

## **Appendix 4: Habitats Regulation Screening Assessment of the Core Strategy Selective Review**

### **Note on the CSSR screening**

The letter and screening assessment set out below have been sent to Natural England, requesting confirmation that the conclusions of the screening be agreed and that an Appropriate Assessment of the CSSR will not be necessary.

This is because in the Council's opinion the policy changes raise no issues with protected nature conservation sites.

The screening concerns the impact that the Core Strategy Selective Review is likely to have on the European Nature Conservation Sites. These include

- North Pennine Moors
- The South Pennine Moors
- Kirk Deighton Special Area of Conservation
- Denby Grange Colliery Ponds Area of Conservation
- The Humber Estuary

The screening has also had regard to a recent judgement of the Court of Justice of the European Union concerning mitigation measures being considered at screening stages and is considered to comply with this judgement.



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Our ref: P&P/CSSR  
Date: 25.06.18

Dear Natural England,

**Re: Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Determination for the Leeds Core Strategy Selective Review**

Leeds City Council sought the opinion of Natural England on its draft HRA Screening of the Core Strategy Selective Review (CSSR) in February 2018 (letter dated 15/02/18). The CSSR concerns a select number of policies of its Core Strategy which were subject to public consultation in February and March 2018 and are anticipated to be submitted in July or August to the Secretary of State for Examination. The matters of review include setting a new housing requirement for the period 2017 – 2033, updating affordable and green space policies, introducing new policies on housing standards (size and accessibility) and updating the sustainable construction Policies EN1 and EN2 to reflect national advice. A new policy requiring provision of electric vehicle charging points in new development is also proposed. These are explained more fully in section 3 of the screening determination below:

I am grateful for your comments on the draft Screening and have modified the Screening accordingly. A revised version is attached. In particular, the City Council has refreshed the assessment against the most recent Regulations (SI 2017 1012) and has made clear in the Introduction that the Screening undertaken for the Core Strategy adopted in 2014 is not being superseded by this Screening. The original Screening will remain relevant for all policy areas, but this Screening covers the impacts of the small number of proposed

policy changes. In-combination effects of neighbouring plan policies were considered in the Screening of the adopted plan 2014, and have also been considered in Table 2 of this Screening. A new Table 3 shows how the connections have been made and considered. Generally, the effect of the CSSR will be largely felt in terms of the proposed reduction in the housing requirement leading to reduced pressure for travel and recreation affecting the European Sites. Nevertheless, the existing measures of the adopted Core Strategy (2014) are retained therefore, it is considered that measures already exist through existing adopted Core Strategy policies and other relevant strategies to balance the effects of the CSSR, such that no new mitigations of the CSSR are necessary.

I can confirm that the screening has had regard to the implications of the People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta judgement of the Court of Justice of the European Union of 12/04/18, and in particular, no mitigation measures of the CSSR are relied upon in this screening.

I am therefore writing to ask the opinion of Natural England whether the screening determination below is regarded as sufficient to conclude that an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations (Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (SI 2017 1012)) will not be necessary.

## **Conclusion**

It is considered that an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations (Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (SI 2017 1012)) is not required as part of the Core Strategy Selective Review submission, as the policies do not give rise to any Likely Significant Effects on the nature conservation objectives of European designated sites. Avoidance mechanisms have already been built into policies either in the Natural Resources and Waste DPD and the adopted Core Strategy. Natural England is being consulted on this Screening Determination and is asked to confirm this conclusion.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me on the email or phone number shown above.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Feeney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

David Feeney  
Head of Strategic Planning

## **HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT: SCREENING DETERMINATION FOR THE LEEDS CORE STRATEGY**

### **1. Introduction**

This Screening Assessment has been carried out to determine if the policies of the Leeds Core Strategy require an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations (Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (SI 2017 1012)). This is required as a result of the European Habitats Directive.

Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC means that Appropriate Assessments are required where plans or projects that are not directly linked to the management of that site may have a significant effect on the conservation objectives and would ultimately affect the integrity of the site. Integrity can be defined as the ability of the site to fulfil its function to continue to support protected habitats or species (a full list of protected habitats and species is provided in Annex I (habitats) and Annex II (species)<sup>1</sup>.

This Screening adds consideration to rather than supersedes the Screening undertaken for the Core Strategy adopted in 2014. That Screening considered potential impacts of all policies of the Plan, including in-combination with other LDFs in the Region. That Screening remains relevant for all the policies and objectives of the Core Strategy that have not been subject to update as part of the Core Strategy Selective Review (CSSR).

In-combination effects considering the combined effects of the plans of neighbouring local authorities are fully examined in Table 3.

### **2. European Nature Conservation Sites and Conservation Objectives**

Table 1 below, sets out the European nature conservation sites of potential relevance to the Core Strategy and the conservation objectives which relate to them. This includes all sites within 10 km of the Leeds City Council administrative boundary and also the Humber Estuary.

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).

Although only a small part of the South Pennine Moors SPA and SAC, Hawksworth Moor is located within the Leeds City Council boundary, the potential impact on other protected sites outside the administrative

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/download/5637/Appropriate-Assessment.pdf>

area must also be assessed. Other sites outside the administrative boundary considered by this screening assessment are:

- 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 and lies 3km North West from the Leeds District boundary<sup>2</sup>;
- The South Pennine Moors SPA & SAC outside Leeds which in total covers 64,000 ha <sup>3</sup> 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 West of Wetherby 500m from the Leeds District boundary<sup>4</sup>;
- Denby Grange Colliery Ponds SAC: This is nearly 19 ha in size and located over 7 km South from the Leeds District boundary near the A637 in Wakefield District; and
- The Humber Estuary which is approximately 37,000 ha covering Humberside and Lincolnshire<sup>5</sup> 26.6km East from the Leeds District boundary.

It is recognised that indirect and secondary effects can theoretically extend even further afield to sites not identified herein (and which do not require specific identification), and references to this are made where appropriate. However, by addressing the appropriate issues for the nearest sites, all sites will benefit from the same policy protections. As an example, transport growth in the region (an 'in combination' effect of housing and economic growth) could lead to emissions which affect sites throughout Yorkshire and the Humber, and potentially even sites outside of the region. However, the policy protections which protect the nearest sensitive sites relate to the avoidance, minimisation and reduction of car usage, and therefore they apply universally to all European Sites.

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<sup>2</sup><http://data.nbn.org.uk/siteInfo/siteSpeciesGroups.jsp?useIntersects=1&allIDs=1&engOrd=1&rcKey=UK0030033&srcDsKey=GA000327>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0030280>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0030178>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0030170>

**Table 1 of European Designations and Conservation Objectives which Relate to These Sites**

European Site	National (SSSI) and European Conservation Objectives for Each SAC/SPA	Location Relative to Leeds	Qualifying Features
<b>Special Protection Areas</b>			
*also a Ramsar Site			
<b>SOUTH PENNINE MOORS PHASE 2</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>• The population of each of the qualifying features, and,</li> <li>• The distribution of the</li> </ul>	Partly within the Leeds District 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
	qualifying features within the site.		
<b>NORTH PENNINE MOORS</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>• The population of each of the qualifying features, and,</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	Over 3 km north west of Leeds	<p><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)</p>

European Site	National (SSSI) and European Conservation Objectives for Each SAC/SPA	Location Relative to Leeds	Qualifying Features
<b>HUMBER ESTUARY *</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>• The population of each of the qualifying features, and,</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site</li> </ul>	<p>Approx. 26.5 km east of Leeds, downstream of the River Aire</p>	<p><i>Botaurus stellaris</i>; Great bittern (Non-breeding)  <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>; Great bittern (Breeding)  <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>; Common shelduck (Non-breeding)  <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

<p><b>NORTH PENNINE MOORS</b></p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> </ul>	<p>Over 3 km north west of Leeds</p>	<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          Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone          Blanket bogs          Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>); Hard-water springs depositing lime          Alkaline fens; Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens          Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>); Acidic scree          Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks          Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Plants in crevices on acid rocks          Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles; Western acidic oak woodland  <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>; Marsh saxifrage</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>		
<b>KIRK DEIGHTON</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li>The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	Approx. 500 m north of Leeds (north east corner)	<i>Triturus cristatus</i> ; Great Crested Newt
<b>SOUTH PENNINE MOORS</b>	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure	Within the Leeds District Boundary, north eastern-most corner at Ilkley Moor	Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath European dry heaths Blanket bogs Transition mires and quaking bogs; Very wet mires often identified by an unstable `quaking`

	<p>that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats, and,</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely</li> </ul>		<p>surface Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles</p>
<b>DENBY GRANGE COLLIERY PONDS</b>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The structure and function of habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The supporting</li> </ul>	<p>Approx. 7 km to the south of the Leeds District boundary.</p>	<p><i>Triturus cristatus</i>; Great Crested Newt</p>

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

	<p>of qualifying species rely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The populations of qualifying species, and,</li><li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li></ul>		
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### **3 Core Strategy Selective Review**

#### *The housing requirement for 2017 - 2033*

- 3.1** Policy SP6 and supporting paragraphs 4.6.1 – 4.6.12 will be replaced with new text. The main evidence for setting the housing requirement comes from the Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2017 which makes a thorough analysis of Leeds' housing needs starting with the Office of National Statistics projections and making adjustments to reflect local evidence on population and employment growth. Consideration is also given to the DCLG consultation in September "Building the Right Homes in the Right Places" which offers a very simplified methodology for local authorities to calculate their housing requirements (simply the ONS household projection plus an uplift to reflect local house price affordability) and an indicative housing need figure. For Leeds the figure given is 2,649 dwellings p.a. (42,384).
- 3.2** A housing requirement figure of 3,247 per annum (51,952 over the plan period) is proposed. This is considerably lower than the current requirement of 4,700 per annum (70,000).

#### *Housing Distribution*

- 3.3** Policy SP7 of the adopted Core Strategy divides the total dwelling supply for allocation (66,000 dwellings) into different geographical areas i) relating to the Settlement Hierarchy (City Centre, Main Urban Area, Major Settlements and Smaller Settlements) ii) relating to the different Housing Market Characteristic Areas (HMCAs).
- 3.4** The proposed revision of SP7 would remove distribution by Settlement Hierarchy altogether. It would retain the same percentage distribution for Housing Market Characteristic Areas but remove the absolute numbers which would no longer add up to the lower total requirement.

#### *Affordable Housing*

- 3.5** Revised Policy H5 proposes to retain the existing affordable housing policies for zone 1 (35%) and zone 2 (15%), and increase them for zone 3 (5% to 7%) and zone 4 (5% to 7%). It updates the detail of the policy by adopting the national size threshold for eligible development, it provides a simpler definition of types of affordable housing, it explains how build-to-rent schemes will be treated and updates advice on commuted sums.

#### *Green Space*

- 3.6** The proposed revision to Policy G5 reduces the scale of the requirement for new residential development to provide green space. The current policy requires 80sqm of greenspace per dwelling but this has proved undeliverable in most cases. The new requirement is a 40sqm equivalent applied to different sized dwellings. The revised

policy will be more responsive to local circumstances in either seeking on-site green space where this is needed or commuted sums for enhancement of existing green space where this would be appropriate.

- 3.7** There are very minor text clarifications that are proposed to Policies G5 (Open Space Provision in the City Centre) and G6 (Protection of Green Space). The change to G5 concerns the definition of what types of open space improvement that any financial contributions in lieu of on-site provision could be spent on. The change to G6 extends the definition of City Centre open space to include the pedestrian corridors that are currently protected in the Council's Unitary Development Plan. It is considered that these changes will have negligible impact, so they do not feature in the list of Core Strategy policies in Table 2 below.

#### *Space Standards*

- 3.8** A proposed new policy H9 will expect all new development of dwellings to ensure the dwellings meet the nationally described space standards. This means minimum internal floor areas will be required for typologies of dwellings.

#### *Access Standards*

- 3.9** A proposed new policy H10 will expect new developments to provide a percentage of dwellings built to accessibility standards. 30% of dwellings should be built to M4(2) standards and 2% of dwellings should be built to M4(3) standards as defined in Building Regulations. The M4(2) standard is roughly equivalent to the well-known "lifetime homes" standard. The M4(3) is a wheelchair standard.

#### *Policies EN1 and EN2*

- 3.10** As a result of a ministerial statement in March 2015, these policies requiring higher levels of sustainable construction and lower energy use than required through Building Regulations have to be reined in. The revision seeks to retain what is allowable in the new national policy context. As a result Policy EN1 can no longer ask residential development to achieve energy efficiency standards beyond those of the building regulations, however the requirement for 10% of the energy needs of the development to come from renewable or low carbon energy is retained. Policy EN2 is limited to asking residential development to achieving a higher water standard of 110 litres per person per day. Its advice on non-residential development is unchanged.

- 3.11** As a result of the proposed changes to Policies EN1 and EN2, minor consequential changes are proposed to Policy EN4 and its supporting text. As they have no other effect than reflecting the proposed changes to Policies EN1 and EN2, Policy EN4 does not feature in the list of Core Strategy policies in Table 2 below.

### *Electric Vehicle Charging Points*

- 3.12 New policy EN8 would require new development to provide electric vehicle charging points at a rate of one per dwelling and 10% of commercial development car parking spaces. This policy is intended to reduce air quality impacts arising from new development.
- 3.13 The policies have been subjected to Sustainability Appraisal.

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

A Table with the list of policies of the Core Strategy Selective Review and an assessment of whether they could potentially have an impact on the conservation objectives of the European Nature Conservation Sites identified, is provided as **Annex 1**. Where there may be a Likely Significant Effect (LSE) arising from the policy approach, this is given an implication category (e.g. 'transport growth'). Table 2 then considers Pre-Existing Mitigation from Other Processes, Plans & Strategies to assess whether any LSE would arise. Where an LSE upon European sites is identified, an Appropriate Assessment will be required in relation to individual site allocations or planning applications.



**Table 2 Assessment of effects on European Nature Conservation Sites.**

European Site	Aspects of the Core Strategy Selective Review that could affect the Site	Relevant Condition Needed to Support Site Integrity	Pre-Existing Mitigation from Other Processes, Plans & Strategies	Is There a Risk of an Adverse Likely Significant Effect which cannot be addressed by Pre-Existing Mitigation from Other Processes, Plans and Strategies?
<p><b>SOUTH PENNINE MOORS SPA PHASE 2 and SAC</b></p> <p><b>NORTH PENNINE MOORS SPA and SAC</b></p> <p><b>HUMBER ESTUARY SPA and SAC</b></p> <p>(INHERENTLY INCLUDES / ADDRESSES SITES NOT NAMED OR FURTHER AFIELD)</p>	<p>Policies: SP6, SP7, G4</p> <p>Revised Policy SP6 will reduce the housing requirement for Leeds from 70,000 dwellings (net) over the plan period to 51,952. This will reduce the recreational pressure on the European Nature Conservation Sites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of habitat against too much recreational pressure, <i>including in combination with other LDFs in the region</i></li> </ul> <p>Includes any travel across the land which can damage vegetation (etc.) or increase erosion of soil. Within limits, recreational use of sites is encouraged, however too much recreational use can cause significant harm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of wildlife and nests from recreational pressure</li> </ul> <p>Includes such issues as direct mortality from dogs (introduced to sites by dog-walkers), and indirect mortality.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy already has mitigating Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy G1 Green Infrastructure supporting text: “In securing such opportunities, consideration will need to be given to the proximity of the South Pennine Moors Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation (Hawksworth Moor). Within this context, developers will need to liaise closely with Natural England, regarding any adverse impact upon this area. Specifically, they should check that their contribution to Green Infrastructure and location with respect to existing networks and corridors, are consistent with the longer nature conservation objectives of this site.”</li> <li>• Policy G3: Standards for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, supporting text: it is noted herein that “In developing Policy G3, the City Council has adopted the highest standard of Natural England’s Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) that it is possible to do given the inherent limitations of a largely urban district.</li> </ul>	<p><u>No</u> – as the policies of the Core Strategy are considered capable of suitably diverting recreational pressure away from European sites within and surrounding Leeds. This includes by diverting existing recreational pressure ‘closer to home’, and also ensuring new development is of a high standard.</p> <p>Follow-up monitoring of the LDF.</p>

European Site	Aspects of the Core Strategy Selective Review that could affect the Site	Relevant Condition Needed to Support Site Integrity	Pre-Existing Mitigation from Other Processes, Plans & Strategies	Is There a Risk of an Adverse Likely Significant Effect which cannot be addressed by Pre-Existing Mitigation from Other Processes, Plans and Strategies?
			<p>This has included a review of the natural greenspace available in the district. The Council aspires to maximise recreation near to where people live, which can achieve more sustainable visitation of sensitive nature conservation sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy SP1: “In meeting the needs of housing and economic development (and in reflecting the conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment Screening), seek to meet development requirements, without adverse nature conservation impacts upon Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation, in particular the South Pennine Moors (including Hawksworth Moor).”</li> </ul>	
<p><b>SOUTH PENNINE MOORS SAC</b></p> <p><b>NORTH PENNINE MOORS SAC</b></p>	<p>Policies: SP6, SP7, G4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection against increased acid and nitrogen deposition from transport growth (see below for industrial emissions). <i>including in combination with other LDFs in the region</i></li> </ul>	<p>Various and numerous. The below is a summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Yorkshire LTP3 – its 2<sup>nd</sup> key objective is “Low Carbon. To make substantial progress towards a low carbon, sustainable transport system for West Yorkshire, while recognising transport’s contribution to national carbon reduction plans.”</li> </ul>	<p><u>No</u> – as the policies of the LTP3 and Core Strategy are considered capable of achieving suitable amounts of modal shift to more sustainable transport modes, combined with a reduction in travel (per capita).</p>

European Site	Aspects of the Core Strategy Selective Review that could affect the Site	Relevant Condition Needed to Support Site Integrity	Pre-Existing Mitigation from Other Processes, Plans & Strategies	Is There a Risk of an Adverse Likely Significant Effect which cannot be addressed by Pre-Existing Mitigation from Other Processes, Plans and Strategies?
<p><b>KIRK DEIGHTON SAC</b></p> <p><b>DENBY GRANGE COLLIERY PONDS SAC</b></p> <p>(INHERENTLY INCLUDES / ADDRESSES SITES NOT NAMED OR FURTHER AFIELD)</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies P10, T1, T2: seek to encourage more sustainable transport choices through design and information provision</li> <li>• Policies SP11, SP12, T2: seek to improve the public transport network, including to key / popular destinations</li> <li>• Policies SP3, SP11, CC2, CC3, T2, G1, G2, G3, G4, G5, G6: seek to improve the pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure and environment, including through 'street scene' / public realm, open space and greenspace</li> <li>• Policies SP1, SP3, SP6, CC1, CC2, H1, H2, H3, H7, T2: seek to maximise residential development with good access (including walking, cycling and public transport) to city and town centre services</li> <li>• Policies SP8, CC1, CC2, EC1, EC2, EC3: seek to locate employment development in places which maximise accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport</li> <li>• Policies SP1, SP8: seek to identify potential users of rail or water for freight movements and locate them at</li> </ul>	

European Site	Aspects of the Core Strategy Selective Review that could affect the Site	Relevant Condition Needed to Support Site Integrity	Pre-Existing Mitigation from Other Processes, Plans & Strategies	Is There a Risk of an Adverse Likely Significant Effect which cannot be addressed by Pre-Existing Mitigation from Other Processes, Plans and Strategies?
			<p>suitable sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies SP2, CC1, CC2, P2, P3, P7: seeks to preserve and improve the services function of city, town and local centres</li> <li>• Policies P7, P9: seek to improve accessibility of services by walking, cycling and public transport outside of centres, as well as within</li> <li>• Policies SP3: seek to improve public transport provision</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	
	None of the Review Policies will impact on industrial site emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection against increased acid and nitrogen deposition from the choice in location of industrial sites which may have emissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy G8: Protection of Important Species and Habitats: <i>See the first row of this table.</i></li> <li>• Policies SP1, SP8, SP9, EC3: aim to maximise the use of previously developed land, and also development which will be in existing, established industrial areas (there are no known existing impacts in these areas)</li> </ul>	<u>No</u> – in the ‘worst case’, there are policies in place which will require proposals to be accompanied by suitable impact assessments and mitigation, and this must include HRA / AA where emissions could affect an international site
<b>HUMBER ESTUARY SPA and</b>	Policies: SP6, SP7,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance of freshwater inputs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yorkshire Water, Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) – sets out how the region will meet the demand</li> </ul>	<u>No</u> – the Leeds housing targets are within the figures used to create the adopted WRMP. The

European Site	Aspects of the Core Strategy Selective Review that could affect the Site	Relevant Condition Needed to Support Site Integrity	Pre-Existing Mitigation from Other Processes, Plans & Strategies	Is There a Risk of an Adverse Likely Significant Effect which cannot be addressed by Pre-Existing Mitigation from Other Processes, Plans and Strategies?
<p><b>SAC</b></p> <p>ANY OTHER SITES WHICH COULD BE AFFECTED BY REGIONAL WATER ABSTRACTION - UNKNOWN</p>	<p>Revised Policy SP6 will reduce the housing requirement for Leeds from 70,000 dwellings (net) over the plan period to 51,952. This will reduce the recreational pressure on the European Nature Conservation Sites</p>		<p>for water consumption from 2010/11 to 2034/35. When published in 2009, it was in part based on regional planning authority figures, and at this time, the RSS was projecting 4,300 net new dwellings in Leeds per annum.</p>	<p>WRMP has been subject to Appropriate Assessment prior to adoption, concluding that it could be implemented without having an adverse impact on European sites. Sustainable design measures will reduce per capita water demand in the district.</p>
<p><b>HUMBER ESTUARY SAC</b></p> <p>ANY OTHER SITES WHICH COULD BE AFFECTED BY WATER FLOW CHANGES AND POTENTIAL BARRIERS</p>	<p>None of the Review policies will impact on migration of fish species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential migration of fish species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy G8: Protection of Important Species and Habitats.</li> <li>Policy EN3: "Protection of internationally designated nature conservation sites will be a key consideration</li> </ul>	<p><u>No</u> – any issues can be addressed by project-level Appropriate Assessment, where necessary</p>
<p><b>SOUTH PENNINE MOORS</b></p>	<p>None of the Review policies will impact on</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection of bird populations</li> </ul>	<p>Natural Resources and Waste DPD, Policy Energy 1: "Under the Habitats Regulations, wind energy generation will</p>	<p><u>No</u> – any issues can be addressed by project-level Appropriate Assessment, where necessary</p>

European Site	Aspects of the Core Strategy Selective Review that could affect the Site	Relevant Condition Needed to Support Site Integrity	Pre-Existing Mitigation from Other Processes, Plans & Strategies	Is There a Risk of an Adverse Likely Significant Effect which cannot be addressed by Pre-Existing Mitigation from Other Processes, Plans and Strategies?
<b>SPA PHASE 2</b>  <b>NORTH PENNINE MOORS SPA</b>	protection of bird populations		not be accepted if it negatively effects bird populations or other nature conservation objectives of the North and South Pennine Moors Special Protection Areas.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy G8: Protection of Important Species and Habitats: <i>See the first row of this table.</i></li> </ul> Policy EN3: “Protection of internationally designated nature conservation sites will be a key consideration, including as per the policies of the Natural Resources and Waste DPD (NRWDPD).	
<b>SOUTH PENNINE MOORS SPA PHASE 2 and SAC</b>  ANY OTHER SITES WHICH COULD BE AFFECTED BY LAND USE CHANGE	SP6, SP7  Revised Policy SP6 will reduce the housing requirement for Leeds from 70,000 dwellings (net) over the plan period to 51,952. This will reduce the potential for loss of habitat in Leeds and increased predation	Land Use Change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of habitat from encroachment by other plants</li> <li>• Protection of birds and bird nests from increased predation by species which hunt or nest in neighbouring land uses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy G8: Protection of Important Species and Habitats:</li> <li>• Policy EN3: “Protection of internationally designated nature conservation sites will be a key consideration... Proposals for biomass power generation are required to supply an assessment of the potential biomass resource available (including location) and transport implications of using that resource”</li> <li>• Policy G2: “In taking forward such proposals, the City Council (and other bodies as appropriate), will need to liaise with Natural England, should</li> </ul>	<u>No</u> – The mitigation incorporated into the Core Strategy is sufficient, and will enable Natural England and the Council to work to identify solutions to any land use change impact which might occur, which are not directly covered by planning.

European Site	Aspects of the Core Strategy Selective Review that could affect the Site	Relevant Condition Needed to Support Site Integrity	Pre-Existing Mitigation from Other Processes, Plans & Strategies	Is There a Risk of an Adverse Likely Significant Effect which cannot be addressed by Pre-Existing Mitigation from Other Processes, Plans and Strategies?
			there by any tree-planting proposals in the near vicinity of the South Pennine Moors Special Protection Area, to ensure its protection from habitat change or the adverse impact of predator species”	

**Table 3: Assessment Of Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) And Potential For In Combination Effects**

<b>EUROPEAN SITE</b>	<b>Identified Likely Significant Effect (LSE). taken from:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Core Strategy HRA Screening Determination (previously approved by NE)</b></li> <li>• <b>NE letter dated 11 May 2015</b></li> <li>• <b>Bradford MDC Core Strategy and Waste Management DPD HRA Screening</b></li> <li>• <b>Site Improvement Plan for Kirk Deighton SAC</b></li> </ul>	<b>After consideration of Pre-Existing Mitigation from Other Processes, Plans &amp; Strategies will a LSE result?</b>	<b>Relevant Plans, Strategies etc. (other than Leeds)</b>	<b>In Combination Effect - after consideration of Relevant Plans, Strategies etc. (other than Leeds) will a LSE occur?</b>
<b>South Pennine Moors SPA (Phase 2)</b>				
	Loss of land providing feeding sites for qualifying bird species and bird assemblage within 2.5km of SPA boundary	No	Bradford LDF Core Strategy	No – the reduced housing requirement of the CSSR will lessen any in combination effects.
	Predation by pets on qualifying bird species and bird assemblage and their nests	No	Bradford LDF Core Strategy	No – the reduced housing requirement of the CSSR will lessen any in combination effects.
	Recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying bird species and bird assemblage from	No	Bradford LDF Core Strategy	No – Bradford have put measures in place through their Appropriate Assessment and the reduced housing



	increased visitor numbers to the SPA resulting from any allocations within 7km of the SPA boundary			requirement of the CSSR will lessen any in combination effects.
<b>North Pennine Moors SPA</b>				
	Loss of land providing feeding sites for qualifying bird species and bird assemblage within 2.5km of SPA boundary	No	Craven District Council emerging Local Plan  Harrogate District Council emerging Local Plan  Bradford LDF Core Strategy	No – no impact as the Leeds MD boundary falls beyond 2.5km catchment.
	Predation by pets on qualifying bird species and bird assemblage and their nests	No		No - no impact as the Leeds MD boundary falls beyond 2.5km catchment
	Recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying bird species and bird assemblage from increased visitor numbers to the SPA	No	Craven District Council emerging Local Plan  Harrogate District Council emerging Local Plan  Bradford LDF Core Strategy	No - Bradford have put measures in place through their Appropriate Assessment and the reduced housing requirement of the CSSR will lessen any in combination effects. Revised Policy G4 is expected to be more effective at delivering viable levels of green space and green infrastructure in relation to new housing development.
<b>Humber Estuary SPA</b>				

	Loss of land providing feeding sites for qualifying bird species and bird assemblage in close proximity of SPA boundary	No	All LDFs from various local authorities in proximity to the Humber Estuary, including (but not limited to) Wakefield, Selby, Doncaster, East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston Upon Hull, North Lincolnshire, West Lindsey, North East Lincolnshire, and east Lindsey.	No – no impact in Leeds, as the designation lies 25km from Leeds MD boundary.  All Development Plans adopted or currently being prepared will need to comply with Sustainability Appraisal and HRA requirements in terms of identifying issues, mitigation and independent examination.
	Recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying bird species and bird assemblage from increased visitor numbers to the SPA	No	All LDFs from various local authorities in proximity to the Humber Estuary, including (but not limited to) Wakefield, Selby, Doncaster, East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston Upon Hull, North Lincolnshire, West Lindsey, North East Lincolnshire, and east Lindsey.	No the reduced housing requirement of the CSSR will lessen any in combination effects. All Development Plans adopted or currently being prepared will need to comply with Sustainability Appraisal and HRA requirements in terms of identifying issues, mitigation and independent examination.
<b>South Pennine Moors SAC</b>				
	Recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying habitats from increased visitor numbers to the SAC resulting from any allocations within 7km of	No	Bradford LDF Core Strategy	No - Bradford have put measures in place through their Appropriate Assessment and the reduced housing requirement of the CSSR will lessen any in

	the SAC boundary			combination effects. Revised Policy G4 is expected to be more effective at delivering viable levels of green space and green infrastructure in relation to new housing development.
	Increased acid and nitrogen deposition from industrial sites giving rise to emissions	No	Bradford LDF Core Strategy	No – the CSSR makes no proposals affecting industrial sites.
<b>North Pennine Moors SAC</b>				
	Recreational impacts through increased disturbance to qualifying habitats from increased visitor numbers to the SAC	No	Craven District Council emerging Local Plan Harrogate District Council emerging Local Plan Bradford LDF Core Strategy	No - Bradford have put measures in place through their Appropriate Assessment and the reduced housing requirement of the CSSR will lessen any in combination effects. Revised Policy G4 is expected to be more effective at delivering viable levels of green space and green infrastructure in relation to new housing development.
	Increased acid and nitrogen deposition from transport or industrial sites giving rise to emissions	No	Craven District Council emerging Local Plan Harrogate District Council emerging Local Plan Bradford LDF Core Strategy	No – the reduced housing requirement of the CSSR will lessen any in combination effects

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

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

**Annex 1 – Initial Screening of Core Strategy Selective Review Policies for Implications to Investigate Further (see Table 2 above)**

**KEY\***

RP – Recreational Pressure (increases or changes due to location of dwellings / increases in no. dwellings)  
 WC – Water Consumption (increases from new dwellings or economic development)  
 WP – Waste Production (increases from new dwellings or economic development)  
 TG – Transport Growth and Emissions (greater no. of movements by promoting housing and economic growth)  
 IE – Industrial Emissions (new sources and choice of location)  
 LUC – Land Use Change

\* Refer to Table 2 of Section 4 of this document to see how these issues could potentially link to Natura 2000 sites.

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Implications for SACs/SPAs</b>
<b>Spatial Policy 6: The Housing Requirement &amp; Allocation of Housing Land</b>	To update the housing requirement for Leeds for the period 2017 - 2033.	RP, WC, WP, TG
<b>Spatial Policy 7: Distribution Of Housing Land &amp; Allocations</b>	Consequent revisions to the broad distribution & allocation of land for housing development.	RP, WC, WP, TG
<b>Policy H5: Affordable Housing</b>	To meet need for affordable housing.	None
<b>POLICY H9: Housing Space Standards</b>	To ensure size of new dwellings meets the Nationally Described Space Standards.	None
<b>Policy H10: Housing Access Standards</b>	To require minimum quantities of accessible dwellings (defined as M4(2) and M4(3) in the Building Regulations.	None
<b>Policy G4: New Green Space Provision</b>	To ensure sufficient accessible and quality open space exists to meet need.	RP
<b>Policy EN1: Climate Change – Carbon Dioxide Reduction</b>	To reduce greenhouse gas emissions that	Actions that help to

Policy	Aim	Implications for SACs/SPAs
	contribute to global warming that arise as part of new development	prevent global warming are beneficial for species and habitats as they reduce the likelihood of them being affected by climate change.
<b>Policy EN2: Sustainable Design and Construction</b>	To encourage more sustainable construction.	WC, WP
<b>Policy EN8: Electric Vehicle Charging Points</b>	To require provision of charging points in new development.	TG