the sites remains 36 units. The reference for the combined site is now HG2-22.

**HG2-26 (Scarcroft Lodge, Scarcroft)** – The capacity of the site has been reduced from 130 units to 100 units.

## Other changes

**Green Belt boundary** - The Green Belt boundary has been amended in response to the proposed new allocations. In particular, the area of proposed new Green Belt to the north east of the area (formerly rural land), has been amended to reflect the proposed East of Wetherby housing allocation (HG2-226).

**APPENDIX 3: ASSESSMENT OF LIKLEY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS (LSEs) - EXCLUDING IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS**

| European Site     | Potential Likely Significant Effect (LSE)   | Sensitivity of site and threats to relevant Conservation Objectives  | Mitigation incorporated into the DPD | Is there a risk of a Likely Significant Effect which cannot be Mitigated by applying the LDF ? |
|-------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Kirk Deighton SAC | <p>Change in land management within the site</p> <p>Habitat fragmentation caused by loss of ponds and terrestrial habitat used by GCN metapopulation outside the site (within 500m of site boundary).</p> | <p>N/A</p> <p>Nearest allocation in Leeds (HG2-19) is 1.06km from SAC boundary (the new housing allocation HG2-226, as part of the revised proposals for ONE is 1.43km away from the SAC) and therefore it is reasonable to assume no impact on the metapopulation. A precautionary check of GCN records has not revealed any GCN between SAC boundary and any proposed allocations in Leeds</p> | <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>                | <p>N/A</p> <p>No LSE</p> <p>No LSE</p>   |

|  |  |   |  |                   |
|--|--|---|--|-------------------|
|  |  | (north and north-west of Wetherby). Habitat suitability of land between SAC and nearest two proposed allocations has revealed sub-optimal habitat and a number of main roads.<br><br>The Revised Publication Draft proposals identifies a 47.59 ha site to the East of Wetherby (HG2-266). This is 1.43km from the SAC (and separated by a major motorway, the A1 – see Appendix 6). It is reasonable to assume that this will have no impact upon the metapopulation.<br><br>Therefore no LSE. |  |                   |
|  | Increased water abstraction from new dwellings or economic development.                            | Distance of 1.43km from site boundary and lack of hydrological connectivity to any proposed allocations - therefore no LSE.   | N/A  | N/A<br><br>No LSE |
|  | Increased acid and nitrogen deposition from transport or industrial sites giving rise to emissions | Distance of 1.43km from site boundary for housing and further for employment allocations - together with no road infrastructure connectivity proposed in direction of SAC site from any proposed allocations.   | West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (LTP3) - its 2nd key objective is "Low Carbon. To make substantial progress towards a low carbon, sustainable transport system for W Yorkshire, while recognising transport's contribution to national carbon reduction plans."<br><br>Policies of the Local Transport Plan (LTP3) and Core Strategy are considered capable of | No LSE            |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  | achieving suitable amounts of modal shift to more sustainable transport modes, combined with a reduction in travel (per capita). |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|

**APPENDIX 4: KIRK DEIGHTON SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC) - SITE IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

| Priority and issue        | Action No. | Action Wording  | Relevance to land in Leeds District Boundary and HRA Screening Determination   | Action for Allocated Sites as part of biodiversity enhancements   |
|---------------------------|------------|---|--|---|
| Change in Land management | 1A         | Restoration of the over-mature hedgerows within the SAC to improve commuting, hibernation, resting and foraging habitat for Great crested newts.  | N/A  | None  |
|                           | 1B         | Aim to protect (through the planning process) terrestrial habitat and ponds out with the SAC which are considered likely to support the metapopulation of Great crested newts linked to the SAC.  | Protection of ponds and terrestrial habitat outside SAC – this is relevant (although to a low degree due to distance). | An ecological assessment has been incorporated into the site requirements for HG2-19.<br><br>Any ponds and favourable terrestrial habitat in allocated sites near Leeds boundary will be retained. New ponds will be created where opportunities allow. |
| Habitat Fragmentation     | 2A         | Conduct a survey to identify great crested newt breeding/feeding ponds out with the SAC which are likely to support newts from the SAC's metapopulation. This will add to our understanding of the habitat requirements of the SAC great crested newt population. | N/A  | None – but surveys of allocated sites near Leeds boundary will include GCNs   |
|                           | 2B         | Once the metapopulation investigation data is available consider the need for new pond/s, suitable for breeding great crested newts, within the SAC, working with the Environment Agency who will act in an advisory role.  | N/A  | An ecological assessment has been incorporated into the site requirements for HG2-19.<br><br>None – but opportunities for wildlife ponds designed for amphibians will be considered for allocated sites near Leeds boundary                             |

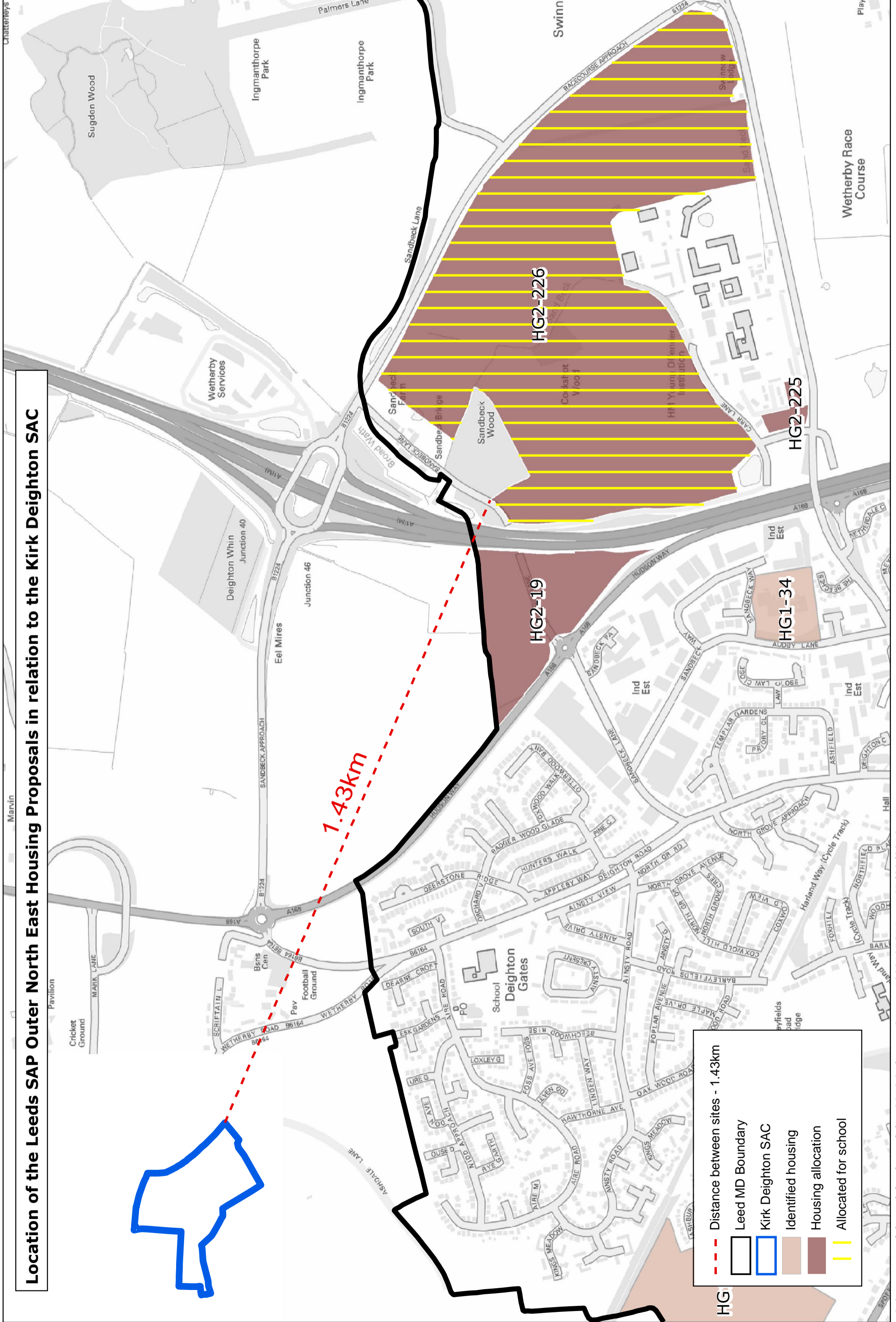


**APPENDIX 5: ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS (LSEs) FOR LEEDS SAP OUTER NORTH EAST AND POTENTIAL FOR IN COMBINATION EFFECTS**

| EUROPEAN SITE     | Potential Likely Significant Effect (LSE).<br>taken from:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core Strategy HRA Screening Determination (previously approved by NE)</li> <li>• NE letter 28<sup>th</sup> August 2015</li> <li>• Site Improvement Plan for Kirk Deighton SAC</li> </ul> | After consideration of Mitigation incorporated into the DPD will Leeds SAP for Outer North East (ONE) result in any LSEs ? | Relevant Plans, Strategies etc. (other than Leeds) for Potential In-Combination Effects. | In Combination Effect -after consideration of Relevant Plans, Strategies etc. (other than Leeds) will any LSEs occur ? |
|-------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Kirk Deighton SAC |  |  |  |  |
|                   | Change in land management within the site  | No   | Harrogate District Council emerging Local Plan   | No - no impact from allocations in Leeds   |
|                   | Habitat fragmentation caused by loss of ponds and terrestrial habitat used by GCN metapopulation outside the site (within 500m of site boundary)   | No   | Harrogate District Council emerging Local Plan   | No - no impact from allocations in Leeds   |
|                   | Increased water abstraction from new dwellings or economic development   | No   | Harrogate District Council emerging Local Plan   | No - no impact from allocations in Leeds   |
|                   | Increased acid and nitrogen deposition from transport or industrial sites giving rise to emissions   | No   | Harrogate District Council emerging Local Plan   | No - no impact from allocations in Leeds   |

**APPENDIX 6: LOCATION OF THE LEEDS SAP ONE HOUSING REVISED PROPOSALS 2016 (EXTRACT) IN RELATION TO THE  
KIRK DEIGHTON SAC**

# Location of the Leeds SAP Outer North East Housing Proposals in relation to the Kirk Deighton SAC



- - - Distance between sites - 1.43km
- Leed MD Boundary
- Kirk Deighton SAC
- Identified housing
- Housing allocation
- Allocated for school

## **Response from Natural England to the Revised Publication Draft Proposals Outer North East**

**From:** O'Reilly, Liam (NE) [<mailto:Liam.OReilly@naturalengland.org.uk>]

**Sent:** 24 August 2016 11:13

**To:** Feeney, David

**Subject:** RE: Leeds City Council Revised HRA Screening document Leeds SAP - Revised Proposals for ONE

Hello David,

As it's a draft I'll respond by email but if you want a letter, please let me know.

Overall I agree with your conclusion that there is no Likely Significant Effect on Kirk Deighton SAC but there are a few things that could use changing to reflect the legislation better:

- 1) The Habitat Regulations are very sequential: You look at the whole plan and then screen for Likely Significant Effect (LSE); if there is a chance of LSE, you carry out an Appropriate Assessment (AA); if significant impacts are identified you look at alternatives (including mitigation measures) etc. So you can't include precautionary mitigation measures when screening for LSE as that shows uncertainty and point towards AA: E.g. In section 4.4 it says:

'Overall no LSE but a series of precautionary Avoidance Measures are identified to include future GCN surveys and application of LTP and Core Strategy Policies.'

This suggests that an AA is required which may conclude that alternatives need to be found including mitigation (there are other similar instances in the document also). However, with the Habs Regs, you assess the whole plan, including any mitigation that is outlined in the plan. It may seem a bit fussy but basically, it's in the wrong order, so it might be better to say something along the lines of:

'The plan includes a series of precautionary avoidance measures including future GCN surveys and application of LTP and Core Strategy Policies, which, along with the location of the proposed development, means there is no LSE on Kirk Deighton.'

- 2) Regarding the acid and nitrogen deposition in appendix 3: The distance we normally consider roads to be an issue is 200m from a site ([Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume 11, Section 3, Part 1](#)). Not only that but it is situated to the east of the site and with the UK having a predominately westerly wind, most of the emissions will go the other way. LTP3 is of course beneficial as a whole and does provide further mitigation but the way it is worded could suggest that AA is required – so again just re-order the wording (assess the whole plan).
- 3) The proposed mitigation for the GCN is excellent and to be commended – again ensure that this is part of the plan and then conclude no LSE. If possible, it would be hugely beneficial to the Kirk Deighton population of GCN if any of these works could be put close to SAC to help expand the population (provided any populations on the development site aren't harmed – which the mitigation suggests that would be the case). It would be a good example of the local plan enhancing biodiversity and show that you're meeting paragraph 118 of the NPPF.

A couple of other points:

- 4) In appendix 3 it says the nearest allocation is 1.43km but the nearest allocation is actually HG2-19 (1.06km away) but I assume the reason it says 1.43km away is because this is an addition and HG2-19 was dealt with under the original HRA.
- 5) Recreational pressures haven't been assessed but we agree that this shouldn't be an issue and doesn't need to form part of the LSE assessment.

I'd like to give you ring about this and some of the other sites this week if that's possible, please let me know when you're available.

Kind Regards

Liam

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Liam

Thank you for your helpful comments on the screening document. We will make amendments to reflect these points and will send you a revised copy.

With regard to contacting us about other sites. I presume that you are referring to other allocations proposed in the SAP ? Within this context it would be helpful if you could speak directly to my colleague Janet Howrie who is co-ordinating this work. You can contact Janet by email : [janet.howrie@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:janet.howrie@leeds.gov.uk) or by 'phone (0113 2478200).

Regards

David Feeney  
Head of Strategic Planning  
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Leeds City Council

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### **3. Habitat Assessment Screening – Pre-submission Changes February 2017 (and response from Natural England).**

**From:** Feeney, David [<mailto:David.Feeney@leeds.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** 16 January 2017 09:01  
**To:** O'Reilly, Liam (NE)  
**Subject:** FW: Leeds Site Allocations Plan - Pre-submission Changes

Morning Liam

Further to my last email, on the 10<sup>th</sup> January, the City Council's Development Plan Panel considered pre-submission changes to the Outer North East component to the Plan (together with some further updates/amendments to pre-submission changes to the rest of the Plan, previously considered by DPP, June & July 2016).

In terms of the HRA Screening work previously undertaken by the Council, there has been some changes to sites within the Aireborough and Outer North East Housing Market Characteristic Areas (HMCAs). These changes primarily relate to alterations to site boundaries (some reductions/expansion of site areas - e.g. Site HG2 – 226 East of Wetherby – minor site expansion to the NW & SW, reduction in site capacities e.g. in Aireborough HG2-1, New Beck Farm (in responses to further technical work and representations) and the inclusion of new “identified sites” i.e. sites with planning permission (due to updated information), rather than fundamental changes.

Given the level and nature of the changes, the City Council does not consider that the pre-submission changes, alter the conclusions of the HRA screening previously undertaken. You will recall that this indicated that, based on the assessments and the coverage of LSEs, it is considered that an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations (Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, SI no. 2010/490) is not required in relation to the Plan proposals. This is because it is considered that due to the physical proximity of the new site proposals do not give rise to any potential LSEs either alone or in-combination with other relevant Development Plan Documents (local plans). Mitigation mechanisms have already been established in the Policy framework provided in the adopted Development Plans, the Natural Resources and Waste Local Plan (2013) and the Core Strategy (2014).

Within this context and the nature of the Pre- submission Changes proposed, the City Council would be grateful if natural England could confirm this position.

For completeness, I have appended the schedule of changes – 1a (currently being finalised) and revised site plans – 1b for information. This material is due to be considered by the City Council's Executive Board on 8<sup>th</sup> February and in meeting this deadline, comments by 25<sup>th</sup> January would be appreciated.

Many thanks, please contact me if you would like to discuss further.

Thanks

David Feeney  
Head of Strategic Planning  
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**From:** O'Reilly, Liam (NE) [Liam.OReilly@naturalengland.org.uk]  
**Received:** Tuesday, 24 Jan 2017, 14:00  
**To:** Feeney, David [David.Feeney@leeds.gov.uk]  
**CC:** Ash, Merlin (NE) [Merlin.Ash@naturalengland.org.uk]  
**Subject:** RE: Leeds Site Allocations Plan - Pre-submission Changes

Hello David,

Thank you for providing the update and new information regarding the Leeds Site Allocations Plan.

Natural England agrees with your position, namely, that the changes do not alter to conclusions of the Habitat Regulations Assessment.

Kind Regards

Liam

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**Site Allocations Plan**

**Updated Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening  
Submission Draft**

Leeds Local Plan  
Development Plan Document

**May 2017**