



Leeds Site Allocations Plan - Remittal

Leeds Local Plan

Habitats Regulations Assessment Addendum: Screening & Appropriate Assessment

Draft Examination Version

(Updates made to the November 2020 version of the HRA Addendum are shown in red for ease of reference)

Development Plan Document

~~November 2020~~ **May 2021**

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Site Allocations Plan Remittal

Habitats Regulations Assessment (Addendum ~~November~~ May 2021~~10~~)

1 Purpose of the Addendum

- 1.1 The Leeds Site Allocations Plan (SAP) was Adopted in July 2019 and subject to challenge in the High Court. The High Court Judged that errors had been made on 3 grounds and a Judge granted relief in respect of 37 SAP sites via a High Court Order.
- 1.2 The Order is that allocated housing and mixed use sites that immediately before the adoption of the SAP were in the Green Belt, be remitted back to the Secretary of State and the Planning Inspectorate for further examination. The effect of the Order is that the SAP examination remains open with a narrow focus upon the options for 37 remitted Green Belt sites.
- 1.3 The Council has agreed a revised position on these 37 sites, expressed through **proposed** Main Modifications to the Adopted SAP. This position is that the 37 sites be deleted as allocations from the SAP and remain as Green Belt.
- 1.4 As the remittal process involves a specific and limited re-opening of the SAP Examination it is necessary to consider the implications of the revised position on the Habitat's Regulations Assessment (HRA) process.
- 1.5 The HRA Addendum (November 2020) was prepared to support and inform 37 Main Modifications (MMs) to the SAP. These MMs were consulted on in January 2021 with the HRA (November 2020 version) as background.
- 1.6 Following the consultation on the SAP Remittal MMs in 2021 a screening assessment was carried out for proposed MM39. This was reflected in the Council's Executive Board and Full Council reports, Background Paper (*CDREM1-3, paras. 16.2 to 16.7*) and sent to Natural England for comment on 18th March 2021 so that a response may inform the Examination process. These documents noted that Natural England have not yet made a response.
- 1.7 This proposed draft Examination version of the HRA Addendum (May 2021) has been updated to reflect the **additional proposed MM**: the allocation of a site at Barrowby Lane, Manston, under the SAP employment policy EG2-37 (MM39) as it will support additional consultation being carried out specifically on that site. This MM arose as a result of the January consultation. Proposed MM39 was submitted to the Secretary of State, with justification as to the impacts of the additional MM upon the HRA and noting that further consultation would occur with Natural England.
- 1.8 This addendum also clarifies points made by Natural England in their consultation

response around the revised legislative framework created by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (noted below).

- As a result of changes to the Habitats Regulations 2017 (published on 1 January 2021) by Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) there have been some changes to the legislative context of the HRA. The changes are made by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. This relates to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). It means that strict protections afforded to sites, habitats and species as derived from the EU Habitats and Wild Birds directives continue. Most of these changes involve transferring functions from the European Commission to the appropriate authorities in England and Wales.
- This means SACs and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in the UK no longer form part of the EU's Natura 2000 ecological network. The 2019 Regulations have amended the above, to instead create a national site network. The national site network includes all existing SACs and SPAs. Therefore any references to Natura 2000 in the Council's HRA now refers to the new national site network as protected under the amended 2017 Regulations.

1.9 Updates made to the November 2020 version of the HRA Addendum are shown in red for ease of reference.

2 Background

2.1 The SAP has been supported by a HRA process from the beginning, with the following documents at key milestones as follows:

- Publication of Draft Plan (2015)
 - Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening: Publication Draft Plan, Sept 2015¹
- Examination (2018)
 - Revised Habitats Regulations Screening Stage Assessment, June 2018²
 - Habitats Regulations Assessment: Screening & Appropriate Assessment, November 2018

2.2 Having initially considered that the SAP should be subject to a screening assessment only, further work was completed during the Examination of the Plan which took into account the European Court of Justice Judgment in "People over Wind". This resulted in a revised screening and appropriate assessment being

¹ Core Document Reference CD1/19

² Examination Document Reference EX35

carried out and documented in Habitats Regulations Assessment: Screening & Appropriate Assessment, November 2018.

3 The SAP Inspectors' Report

3.1 The SAP Inspectors' Report was published on 7th June 2019 and concluded in paragraph 35 that "subject to Main Modifications, the requirements of the Habitats Directive and in particular, Article 6(3) have been addressed and the conclusions are in accordance with the Judgment. Appropriate Assessment has been carried out on the relevant SPA, and Natural England supports the findings of both the Screening Assessment, the HRA and mitigation. The Screening Assessment and HRA adequately addresses the full range of potential impacts on the Plan". An extract from the Inspectors' Report is included at **Appendix 1**.

3.2 The Main Modifications to the SAP required the insertion of the following text into the Aireborough, Outer North West and Outer West chapters.

"The Habitat's Regulations Assessment has concluded that measures will be required regarding the provision and enhancement of green spaces within the HMCA so as to help avoid visitor pressure on the South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC. The Council will monitor these through monitoring indicator 24 of the Council's Monitoring Framework which supports preparation of the Authority Monitoring Report. This will quantify the delivery of green space and green infrastructure delivered in the area along with the amount of commuted sums collected and spent on green space projects. Moreover, for the purposes of monitoring this measure the AMR will also report on specific improvements to green spaces in this HMCA, which arise as a result of the North West Leeds Green Gateways and Country Park project".

4 Summary of the Habitats Regulations Assessment: Screening & Appropriate Assessment, Nov 2018

Screening Stage

4.1 The Screening Stage of the HRA (**Appendix 2** paragraph 4.6) identifies the prospect for Likely Significant Effects (LSE) in relation to the South Pennine Moors (Phase 2) SPA and SAC³. These LSEs are:

- impacts on qualifying bird species and breeding bird assemblage:
 - recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying bird species and bird assemblage from increased visitor numbers to the SPA⁴ resulting from any allocations within 7km of the SPA boundary Impacts on qualifying habitats

³ as of 1st January 2021 now part of the national site network under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019

⁴ ibid

- impacts on qualifying habitats:
 - recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying habitats from increased visitor numbers to the SAC⁵ resulting from any allocations within 7km of the SAC boundary

4.2 These LSEs are considered further by way of an Appropriate Assessment (AA).

Appropriate Assessment stage

4.3 The AA considered the 2 potential recreational impacts (paragraph 5.2) as follows:

- first, the number of additional houses arising from the SAP in the 7km zone of influence, then
- second, the impacts on Site Integrity arising from any increase in recreational visits, then
- third, if there was found to be an impact on Site Integrity, new measures will need to be agreed with Natural England and put in place as part of this SAP through a Main Modification

4.4 It was noted that the SAP proposed 627 homes within the 7km zone (paragraph 5.4).

4.5 In addressing the LSEs of the proposed housing the HRA notes (paragraph 5.11) that it was agreed by Natural England that continued management and improvement of existing open spaces in North West Leeds would provide sufficient certainty that any LSEs would be avoided.

4.6 As noted (paragraph 5.12) the predominant existing measures that provide the role in deflecting recreational visits from the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC⁶ are the management and enhancement of the following alternative accessible green spaces in North West Leeds:

- the Chevin Forest Park Local Nature Reserve
- the North West Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways project

4.7 The HRA (paragraph 5.16) also notes in addition to the management of the above that existing Core Strategy policies on green space and green infrastructure can also make a contribution to helping to deflect visitors from the SPA and SAC⁷.

4.8 A Main Modification to the SAP clarified this and noted existing means of monitoring the delivery of policies (as noted in paragraph 3.2 above).

4.9 It was also recognised that when the initial HRA for the SAP was done these measures were considered as part of the HRA Screening Stage, but since the

⁵ ibid

⁶ as of 1st January 2021 now part of the national site network under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

⁷ ibid

judgment in “People over Wind” these existing measures are now being considered under the AA stage rather than being screened out at the Screening Stage.

5 Main Issues – SAP Remittal

- 5.1 The Council is proposing a revised position on the SAP in relation to 37 sites in line with a High Court Order. The revised position involves removing 36 of the sites from the submitted SAP as housing allocations and leaving them designated as Green Belt. In the case of land at Barrowby Lane, Manston the Council proposes (through MM8) to delete the housing allocation of this mixed-use site and allocate (through MM39) the site for employment uses under policy EG2-37. The SAP remittal therefore proposes no development on these a single sites.
- 5.2 This will require proposed Main Modifications to the submitted SAP and this addendum to the HRA to consider whether the conclusions of both the screening and the appropriate assessment comply with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).
- 5.3 The 36 proposed Main Modifications in relation to removal of housing allocations are positive changes in the context of the HRA, which serve to lessen any LSE in relation to the South Pennine Moors (Phase 2) SPA and SAC. This was supported by Natural England in their consultation response to the HRA Addendum (November 2020). The 1 proposed Main modification in relation to the allocation of land for employment at Barrowby Lane, Manston may be screened out of consideration (in line with the Screening Stage Assessment at Appendix 2 (see Appendix 1) of this document) because it does not give rise to potential LSEs. The site is more than 25km away from South Pennines Moors SPA and North Pennines Moors SPA. It is noted that this is the same conclusion reached in the initial HRA for the SAP when the site at Barrowby Lane, Manston was being proposed as a mixed-use allocation.
- 5.4 There are 4 proposed Main Modifications that will impact on the HRA. These relate to the proposed deletion of 4 sites within the Green Belt and the 7km zone of influence for potential recreational disturbance (7km Zone of Influence), of the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 (SPMP2) SPA/SAC⁸ European Site.

Allocation Ref.	Name of allocation	Distance from S Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC in km	Capacity in units
HG2-1	New Birks Farm	3.0	160
HG2-2	Wills Gill	4.6	133
HG2-4	Hollins Hill	3.8	80
HG2-6	Silverdale Av	4.4	32
HG2-7	Swaine Hill Terr	5.5	7
HG2-8	Kirkland House	5.6	17

⁸ as of 1st January 2021 now part of the national site network under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

HG2-9	Victoria Av	6.8	102
HG2-13	White Croft Garth	4.6	16
HG2-229	Old Mill Miry Lane	6.0	15
MX2-1	Ashfield Works	4.6	50
MX2-2	Westgate	4.7	15
			627 152

5.5 The table above is taken from the HRA (2018) and updates it to show that the proposed MMs and deletion of 4 sites have a combined effect of lessening house building in the 7km zone by 475 homes (from 627 homes (as in the existing HRA) to 152 homes).

5.6 Whilst not removing proposed house building entirely, within the 7km catchment, it can be concluded that:

- the number of additional houses arising from the SAP in the 7km zone of influence has reduced significantly - by 76%
- the impacts on Site Integrity arising from any increase in recreational visits generated by the 152 homes, will also have a commensurate reduction
- the measures agreed with Natural England, and put in place as part of the Adopted SAP through Main Modification, remain relevant and able to address any LSEs that may now arise from the 152 homes, albeit at a far lower potential level

5.7 It is noted that the predominant existing management measures for the existing parks that provide the role in deflecting recreational visits (paragraph 4.6 above), are not dependent on funding from housing development. Fewer homes, as a result of the SAP Remittal MMs, will therefore not have a direct impact on the effectiveness of these management measures. There will be an impact on the direct provision of additional green space and green infrastructure (as noted in paragraph 4.7 above) which will now not arise in association with new homes at the scale envisaged in the zone of influence. However, this was both (a) an *additional* measure to the predominant measure of management of existing recreation areas and (b) provision which directly would have met the needs of homes, which will now not be built.

6 Conclusion

6.1 The SAP Remittal process, following a High Court Order to reconsider the allocation of 37 sites, intends to delete ~~36 37~~ sites as housing allocations **and allocate 1 site for employment use**. This will be achieved through Main Modification to the SAP and involves reducing the housing released from the Green belt by 4,070 homes and returning the ~~37 36~~ sites to the Green Belt, **whilst removing 21ha of land from the Green Belt at Barrowby Lane, Manston**.

6.2 An addendum to the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) supports the Main Modifications as part of the remittal process. This concludes that:

- The MMs will delete 4 sites in the 7km zone previously identified in the HRA where there is potential for Likely Significant Effects arising from additional recreational pressure on SPAs and SACs
- The MMs will have the effect of reducing any potential LSEs as a result of 475 fewer homes
- The existing HRA remains adequate and appropriate in addressing the reduced potential LSEs from the homes that remain in the Adopted SAP chiefly from the management of existing parks and green spaces

Appendix 1 – Extract from the SAP Inspectors' Report, June 2019

"Habitats Regulations Assessment

31. As part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Assessment the Council assessed Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) within 10 km of the Leeds City Council MD boundary and also the Humber Estuary, alone and in combination with other known plans or projects, including the Bradford area. This identifies elements of the Plan that have the potential to cause an adverse effect on areas designated for their special habitats.
32. Pursuant to the European Court of Justice Judgment in, *People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta*¹[Case C323/17] ("the Judgment"), the Council revisited the Screening Assessment, and have undertaken a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) (Appendix 1 SAP-HRA-Response to Inspectors' Questions Final) in relation to the South Pennine Moor SPA (Phase 2).
33. This follows the stages of HRA with evidence gathering, assessing likely significant effects for the SPAs and SACs, having regard to the conservation objectives of each protected site. Mitigation for adverse effects is considered, in particular the measures based on existing projects in Chevin Forest Park and North West Leeds Country Park, both of which require maintenance and enhancement to reduce any recreational impacts on the SPA to an acceptable level.
34. MMs are necessary for clarity to set out the conclusions of the HRA in the SAP in respect of the HMCAs of Aireborough, Outer North West and Outer West as they relate to the South Pennine Moor SPA (Phase 2). Monitoring of the measures will be necessary and this is to be undertaken through the Council's Monitoring Framework and the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) which will quantify spending and improvements to green spaces in the relevant HMCAs [**MM38, MM84 and MM148**].
35. To conclude subject to the MMs, the requirements of the Habitats Directive and in particular, Article 6(3) have been addressed and the conclusions are in accordance with the Judgment. Appropriate Assessment has been carried out on the relevant SPA, and Natural England supports the findings of both the Screening Assessment, the HRA and mitigation. The Screening Assessment and HRA adequately addresses the full range of potential impacts on the Plan."

**Appendix 2 – Habitats Regulations Assessment: Screening & Appropriate
Assessment, November 2018**



Site Allocations Plan

Leeds Local Plan

Habitats Regulations Assessment: Screening & Appropriate Assessment

Development Plan Document

November 2018

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Appendices

Appendix 1: European Designations, Conservation Objectives & Qualifying Features which relate to sites

Appendix 2: Screening Stage Assessment

Appendix 3: Appropriate Assessment – assessment of impacts on Site Integrity

Appendix 4: Leeds City Council, Parks & Countryside Service positive management of green space in north-west Leeds

Appendix 5: Leeds City Council, Parks & Countryside Service – Chevin Forest Park Action Plan (extract)

Appendix 6: Assessment of LSEs in-combination

Appendix 7: Visitor Survey 2013 - Significant overlapping postal districts

Appendix 8: Visitor Survey 2013 – Postcode sectors

Appendix 9: Formal response from Natural England confirming capacity of existing green spaces to absorb additional recreational pressure

Appendix 10: Request from Natural England to use Bradford City Council 2013 Visitor Survey data

Appendix 11: Distance of road network to Kirk Deighton SAC

Appendix 12: North West Leeds Country Park & Green Gateways project leaflet

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening & Appropriate Assessment has been carried out to determine if the policies and site allocations of the Submission Draft Leeds Site Allocations Plan (2017) (SAP) as amended by proposed Main Modifications give rise to any Likely Significant Effects (LSEs), and further, in respect of any LSEs, whether mitigation (or other measures) as such, are required to ensure that no adverse impacts on Site Integrity will occur.
- 1.2 The following HRA Screening Determinations are superseded by this HRA Screening & Appropriate Assessment:
 - Site Allocations Plan Updated Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Submission Draft May 2017;
 - Site Allocations Plan Revised Publication Draft: Area Proposals for Outer North-East HRA Screening Determination September 2016;
- 1.3 A Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening & Appropriate Assessment is provided for under the European Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
- 1.4 Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC provides that any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European protected or Ramsar site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. With regard to this HRA Screening & Appropriate Assessment, the European Designations, Conservation Objectives and Qualifying Features relating to sites, are included at Appendix 1.
- 1.5 This approach reflects the LSE test provided for by the Habitats Directive, the precautionary principle and effects in combination. The assessment of each plan's effects (Policies and allocations) on Site Integrity will be undertaken within the Appropriate Assessment, if necessary. The focus of the initial Screening Assessment stage is restricted to assessing whether a LSE may occur, 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).
- 1.6 It is confirmed also that this HRA Screening and subsequent Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken with due regard to the judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) C-323/17 dated 12 April 2018 in *People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillite Teoranta*.

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

- 2.1 Appendix 1 sets out the European Designations, Conservation Objectives and Qualifying Features of potential relevance to the SAP. This includes all sites within 10 km of the Leeds City Council MD boundary 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 affected (the Humber Estuary is also a Ramsar site).
- 2.3 Although only a small part of the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA and SAC, (known locally as Hawksworth Moor or Rombalds/Ilkley 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, to directly impact on it. However, the cumulative effect of sites needs to be considered because of the potential for effects on the River Aire and River Wharfe (that join the River Ouse and ultimately flow into the Humber Estuary).
- 2.4 Within this context, the list of European sites considered by this HRA Screening & Appropriate Assessment are summarised as follows:
- The North Pennine Moors SPA/SAC: This is over 103,000 ha in size and exists in parts of County Durham, Northumberland, Cumbria and North Yorkshire. Located over 3km north-west of Leeds MD;
 - The South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC, most of which lies outside the Leeds MD. It is part of a wider European Site (South Pennine Moors) which totals 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 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;
 - Humber Estuary SPA/SAC (and Ramsar site), which is approximately 37,000 ha covering Humberside and Lincolnshire located 26.5km east of Leeds MD.

3. SAP Scope and Objectives

- 3.1 The SAP forms part of the Local Development Framework or 'local plan' for Leeds. The Plan follows on and is set within the overall strategic context of the Leeds Core Strategy, which sets out an overall vision for the District to 2028, together with the overall approach to the scale and distribution of housing growth. The Core Strategy was adopted by the City Council on 12th 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, Housing, Employment, environmental protection and enhancement (including Green space, Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure) and infrastructure delivery.
- 3.2 In meeting the requirements of the Habitats 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 SPAs and 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 identifies 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.

- 3.4 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.

4. Screening Stage consideration for LSEs

- 4.1 Within the context of the only European Designation (part of the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC) that occurs within Leeds MD (identified in para. 2.4 above), Plan 1 sets out the proposed SAP allocations (for Housing, Employment and Protected Areas of Search/safeguarded land) in relation to Aireborough/North West Leeds (Green space allocations within Leeds MD are also identified for information). For completeness, Plan 1 also includes existing identified sites, together with 2.5 km and 7km zones of influence in relation to the SPAs and SACs. It should be noted that the 7km zone of influence for recreational impacts is derived from the Bradford City Council's HRA prepared for its Core Strategy, which was based on 2013 visitor survey information with regard to the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC.
- 4.2 With regard to the Kirk Deighton SAC (which occurs 500 metres north of the Leeds MD and is situated within the administrative area of Harrogate Borough Council), the proposed housing, employment and green space SAP allocations are identified on Plan 2 for information, showing the nearest allocation being 1.01km away.

- 4.3 As stated in para. 1.5 above, the focus of the Screening Stage, 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 consideration of whether a LSE is identified in respect of each European Site. Where a LSE is identified at the Screening Stage then an Appropriate Assessment is required to consider in more detail any adverse impacts on Site Integrity and potential threats to Conservation Objectives.
- 4.4 The identification of LSEs for consideration has been informed by the Core Strategy HRA Screening Determination (previously approved by Natural England and subsequently found to be sound by the Core Strategy Inspector), further advice received from Natural England on the draft HRA Screening determination for the SAP (11th 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).
- 4.5 Advice from Natural England dated 24th August 2016 stated that the distance normally considered for acid and nitrogen deposition is 200 metres, and that specifically in the case of Kirk Deighton SAC because allocations are to the east of the SAC emissions will normally go in the opposite direction (from predominantly westerly UK winds). Therefore consideration is only required of roads within 200m of European Sites that are expected to experience an increase in traffic. Appendix 11 shows the nearest road that is likely to receive any increase in traffic being 382.5 metres away.
- 4.6 The Screening Stage (see Appendix 2 last column) has identified **the prospect for** the following LSEs in relation to the South Pennine Moors (Phase 2) SPA and SAC and following recent case-law these **may** not be screened out and will need to be considered further by way of an Appropriate Assessment:

Impacts on qualifying bird species and breeding bird assemblage

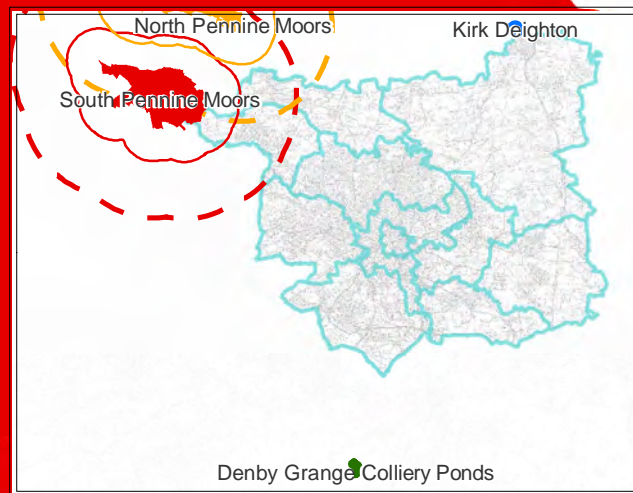
- Recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying bird species and bird assemblage from increased visitor numbers to the SPA resulting from any allocations within 7km of the SPA boundary

Impacts on qualifying habitats

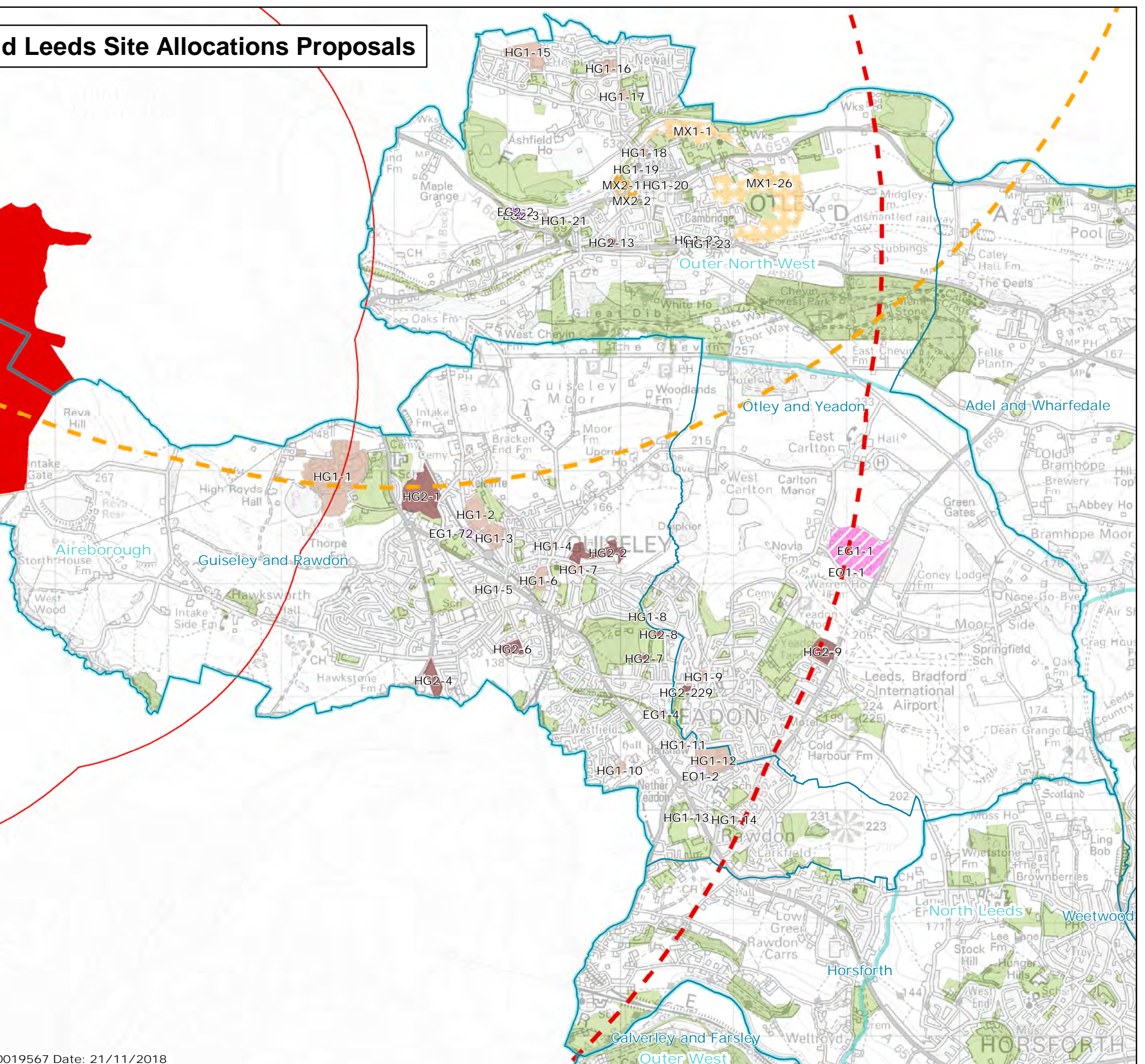
- Recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying habitats from increased visitor numbers to the SAC resulting from any allocations within 7km of the SAC boundary.

Section 5 will now proceed to consider the above LSEs as part of the Appropriate Assessment Stage.

Plan 1 - European Designations and Leeds Site Allocations Proposals



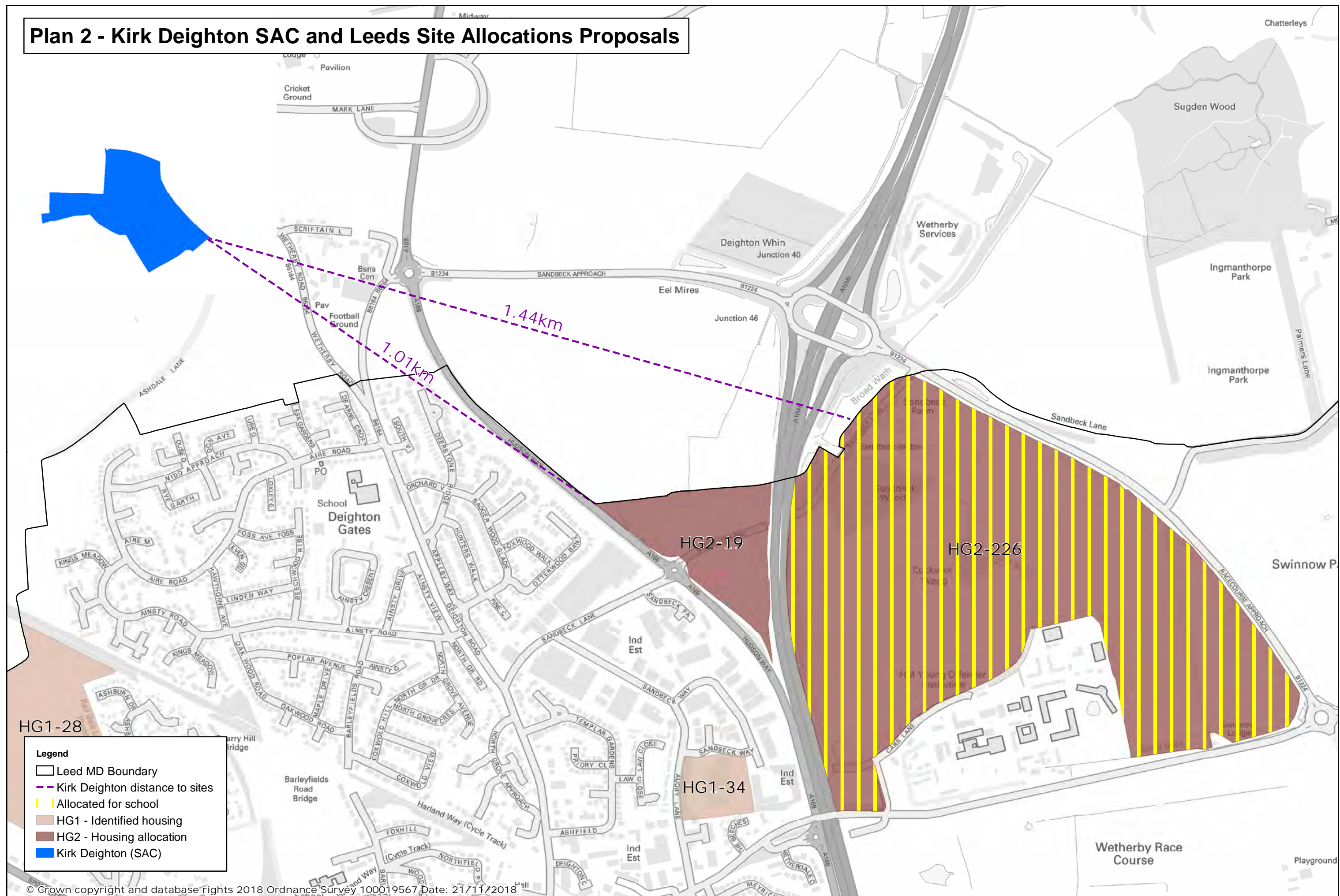
- Leeds City Council Wards
- Housing Market Characteristic Areas
- North Pennine Moors (SAC/SPA) - 2.5km buffer
- South Pennine Moors (SAC/SPA) - 2.5km buffer
- North Pennine Moors (SAC/SPA) - 7km buffer
- South Pennine Moors (SAC/SPA) - 7km buffer
- North Pennine Moors (SAC/SPA)
- South Pennine Moors (SAC/SPA)
- Denby Grange Colliery Ponds
- Kirk Deighton
- EO1 - Identified office employment
- EO2 - Office allocation
- EG1 - Identified general employment
- EG2 - General employment allocation
- HG1 - Identified housing
- HG2 - Housing allocation
- MX1 - Identified mixed use
- MX2 - Mixed use allocation
- HG3 - Safeguarded land
- Green Space



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Plan 2 - Kirk Deighton SAC and Leeds Site Allocations Proposals



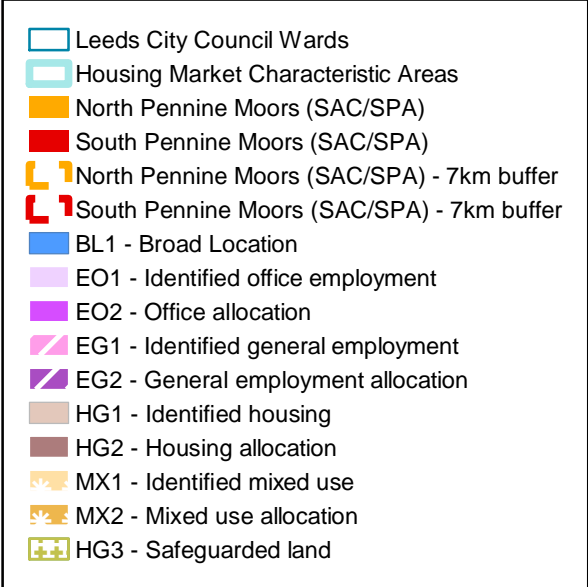
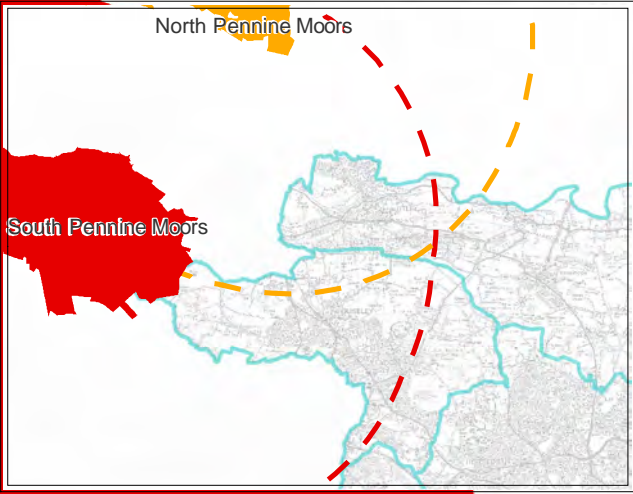
5. Appropriate Assessment Stage

- 5.1 An integral requirement of the HRA Appropriate Assessment process, is to provide an Assessment of Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) on Site Integrity both alone and in-combination with other plans and projects.
- 5.2 The two potential recreational impacts on Site Integrity of the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC identified in para. 4.6 are assessed in this section. Firstly there is a consideration of the number of additional houses arising from the SAP in the 7km zone of influence. Secondly there will be consideration of the impacts on Site Integrity arising from any increase in recreational visits. Thirdly, if there was found to be an impact on Site Integrity new measures will need to be agreed with Natural England and put in place as part of this SAP through a Main Modification.
- 5.3 Plan 3 shows the new housing growth in Leeds MD within the 7km zone of influence for potential recreational disturbance (identified by the South Pennine Moors Visitor Survey). There are currently 20,019 existing or already committed homes in this area. Plan 3 shows that through the Site Allocations Plan there are a further 11 sites proposed to 2023, with a total capacity of 627 units. Plan 3 also shows in blue (for information) the 4 previously proposed housing allocations which were proposed to be removed from the Green Belt but are now proposed to be deleted via Main Modifications. The effect of this is that 586 units less will be allocated for housing than that initially proposed. Therefore, since the Examination in Public the number of units in the 7km zone of influence for recreational disturbance has been reduced from 1213 to 627 units.

Allocations in 7km recreational zone of influence

Allocation Ref.	Name of allocation	Distance from S Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC in km	Capacity in units
HG2-1	New Birks Farm	3.0	160
HG2-2	Wills Gill	4.6	133
HG2-4	Hollins Hill	3.8	80
HG2-6	Silverdale Av	4.4	32
HG2-7	Swaine Hill Terr	5.5	7
HG2-8	Kirkland House	5.6	17
HG2-9	Victoria Av	6.8	102
HG2-13	White Croft Garth	4.6	16
HG2-229	Old Mill Miry Lane	6.0	15
MX2-1	Ashfield Works	4.6	50
MX2-2	Westgate	4.7	15

Plan 3 - European Designations and Leeds Site Allocations Proposals



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- 5.4 In terms of future housing growth across Leeds (including within Aireborough and North West Leeds HMCA's) 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 (less likely to travel for recreational opportunities) 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 11 new sites within Aireborough and North West Leeds where a variety of needs (consistent with the Strategic Housing Market Assessment evidence) will need to be addressed. Consequently, the increase in housing will comprise a variety of types to meet identified needs. It can be assumed therefore that a proportion of these will not generate additional visitor trips to the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC due to the demographic profile of new residents. Therefore it is considered that although 627 housing units will be delivered in the 7km zone of influence (this equates to an additional population of approximately 1379 at a rate of 2.2 persons per household) some of those are unlikely to generate additional visits to the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC.
- 5.5 In order to understand the contribution that visitors from Leeds MD make to recreational visits to the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC Natural England advised that the Bradford City Council Visitor Survey results from 2013 should be analysed (see Appendix 10 for Natural England advice dated 15th July 2015 on the relevant 2013 Visitor Survey dataset and analysis, together with subsequent response received from Natural England Appendix 9). 1,378 adult visitors in 806 groups to the SPA/SAC were surveyed, these visitors came with 543 dogs. Of the visitors surveyed the contribution from Leeds was able to be identified using the postcode data provided.
- 5.6 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 7 and 8, where it is proposed that for the purposes of this Appropriate Assessment, 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.
- 5.7 This is a relatively small proportion of the overall total number of visitors, and helps provide an understanding of the existing base-line scenario. This Appropriate Assessment provides consideration whether any new measures are required to avoid any adverse impacts on Site Integrity of the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC from any increase in numbers of visitors arising from the new 627 allocations in the 7km zone of influence.
- 5.8 The relation between any potential additional recreational impacts on Site Integrity is explained below:

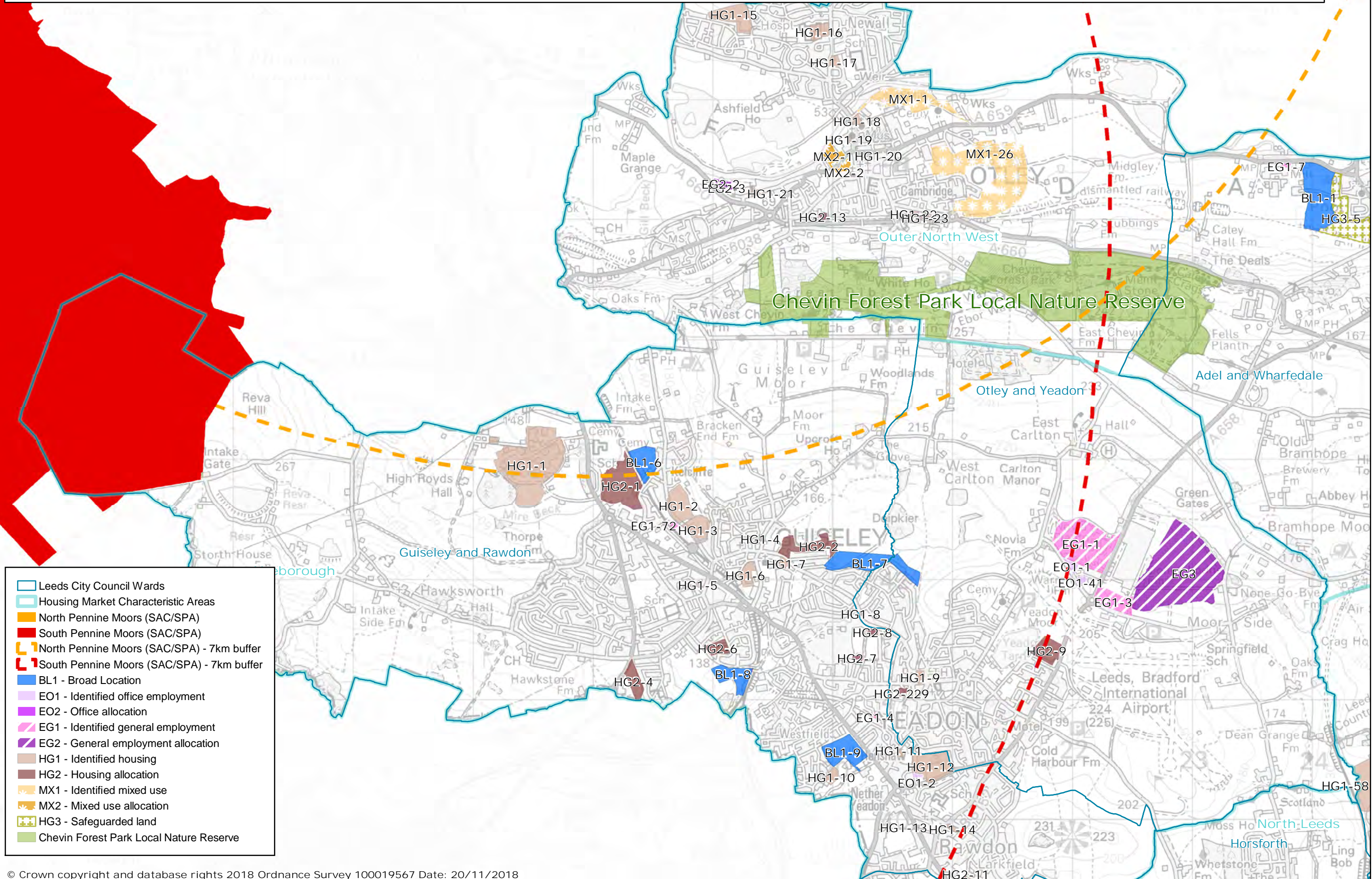
Recreational impacts on qualifying birds and the breeding bird assemblage (as per Appendix 1 column 4)

- South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA - the recreational impacts arising from additional visits from residents of the 627 new homes (from public access and dogs off leads) are potentially to feeding and breeding birds on the ground (relevant bird species in this case being the qualifying species Merlin and Golden Plover, together with all the breeding bird assemblage Lapwing, Curlew, Dunlin, Snipe, Redshank, Common Sandpiper, Short-eared Owl, Whinchat, Wheatear, Ring Ouzel and Twite).

Recreational impacts on qualifying habitats (as per Appendix 1 column 4)

- South Pennine Moors SAC - the recreational impacts arising from additional visits from residents of the 627 new homes (from public access) are potentially degradation to the structure and function of the qualifying habitats features (Atlantic wet heaths, Wet heathland, Dry heathland, Blanket bogs, Transition mires and Quaking bogs, Very wet mires, and Old sessile Oak woods).
- 5.9 When considering whether the 627 new homes in the 7km zone of influence will impact on Site Integrity it is also necessary to consider whether there is existing green space in Leeds MD of a scale and typology that can deflect recreational visits from the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC. In 2015 the HRA Screening Stage of the SAP considered the role of existing green space in North West Leeds and whether this provides a role in absorbing recreational visits from nearby residents. At that time the number of proposed allocations in the 7km zone of influence was 1 213 new homes (higher than the current 627 figure).
- 5.10 A meeting with Natural England took place on 21st May 2015 (see Appendix 10) to consider whether the existing green spaces managed by Leeds City Council (Otley Chevin Forest Park and the North West Leeds Country Park & Green Gateways project) could be considered to play an acceptable role in diverting and deflecting visitors away from visiting the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC.
- 5.11 It was agreed by Natural England that continued management and improvement of existing open spaces in North West Leeds would provide sufficient certainty that any LSEs would be avoided – it should be noted that in 2015 these measures were considered as part of the HRA Screening Stage but since the judgment in *People over Wind* (referred to in para. 1.6) these existing measures (stated below) are now being considered under the Appropriate Assessment stage for this SAP rather than being screened out at the Screening Stage.
- 5.12 The existing measures that provide the role in deflecting recreational visits from the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC are the management and enhancement of the following alternative accessible green spaces in North West Leeds:
- The Chevin Forest Park Local Nature Reserve (Plan 4)
 - The North West Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways project (Plan 5)
- 5.13 The Chevin Forest Park LNR is a significant area of accessible green space (180 hectares) providing residents of Leeds with access to natural green space that is a viable alternative to visiting the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC. Visitor Survey information (see Appendix 4) from annual surveys of visitors to Chevin Forest Park between 2004 and 2006 concluded that the Chevin Forest Park has

Plan 4 - European Designations and Leeds Site Allocations Proposals in relation to Chevin Forest Park Local Nature Reserve



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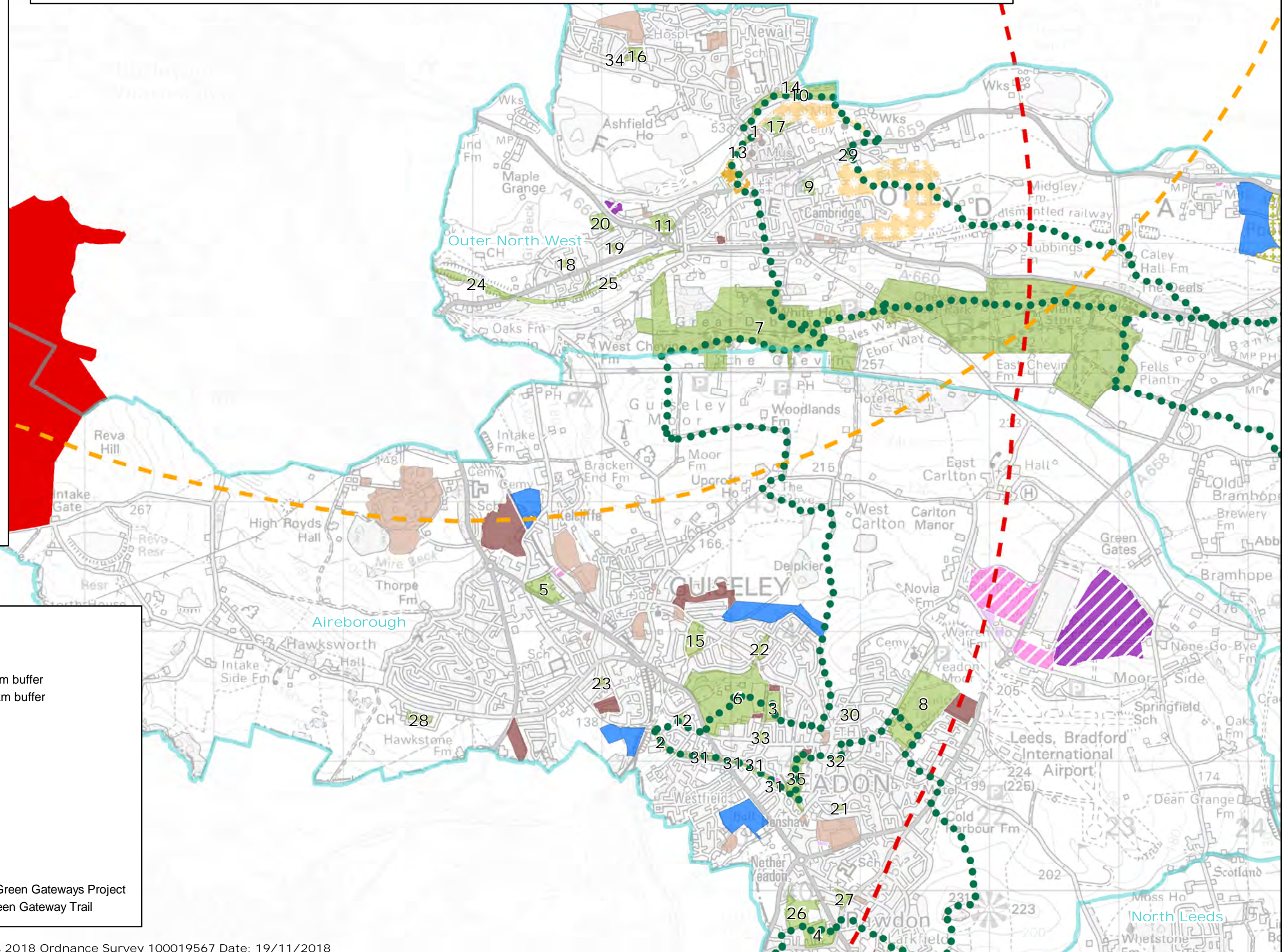
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North West Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways Project

- 1 Titty Bottle Park
- 2 Engine Fields
- 3 Kirk Lane Park
- 4 Mickelfield Park, Rawdon
- 5 Nethermore Park, Guiseley
- 6 Nunroyd Park, Guiseley
- 7 Otley Chevin Country Park
- 8 Tarnfield Park, Yeadon
- 9 Wellcroft
- 10 Wharfemeadows Park
- 11 Grove Hill Park, Otley
- 12 Fairfax Grove POS
- 13 Manor Garth
- 14 Farnley Lane
- 15 Shaw Lane Recreation Ground
- 16 Weston Drive Sports Field
- 17 Garnetts Field
- 18 Pegholme Drive POS
- 19 Cayton Road Playing Field
- 20 Grove Hill Cricket Ground
- 21 Henshaw Oval
- 22 Nunroyd Beck (Shaw Lane)
- 23 Hawkhill Avenue
- 24 Old Railway Line Off Bradford Road
- 25 Old Railway Off Otley Road
- 26 New Road Side Playing Fields
- 27 Little Moor
- 28 Hawksworth Recreation Ground
- 29 Stephencroft Park
- 30 Hawthorn Crescent POS
- 31 Engine Fields
- 32 Harper Terrace
- 33 Swaine Hill Terrace
- 34 Weston Drive - Playground
- 35 Engine Fields

Plan 5 - European Designations and Leeds Site Allocations Proposals in relation to North West Leeds Country Park & Green Gateways project

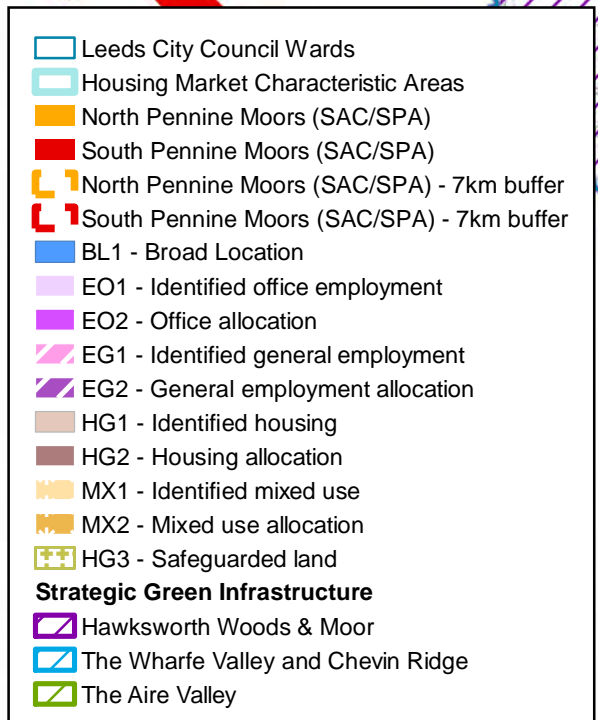
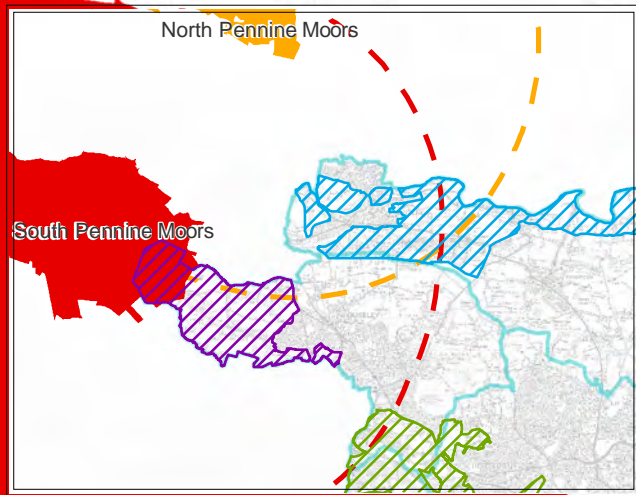
- Housing Market Characteristic Areas
- North Pennine Moors (SAC/SPA)
- South Pennine Moors (SAC/SPA)
- North Pennine Moors (SAC/SPA) - 7km buffer
- South Pennine Moors (SAC/SPA) - 7km buffer
- BL1 - Broad Location
- EO1 - Identified office employment
- EO2 - Office allocation
- EG1 - Identified general employment
- EG2 - General employment allocation
- HG1 - Identified housing
- HG2 - Housing allocation
- MX1 - Identified mixed use
- MX2 - Mixed use allocation
- HG3 - Safeguarded land
- North West Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways Project
- North West Leeds Country Park & Green Gateway Trail



approximately 480 000 visitors per year and most visitors come from within 10km (60% arriving by car).

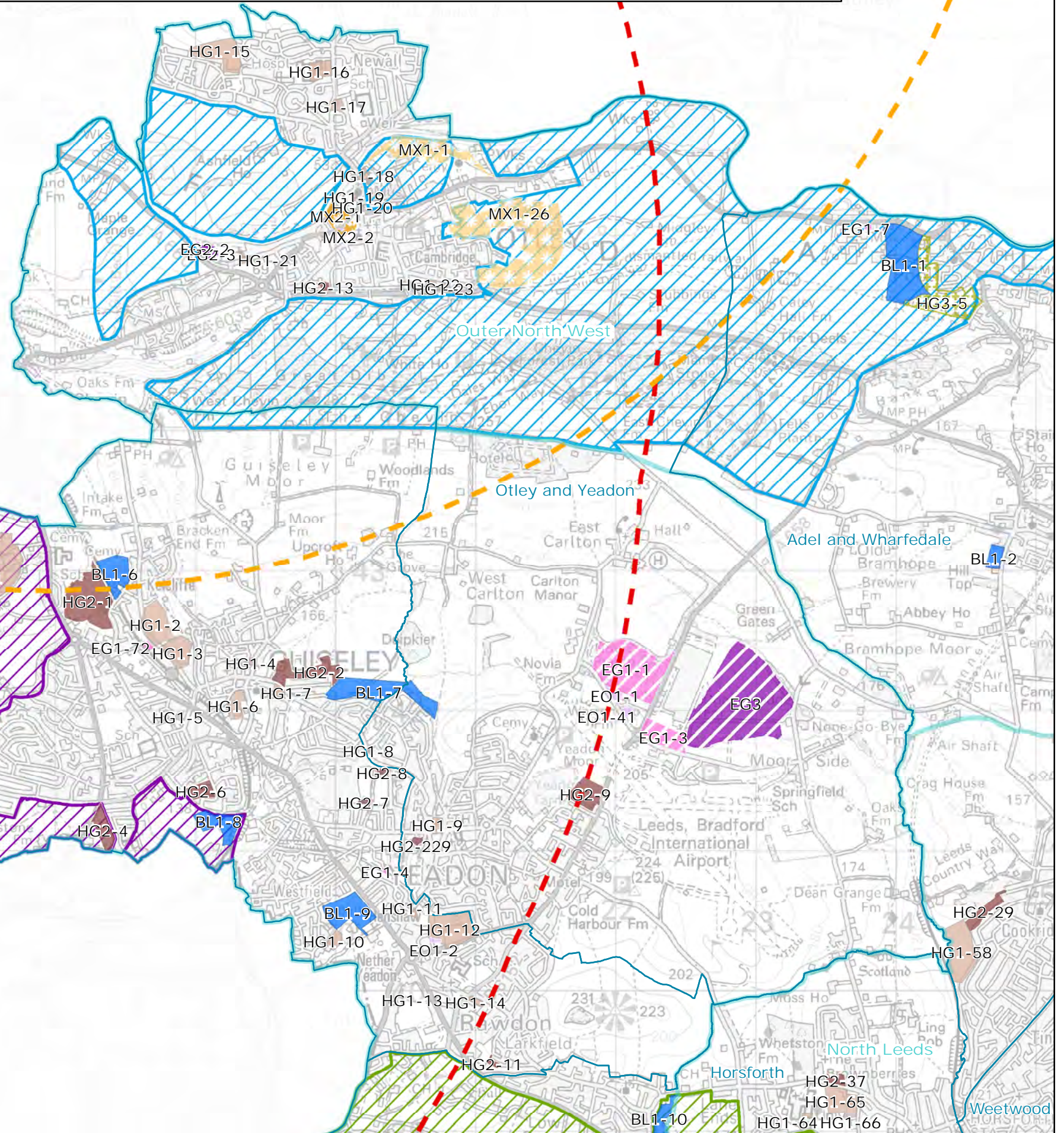
- 5.14 The North West Leeds Country Park & Green Gateways project covers 35 sites (including Chevin Forest Park) of green space in the 7km zone of influence, all of which are managed by Leeds City Council (see Appendix 12 for the latest promotional leaflet for this project – note that it only shows fewer main sites). These areas of green space are predominantly natural green space, and all offer accessible recreational opportunities near to local communities. There is also a walking trail route that connects many of these sites, and it should be noted that the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC is not promoted or signposted in any Leeds City Council recreational marketing information.
- 5.15 The agreement with Natural England that the above green spaces in North West Leeds have a key role in absorbing/deflecting visitor pressure away from the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC has been established since July/August 2015 (see Appendix 9), and therefore forms the focus of any subsequent assessment of impacts on Site Integrity.
- 5.16 In addition to the above existing measures (para. 5.12) there are also existing Core Strategy Policies that relate to:
- Maintaining and enhancing Green Infrastructure (Policy G1 and Spatial Policy 13)
 - Standards for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (Policy G3)
 - New Green Space Provision (Policy G4).
- 5.17 Policy G1 and SP13 apply to the Green Infrastructure (GI) Corridors shown on Plan 6. The supporting text in para. 5.5.2 of the Core Strategy seeks to maintain and enhance GI whilst considering any significant effects on the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC.
- 5.18 Policy G3 sets out standards for Open Space, Sport and Recreation in relation to appropriate provision of new open space. The most relevant type of open space to provide an alternative to visiting the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC is Natural Green Space and this is shown on Plan 7.
- 5.19 Policy G4 seeks provision of 80sqm of green space for every new dwelling. Following an operational review, Policy G4 is being proposed for revision in the Core Strategy Selective Review which was submitted for examination on 9th August 2018. The proposed revision sets a requirement based on the size of dwellings (5 bed dwellings provide more than 1 bed dwellings) which equates to an equivalent contribution of 40sqm of green space per dwelling. If it is not appropriate or possible to deliver all the green space on-site, equivalent financial contributions will be required. Indicator 24 of the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR), underpinned by the Monitoring Framework, provides a basis to monitor the effectiveness of these Policies.

Plan 6 - European Designations and Leeds Site Allocations Proposals in relation to Strategic Green Infrastructure



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Plan 7 - European Designations and Leeds Site Allocations Proposals in relation to Accessible Natural Greenspace

Accessible Natural Greenspace

- 1 Fulford Grange Meadow
- 2 Burras Drive (adjacent to allotments)
- 3 Newall Carr Road
- 4 Westbourne House Woodland
- 5 Gallows Hill Nature Reserve
- 6 Otley Bypass (Adjacent to)
- 7 Rawdon Littlemoor Primary School
- 8 Hawksworth Wood (Guiseley)
- 9 Otley Chevin Country Park
- 10 Little Moor
- 11 Orchard Hill
- 12 Yeadon Banks
- 13 Knotford Nook
- 14 Westbourne Close woodland.
- 15 Cairn Garth
- 16 Ilkley Road Verge
- 17 Cragg Wood North
- 18 Old Railway Off Otley Road
- 19 Springwood Road (Rear of)

- Leeds City Council Wards
- Housing Market Characteristic Areas
- North Pennine Moors (SAC/SPA)
- South Pennine Moors (SAC/SPA)
- North Pennine Moors (SAC/SPA) - 7km buffer
- South Pennine Moors (SAC/SPA) - 7km buffer
- BL1 - Broad Location
- EO1 - Identified office employment
- EO2 - Office allocation
- EG1 - Identified general employment
- EG2 - General employment allocation
- HG1 - Identified housing
- HG2 - Housing allocation
- MX1 - Identified mixed use
- MX2 - Mixed use allocation
- HG3 - Safeguarded land
- Accessible Natural Greenspace

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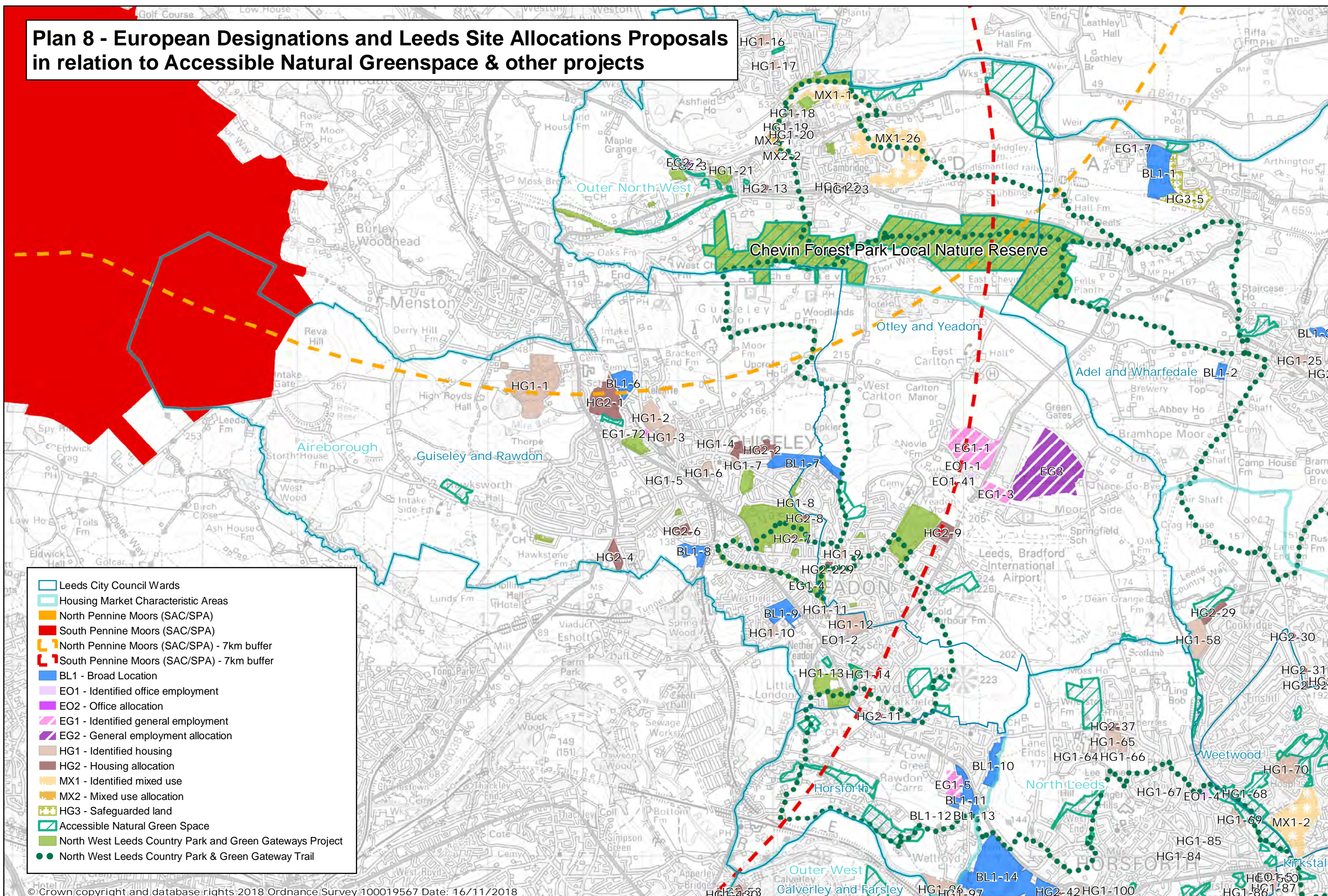
- 5.20 The 40sqm/dwelling requirement is expected to deliver 2.5ha of new green space from the proposed allocations within the 7km zone. Green space is expected to be publicly accessible, and the most commonly favoured typology of green space is “Amenity” which allows for a range of outdoor activities including strolling, sitting, playing, dog walking etc. Further, it is reasonably concluded that provision of any additional new on-site green space (regardless of typology) will have a role to some degree in providing a recreational experience and therefore make a small additional contribution to deflecting visitors from the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC.

Site Ref	Site Name	Dwelling Capacity	Green Space
HG2-1	New Birks Farm	160	6400
HG2-2	Wills Gill	133	5320
HG2-4	Hollins Hill	80	3200
HG2-6	Silverdale Av	32	1280
HG2-7	Swaine Hill Terrace	7	0 ¹
HG2-8	Kirkland House	17	680
HG2-9	Victoria Av	102	4080
HG2-13	White Croft Garth	16	640
HG2-229	Old Mill Miry Lane	15	600
MX2-1	Ashfield Works	50	2000
MX2-2	Westgate	15	600
Total		627	24800

- 5.21 Plan 8 shows all the accessible natural green space together with the Chevin Forest Park and North West Leeds Country Park & Green Gateways project in relation to proposed site allocations. This shows that there is a substantial network of green space resource infrastructure (predominantly of a natural typology) and much of it is in close proximity to the new housing sites.
- 5.22 On the basis of previous assessment and agreement with Natural England (July/August 2015) it can be reasonably assumed that the Chevin Forest Park due to its size and location in relation to the new allocations when compared to the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC would, like existing properties in that similar location, be the preferred destination for recreational visits. This is further supported when the nature of the road network is considered, which provide better and more direct access to the Chevin Forest Park than the Hawksworth Moor part of the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC.
- 5.23 It is considered that the above existing measures will reduce, to an acceptable level, the number of recreational visits to the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC arising from the SAP. This is a conclusion agreed by Natural England in their response dated 20th August 2015 (see Appendix 9) and given the reduction in housing allocations now proposed by the SAP this conclusion still applies. This will avoid any of the impacts on Site Integrity (stated in para. 5.8) from occurring.

¹ Developments of less than 10 dwellings are exempt from the provisions of Policy G4

Plan 8 - European Designations and Leeds Site Allocations Proposals in relation to Accessible Natural Greenspace & other projects



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- 5.24 As there are no adverse impacts on Site Integrity identified (see Appendix 3) there are no new mitigation measures required and therefore no Main Modifications proposed in response to this HRA.
- 5.25 Having regard to the judgment in *People over Wind* (referred to in para. 1.6) it is confirmed that the impact of visits and the existing measures are amongst the matters that the Council has also had regard to as part of this Appropriate Assessment in order to reinforce what is already a comprehensive assessment of the measures that may be required to ensure there are no adverse impacts on the integrity of any European site.
- 5.26 This Appropriate Assessment has had regard to the preparation and status of development plans from the neighbouring authority of Bradford City Council in relation to the LSEs identified and considered in para. 4.5 (see Appendix 6).
- 5.27 Through duty to cooperate mechanisms and consultation with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA), the City Council will continue to work collaboratively with neighbouring authorities including Bradford City Council as a basis to address any strategic or localised 'cross boundary' issues.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 As outlined above, the preparation of the SAP is 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 focus of these changes was to strengthen the balance between the need to plan for housing and economic growth, whilst ensure that there are no adverse impacts arising from this in relation to Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation. (SACs). The SAP needs to be in conformity with the Core Strategy and as a consequence, will need to reflect the policy requirements set out. Within this overall context Core Strategy Policies G1, G2, G3, G4, G6 G8 and G9, provide a comprehensive framework to protect, enhance Green space, Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity across the District. A key focus of these Policies is to require improvements to existing and/or new Green space provision as an integral component of development proposals. The use of both on site and off site green space enhancement and provision (via the Section 106 Agreements and as appropriate the use of CIL monies) help to implement these Policies.
- 6.2 Consistent with the HRA Screening an Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken. This HRA has focused upon the consideration of identified potential recreational LSEs in relation to Conservation Objectives and how these can be addressed. This consideration is based upon existing measures Leeds City Council has in place to maintain and enhance accessible green space within Leeds MD, specifically the positive management of the Chevin Forest Park (which also has Green flag status) and the North West Leeds Country Park & Green Gateways project. These are extensive and comprehensive initiatives which are maintaining and enhancing networks of green space and green infrastructure for the benefit of local communities. Through partnership working, these projects include the provision of countryside walking trails and interpretation facilities – to help enhance these resources as positive experiences for recreation.
- 6.3 These existing measures serve to conclude that there are adequate recreational opportunities provided by existing green space in North West Leeds to reduce any recreational impacts on the Site Integrity of the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC to an acceptable level (in helping to divert and deflect recreation visits away from more sensitive areas) and therefore will not result in any adverse impacts on the Site Integrity of the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC alone or in-combination. Consequently, the SAP will not adversely affect the site integrity of SPAs and SACs and because of this no modification to the SAP or other measures are considered necessary.

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
SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPA)			
*also a Ramsar Site			
SOUTH PENNINE MOORS PHASE 2	<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"> • The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features • The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features • The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely • The population of each of the qualifying features, and, 	Partly within the Leeds MD Boundary, north eastern corner at Ilkley Moor	<p><i>Falco columbarius</i>; Merlin (Breeding) <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>; European golden plover (Breeding) 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
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. 		
NORTH PENNINE MOORS	<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"> The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely The population of each of the qualifying features, and, The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. 	Over 3km north west of Leeds	<i>Circus cyaneus</i> ; Hen harrier (Breeding) <i>Falco columbarius</i> ; Merlin (Breeding) <i>Falco peregrinus</i> ; Peregrine falcon (Breeding) <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ; European golden plover (Breeding)
*HUMBER ESTUARY	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and	Approx. 26.5 km east of Leeds, downstream of the	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i> ; Great bittern (Non-breeding) <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> ; Great bittern (Breeding) <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ; Common shelduck (Non-breeding)

European Site	National (SSSI) and European Conservation Objectives for Each SAC/SPA	Location Relative to Leeds	Qualifying Features
	<p>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"> • The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features • The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features • The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely • The population of each of the qualifying features, and, • The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. 	River Aire and River Wharfe	<p><i>Circus aeruginosus</i>; Eurasian marsh harrier (Breeding) <i>Circus cyaneus</i>; Hen harrier (Non-breeding) <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>; Pied avocet (Non-breeding) <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>; Pied avocet (Breeding) <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>; European golden plover (Non-breeding) <i>Calidris canutus</i>; Red knot (Non-breeding) <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>; Dunlin (Non-breeding) <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>; Ruff (Non-breeding) <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding) <i>Limosa lapponica</i>; Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding) <i>Tringa totanus</i>; Common redshank (Non-breeding) <i>Sterna albifrons</i>; Little tern (Breeding)</p> <p>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>
SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SAC)			
NORTH PENNINE MOORS	<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</p>	Over 3km north west of Leeds	<p>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath European dry heaths <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i>; Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands; Montane acid grasslands</p>

European Site	National (SSSI) and European Conservation Objectives for Each SAC/SPA	Location Relative to Leeds	Qualifying Features
	<p>Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 		<p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone</p> <p>Blanket bogs</p> <p>Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>); Hard-water springs depositing lime</p> <p>Alkaline fens; Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens</p> <p>Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladanii</i>); Acidic scree</p> <p>Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks</p> <p>Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Plants in crevices on acid rocks</p> <p>Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles; Western acidic oak woodland</p> <p><i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>; Marsh saxifrage</p>
KIRK DEIGHTON	<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</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>Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 		
SOUTH PENNINE MOORS	<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"> • The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats 	Within the Leeds MD Boundary, north eastern-most corner at Hawksworth Moor	<p>Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath</p> <p>European dry heaths</p> <p>Blanket bogs*</p> <p>Transition mires and quaking bogs; Very wet mires often identified by an unstable `quaking` surface</p> <p>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
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats, and, • The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely 		
DENBY GRANGE COLLIERY PONDS	<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"> • The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function of habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, 	Approx. 7 km to the south of the Leeds District boundary.	<i>Triturus cristatus</i> ; Great crested newt

European Site	National (SSSI) and European Conservation Objectives for Each SAC/SPA	Location Relative to Leeds	Qualifying Features
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 		
*HUMBER ESTUARY	<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"> The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely The populations of qualifying species, and, 	Approx. 26.5 km east of Leeds, downstream of the River Aire and River Wharfe	<p>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Subtidal sandbanks</p> <p>Estuaries</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats</p> <p>Coastal lagoons</p> <p><i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)</p> <p>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</p> <p>Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>; Dunes with sea-buckthorn</p> <p><i>Petromyzon marinus</i>; Sea lamprey</p> <p><i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>; River lamprey</p> <p><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
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 		

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

Priority and issue	Action No.	Action Wording
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.
	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.
Habitat Fragmentation	2A	Conduct a survey to identify great crested newt breeding/feeding ponds outwith 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
	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.

APPENDIX 2: SCREENING STAGE ASSESSMENT

European Site	Potential Likely Significant Effect (LSE) to consider Taken from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Strategy HRA Screening Determination (previously approved by NE) • NE letter dated 11 May 2015 • Bradford MDC Core Strategy and Waste Management DPD HRA Screening • Site Improvement Plan for Kirk Deighton SAC 	Environmental Consideration	Does it give rise to potential LSE?
South Pennine Moors SPA (Phase 2)			
	Loss of land providing feeding sites for qualifying bird species and bird assemblage within 2.5km of SPA boundary.	No proposed site allocations within 2.5km.	No
	Predation by pets on qualifying bird species and bird assemblage and their nests.	No proposed site allocations within 2.5km.	No
	Recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying bird species and bird assemblage (see Appendix 1 Column 4) from increased visitor numbers to the SPA resulting from any allocations within 7km of the SPA boundary	Site allocations are proposed within 7km of the SPA boundary and existing road infrastructure connectivity exists therefore there may be an LSE through the following recreational impacts: disturbance to ground-nesting birds; disturbance of feeding birds; and degradation of supporting habitat.	Yes
North Pennine Moors SPA			
	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.	No
	Predation by pets on qualifying bird species and bird assemblage and their nests.	No proposed allocations within 2.5km.	No

European Site	Potential Likely Significant Effect (LSE) to consider Taken from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Strategy HRA Screening Determination (previously approved by NE) • NE letter dated 11 May 2015 • Bradford MDC Core Strategy and Waste Management DPD HRA Screening • Site Improvement Plan for Kirk Deighton SAC 	Environmental Consideration	Does it give rise to potential LSE?
	Recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying bird species and bird assemblage from increased visitor numbers to the SPA resulting from any allocations.	Distance of over 5km from site boundary for any housing allocations together with poor existing road infrastructure connectivity in direction of SPA site from any proposed allocations.	No
Humber Estuary SPA			
	Loss of land providing feeding sites for qualifying bird species and bird assemblage in close proximity of SPA boundary.	The River Aire and Wharfe is connected to the Humber Estuary but the site is 26.5km to the east of Leeds.	No
	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.	No
South Pennine Moors SAC			
	Recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying habitats (see Appendix 1 Column 4) 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 adverse impacts through habitat degradation.	Yes
	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 - no roads within 200metres of SAC affected by proposed allocations.	No
North Pennine Moors SAC			

European Site	Potential Likely Significant Effect (LSE) to consider Taken from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core Strategy HRA Screening Determination (previously approved by NE) NE letter dated 11 May 2015 Bradford MDC Core Strategy and Waste Management DPD HRA Screening Site Improvement Plan for Kirk Deighton SAC 	Environmental Consideration	Does it give rise to potential LSE?
	Recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying habitats from increased visitor numbers to the SAC	Distance of over 5km from SAC boundary for housing allocations - together with poor existing road infrastructure connectivity in direction of SAC site from any proposed allocations.	No
	Increased acid and nitrogen deposition from transport or industrial sites giving rise to emissions	Distance of over 5km from site boundary for housing and employment allocations - no roads within 200metres of SAC affected by proposed allocations.	No
Kirk Deighton SAC			
	Change in land management within the site	Not affected.	No
	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 1.01km 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 as	No

European Site	Potential Likely Significant Effect (LSE) to consider Taken from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Strategy HRA Screening Determination (previously approved by NE) • NE letter dated 11 May 2015 • Bradford MDC Core Strategy and Waste Management DPD HRA Screening • Site Improvement Plan for Kirk Deighton SAC 	Environmental Consideration	Does it give rise to potential LSE?
		obstructions to expand the metapopulation.	
	Increased water abstraction from new dwellings or economic development.	Distance of 1.01km from nearest site boundary and lack of hydrological connectivity to any proposed allocations.	No
	Increased acid and nitrogen deposition from transport or industrial sites giving rise to emissions	Distance of 1.01km from nearest site boundary for housing and further for employment allocations - no roads within 200metres of SAC affected by proposed allocations (see Appendix 11).	No
Denby Grange Colliery Ponds SAC			
	Change in land management within the site	Not affected.	No
	Habitat fragmentation caused by loss of ponds and terrestrial habitat used by GCN metapopulation outside the site (within 500m of site boundary).	Not affected.	No
	Increased water abstraction from new dwellings or economic development.	Distance of 7km from Leeds boundary and lack of hydrological connectivity to any proposed allocations.	No
	Increased acid and nitrogen deposition from transport or industrial sites giving rise to emissions	Distance of 7km from Leeds boundary - no roads within	No

European Site	Potential Likely Significant Effect (LSE) to consider Taken from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Strategy HRA Screening Determination (previously approved by NE) • NE letter dated 11 May 2015 • Bradford MDC Core Strategy and Waste Management DPD HRA Screening • Site Improvement Plan for Kirk Deighton SAC 	Environmental Consideration	Does it give rise to potential LSE?
		200metres of SAC affected by proposed allocations.	
Humber Estuary SAC			
	Increased water abstraction from new dwellings or economic development.	Reduction in volume of freshwater reaching Humber Estuary. The site is 26.5km to the east of Leeds.	No
	Increased waste water production from new dwellings or economic development.	Decrease in water quality of freshwater reaching Humber Estuary. The site is 26.5km to the east of Leeds.	No
	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. No new barriers to fish movement proposed.	No

APPENDIX 3: ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS ON SITE INTEGRITY

South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA

Conservation Objectives To maintain or restore the:	Potential impact on Site Integrity as identified in Appendix 2 Screening Stage	Are there measures that will reduce, to an acceptable level, the number of recreational visits to the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC arising from the SAP?	Will there be an impact in Site Integrity?
Extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features	There is potential for additional recreational pressure having adverse effects on the populations of Annex 1 (Golden Plover and Merlin) and regularly occurring migratory birds (assemblage of breeding birds) within the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA in relation to all these Conservation Objectives	Yes – the existence and continued enhancement of the green spaces provided by Chevin Forest Park LNR and the North West Leeds Country Park & Green Gateways project, together with Core Strategy policies SP13, G1, G3 and G4 have the capacity to reduce recreational visits to the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA to acceptable levels	No
Structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features			No
Supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely			No
Populations of the qualifying features			No
Distribution of the qualifying features within the site			No

South Pennine Moors SAC

Conservation Objectives To maintain or restore the:	Potential impact on Site Integrity as identified in Appendix 2 Screening Stage	Are there measures that will reduce, to an acceptable level, the number of recreational visits to the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC arising from the SAP?	Will there be an impact in Site Integrity?
Extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats	There is potential for additional recreational	Yes – the existence and continued enhancement of the green spaces provided by Chevin Forest Park LNR	No

Structure and function of the qualifying natural Habitats	pressure having adverse effects through disturbance to qualifying habitats of the South Pennine Moors SAC in relation to all these Conservation Objectives	and the North West Leeds Country Park & Green Gateways project, together with Core Strategy policies SP13, G1, G3 and G4 have the capacity to reduce recreational visits to the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA/SAC to acceptable levels	No
Supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely			No

APPENDIX 4: 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 5 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

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



Residents Survey in 2005 indicates that 60% of visitors arrive at The Chevin by car, and that most visitors come from within 10km – 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 Jngs 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 5: LEEDS CITY COUNCIL, PARKS & COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE - CHEVIN FOREST PARK 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", "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

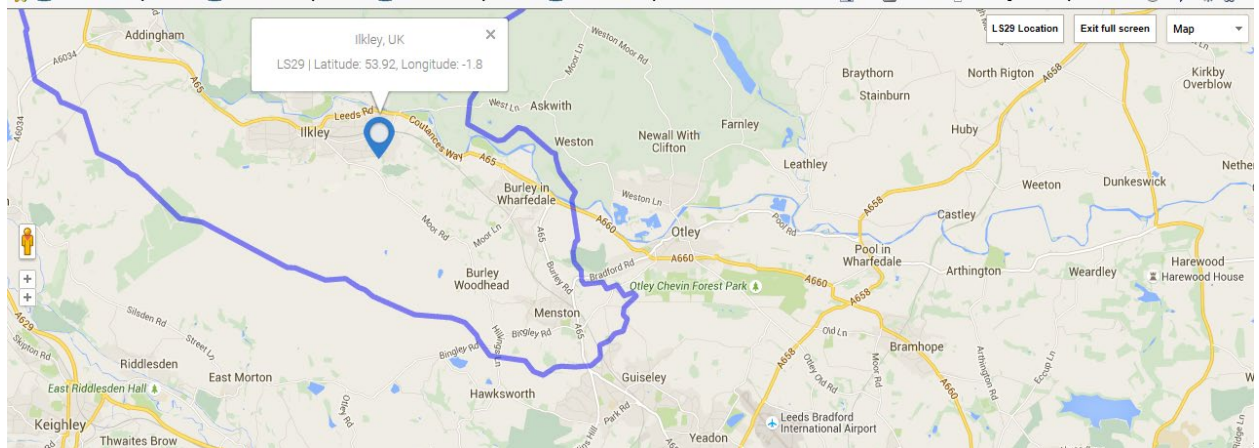
AIM	To Provide Suitable Opportunities For A Range of Visitors
OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure paths and access features are suitable for walkers, horse-riders and cyclists all year • Ensure orienteering route is maintained and maps are available to the public • Encourage continued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

APPENDIX 6: ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS (LSEs) IN-COMBINATION

EUROPEAN SITE	Identified Likely Significant Effect (LSE)	Relevant Plans, Strategies etc. (other than Leeds)	In Combination Effect -after consideration of Relevant Plans, Strategies etc. (other than Leeds) will a LSE occur?
South Pennine Moors SPA (Phase 2)	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	Bradford City Council Core Strategy	No – Bradford have put measures in place through their Appropriate Assessment and Leeds City Council have measures in place through provision of accessible natural green space and positive management/promotion of natural green space sites closer to any relevant allocated sites in Leeds
South Pennine Moors SAC			
	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	Bradford City Council Core Strategy	No - Bradford have put measures in place through their Appropriate Assessment and Leeds City Council have measures in place through provision of accessible natural green space and positive management/promotion of natural green space sites closer to any relevant allocated sites in Leeds

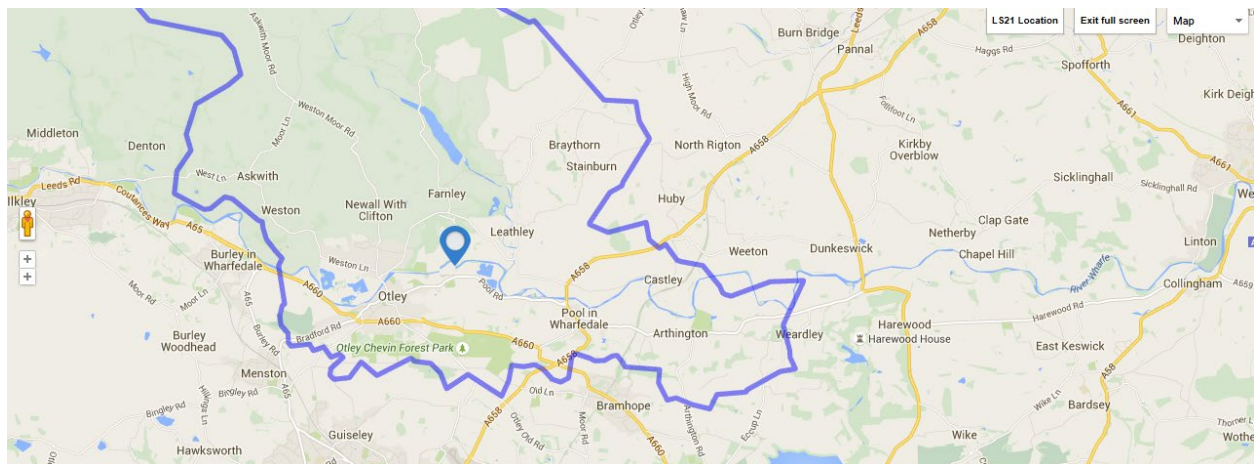
APPENDIX 7: VISITOR SURVEY 2013 - SIGNIFICANT OVERLAPPING POSTAL DISTRICTS

LS29 Postal District



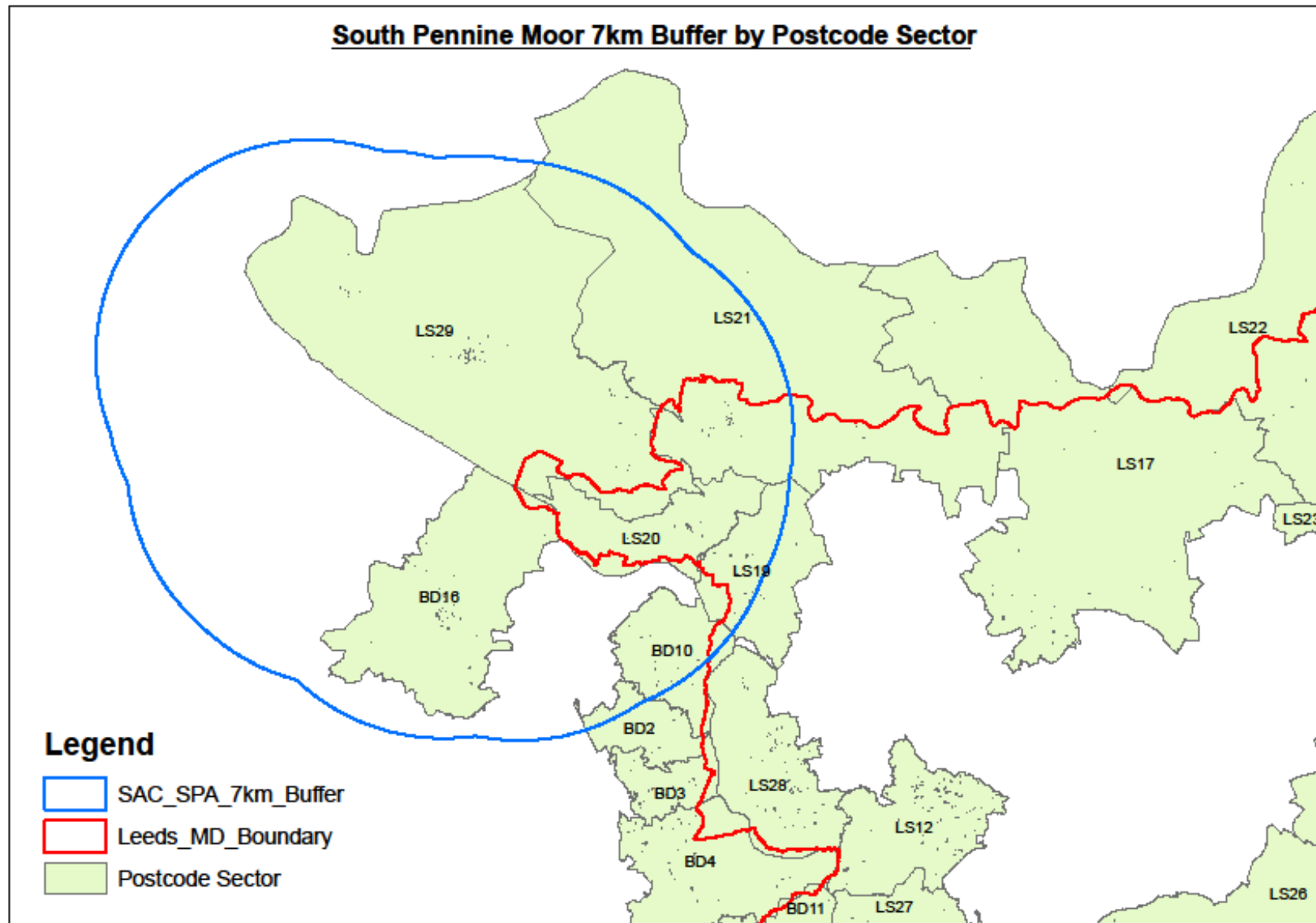
The LS29 postcode District contains very few properties in Leeds and the only main area of housing is the former Highroyds Hospital comprising around 500 units to the north east of Guiseley. The remainder of the area contains the settlements of Ilkley, Addingham, Menston and Burley in Wharfedale. Visitors 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 8: VISITOR SURVEY 2013 - POSTCODE SECTORS



APPENDIX 9: FORMAL RESPONSE FROM NATURAL ENGLAND CONFIRMING THE CAPACITY OF THE CHEVIN FIREST PARK AND OTHER GREEN SPACES TO ABSORB ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL USE ARISING FROM NEW ALLOCATIONS

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

BY EMAIL ONLY

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/Illkley 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



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

T 0300 060 3900

03000604129. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to 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

APPENDIX 10: REQUEST FROM NATURAL ENGLAND TO USE 2013 BRADFORD COUNCIL VISITOR SURVEY DATA & CONFIRMATION THAT LEEDS GREENSPACE QUALITY AND CAPACITY CAN DEFLECT VISITORS FROM SOUTH PENNINE MOORS PHASE2 SPA/SAC

From: Feeney, David [<mailto:David.Feeney@leeds.gov.uk>]

Sent: 05 August 2015 09:20

To: King, John J (NE)

Cc: Ash, Merlin (NE); Marsh, Richard

Subject: RE: Leeds Allocations and Area Action Plan HRA

Dear John

Further to your helpful reply below, please find attached a revised draft of the HRA Screening to reflect your further advice. These are covered in additional material in paras. 5.3 – 5.7 and new Appendix 6 and 7. Appendix 5 has also been updated to reflect your comments.

We are planning to commence our formal public consultation on 10th September, your urgent response by end of August at the latest) would therefore be appreciated. In the meantime, if you have any further questions please give me a ring or email.

Many thanks

David Feeney

Head of Forward Planning & Implementation

City Development

Leeds City Council

0113 2474539

From: King, John J (NE) [<mailto:John.King2@naturalengland.org.uk>]

Sent: 15 July 2015 14:36

To: Feeney, David

Cc: Ash, Merlin (NE)

Subject: Leeds Allocations and Area Action Plan HRA

Dear David,

Both Merlin and I have reviewed the revised HRA (July 2015). Please accept this email as Natural England's interim advice.

The HRA has been amended significantly and addresses many of our previous concerns as set out in our letter dated 11 May 2015 and discussed at the meeting on the 21 May 2015.

Natural England welcomes the additional information regarding the Council's green space and parks management programmes in North West Leeds and the capacity of the Chevin to absorb existing levels of public use and further increases as a result of the allocations. As discussed the existence of these areas of

open space and the rights of way network provide opportunities to intercept visitors who would otherwise use the South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC for recreation.

In order to avoid LSE and avoid an appropriate assessment of adverse effects, greater certainty regarding likely visitor numbers to the SAC/SPA is required.

As advised the HRA should be supported by the visitor data collected by Bradford to determine what contribution residents of Leeds make to disturbance and trampling within the site. References to Bradford's HRA are made, however discussions regarding numbers are absent. Without this data within the HRA, the judgement that the existing greenspace has capacity to deflect visitors away from the SPA and SAC are entirely subjective.

Alongside visitor numbers on the site, an analysis of those allocations within the 7km zone and the likely population increase would support a determination of LSE and establish whether the capacity of existing open spaces is sufficient. This was discussed at the meeting. If the population increase is low it would seem likely that the Chevin and other areas are likely to have sufficient capacity (provided improvement programmes are in place).

The in combination assessment would benefit from the above evidence, particularly the visitor data held by Bradford. The HRA appears to rely on Bradford's own mitigation measures which address their contribution. Leeds cannot rely on Bradford's measures as these address their effects, not Leeds. Leeds should rely on its own measures to avoid LSE in-combination.

If the HRA confidently determines that the avoidance measures can absorb the likely increase in visitors and no net additional visitors will be generated (current facilities and improvements will deflect existing as well as future residents resulting in no net increase) then in combination would be avoided.

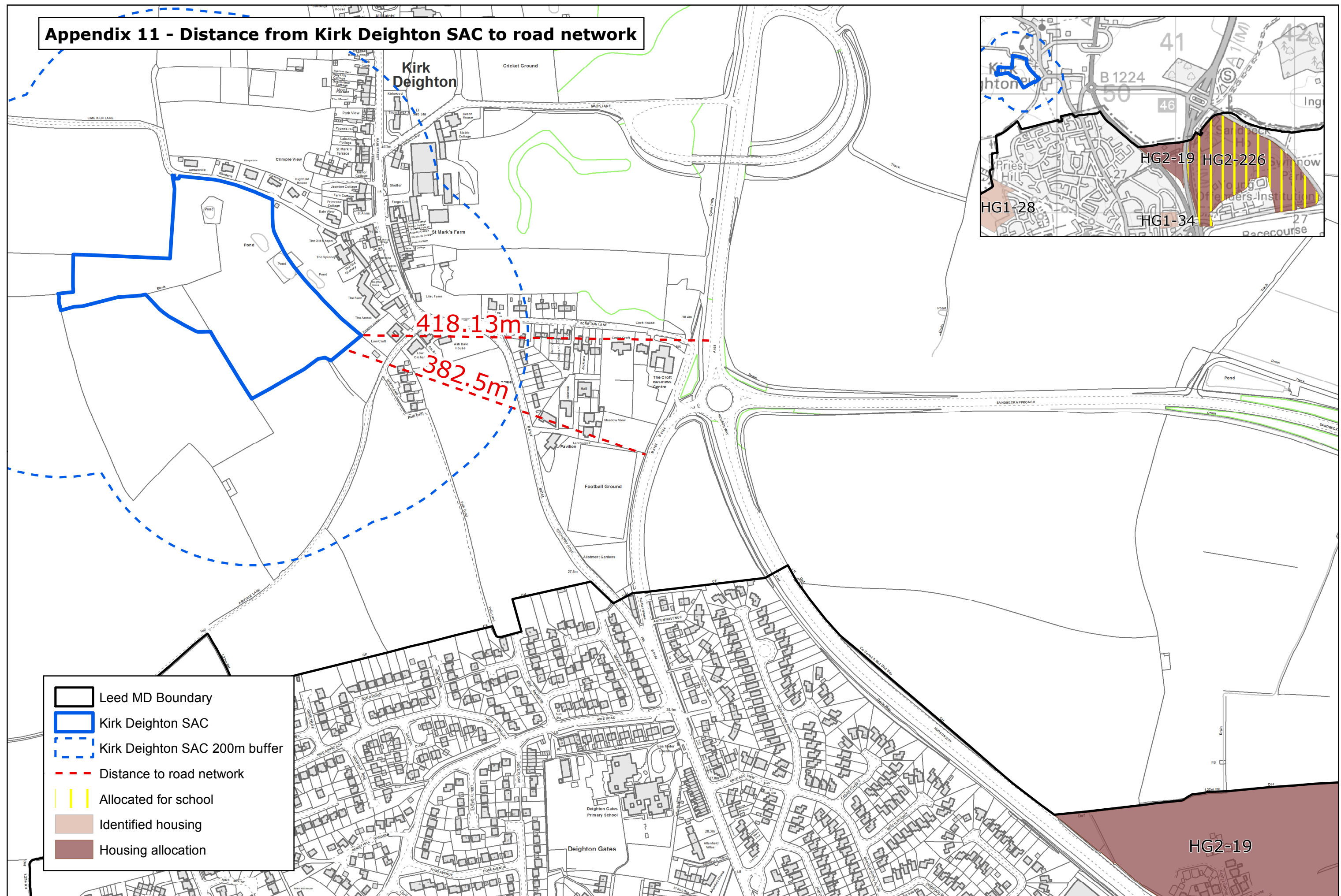
In summary, whilst the HRA requires further evidence to support the assumptions already made, provided this evidence is included a determination of no LSE could be made.

Regards

*John King
Lead Adviser Sustainable Development and Marine*

*Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire
Natural England
8 City Walk Leeds LS11 9AT*

Appendix 11 - Distance from Kirk Deighton SAC to road network



APPENDIX 12: PARKS & COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE
LEAFLET FOR NORTH WEST LEEDS COUNTRY PARK
AND GREEN GATEWAY PROJECT



Over the years notable stately homes were built and new Grange adjacent to Becketts Park and then purchased in 1834 by the Duke of Devonshire. The building is now part of the Leeds Beckett University. William Beckett commissioned the classical archway in Queen's Wood to commemorate the visit of Queen Victoria in 1855 to inaugurate the Leeds Town Hall. A housing development on Avenue de Thiroudelle near Pool in Whitefield was initiated by the builder Thomas Swallow in the early 1900s.

improved depending on the mill's usage. Thus Kirkstall Forge water from Abbey Mill Race that originated from Oil Mill Beck. However in the 17th century when the mill was working as a forge more water power was required so Kirkstall Forge got brought water from the River Aire.



History

Over the centuries water-powered mills arose, they include the Grade II listed Corn Mill Fold by Oll Mill Beck in Horsforth Tannery by Meanwood Beck started life as a corn mill during the 18th century. Similarly Meanwood Beck was built in the late 18th century. Kirkstall Mill in Horsforth was dissolved the monks owned around 1152. The most important development came with the Abbots Adda area. The remains of a Roman settlement in the 19th and Bronze Age communities, as well as Roman Neolithic and Bronze Age communities, and there is evidence of a place for settlement over millennia, and there is evidence of the green corridors within the Country Park have provided a space for settlement over millennia, and there is evidence of Neolithic and Bronze Age communities, as well as Roman occupation as evinced by the remains of a Roman settlement in the Adda area. The most important development came with the dissolution of monks, who built Kirkstall Abbey in 1152. 800 hectares of land much of it in the Northwest Leeds area.



A downward road on easternly route is taken to reach the Oil Mill Road. Thereafter the trail climbs to reach Buckeye Hill before dropping down to the Kikkisal Forge Development site and Kikkisal Abbey Park by the river Aize. Thereafter the trail crosses eastwards to Beckets Park, an alternative flatter route is available from Burcher Hill through West Park before reaching Beckets Park. After Beckets Park the route meanders southwards before returning to Woodhouse Moor.

The trail starts at **Woodhouse Moor**, and goes east to follow the **Heanwood Valley** green corridor in a northerly direction before going northeast to **Escarp Reservoir**. The route swings around **Golden Acre Park** before going north through **Branshaw** village and dropping down into the river **Wharfe** valley then up to the **Chewin Forest Park**. An alternative route avoids the drop into the river **Wharfe** valley.

The trail then meanders southward taking in **Yeadon Tarn** before climbing up to the **Bilflings** with its vistas. A more westerly route is taken via **Mickledale Park** to reach the river **Aire** green corridor. A walk south alongside the river then climbs onto **Hunger Hills** with its views.

The Trail

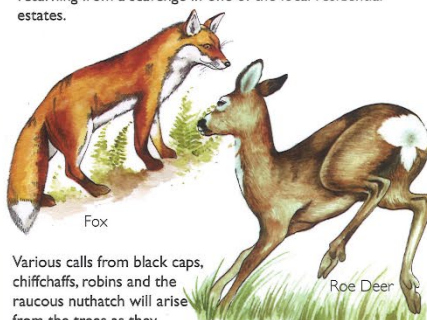
different wildlife habitats such as woodlands, wetlands, meadows, scrubland and heathland.



Wildlife

There is a huge diversity of wildlife in the Northwest Leeds Country Park and much of that can be attributed to the mosaic of different habitats present in the green corridors and green spaces around the conurbations.

A quiet early morning walk in our oak/birch woodlands may reveal roe deer quietly moving through the vegetation or a fox returning from a scavenge in one of the local residential estates.



Various calls from black caps, chiffchaffs, robins and the raucous nuthatch will arise from the trees as they proclaim their territories. Listen out also for the tapping of the Great spotted woodpecker.

A close look at the flowering plants on the woodland floor can reveal wild garlic, bistort and opposite leaved golden saxifrage in moist areas, while drier areas yield wood anemones, lesser celandine, bluebells and wood sorrel. Generally these plants will flower in late spring and die back as the tree canopy develops casting a dense shade.

Moving into areas of hedgerows or woodland glades the speckled wood, comma and orange tip butterflies will be spotted. The latter will lay their eggs on mustard garlic and ladies smock.



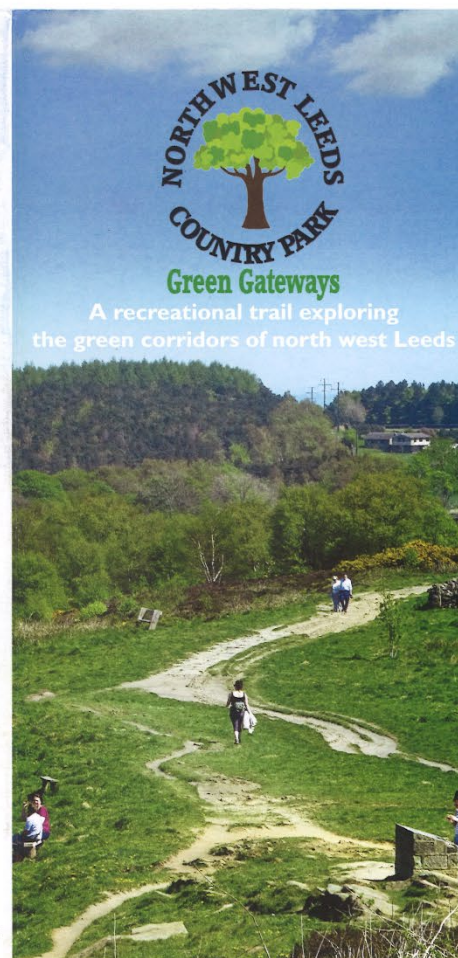
If any woodland ground becomes disturbed then there is a good chance that foxgloves will emerge in the newly created glade.

Grassy glades and fields during the summer will yield a profusion of wild flowers with butterflies such as peacock and tortoiseshells moving among them seeking nectar. Wherever bare sandy ground appears during the late spring, holes arise indicating the activity of solitary mining bees as they prepare their nest chambers with collected pollen. With time open grassy areas become colonised with dispersed young trees and bushes such as hawthorn, hazel and blackthorn creating a scrubby habitat. In these areas whitethroats, chaffinches, greenfinches and willow warblers will be seen.



Moving to the higher ground in the Chevin Forest Park, the heathland is dense with ling and bilberry. The latter is a source of nectar and pollen for the bilberry bumble bee. During the late spring cuckoo bees, mimicking wasps in their colouration, can be seen quartering bare ground in the heathland area looking for solitary bee nests to lay their eggs in.

Large still water bodies such as Paul's Pond and Yeadon Tarn contain a variety of wildfowl with numbers increasing in winter months with migratory wild fowl looking for feeding areas. Come the evening then Natterer's and Daubenton bats make an appearance at Paul's Pond. On fast moving water habitats such as Meanwood Beck and Oil Mill Beck dippers and the metallic blue and orange kingfisher will be seen diving for caddis fly larvae and bullheads respectively. Close inspection of the deep pools in these becks may reveal young brown trout while on the surface mayflies flit over the water laying their eggs.





This leaflet has been generously funded by



When visiting countryside areas please act responsibly and follow the country code:

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people.

This map shows the route of the trail (indicated by the yellow dots). The full circular route is 41 miles (66 km) long. Further leaflets will be available providing more detailed information on the route and its local and natural history.

The grand New Grange is now part of Becketts University



Green Gateways

The Trail helps you explore the green spaces and corridors in northwest Leeds which have a rich local and natural history. The green corridors are important routes used by our wildlife to colonise new green spaces and for sources of food during migration periods. In turn the corridors are a great way for us to access the wider countryside avoiding busy roads and large residential areas.

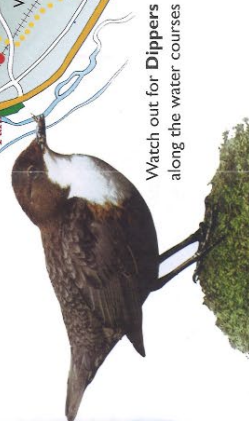
Starting at Woodhouse Moor, close to the city centre, the trail explores some 43 miles of paths, some of which may be rugged underfoot. Sensible footwear is recommended.



Set sail at Yeadon Tarn



Meet the animals at Meanwood Valley Urban Farm



Watch out for Dippers along the water courses



The magnificent Seven Arches aqueduct in Scotland Wood



Enjoy the horticultural splendours at Golden Acre Park