Terrington Neighbourhood Plan

Habitat Regulations Assessment

Terrington Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

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Quality information

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1. Introduction

Background to the Project

1.1 AECOM has been appointed by Terrington Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to undertake a report to inform the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Terrington Neighbourhood Plan (TNP). This to inform both the local council and Terrington Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group of the potential effects of the TNP on Habitats Sites (previously known as European sites) which are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and Ramsar sites.

1.2 The HRA is required to determine if there are any realistic linking impact pathways between the TNP and any Habitats Sites. Where Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) cannot be screened out, or a reasonable doubt over significant effects on Habitats Sites remains, an analysis to inform an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is needed to determine if adverse effects on the integrity of Habitats Sites will occur as a result of the TNP, either alone or in-combination.

Local Context

1.3 The TNP applies to the "parished" area that is under the jurisdiction of Terrington Parish Council. The plan area is located in North Yorkshire, within the Howardian Hills National Landscape. The Parish is surrounded by farmland and undulating countryside with views of the distant North York Moors, Yorkshire Wolds and the Vale of York. As of the 2021 census the Parish had a population of 483 within 227 households.

Legislative Context

1.4 The UK left the EU on 31 January 2019 under the terms set out in the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 ("the Withdrawal Act"). This established a transition period, which ended on 31 December 2020. The Withdrawal Act retains the body of existing EU-derived law within our domestic law. During the transition period EU law applies to and in the UK. The most recent amendments to the Habitats Regulations – the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 – make it clear that the need for HRA has continued after the end of the Transition Period.

1.5 Under the Regulations, an appropriate assessment is required, where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect upon an international site, either individually or in combination with other projects. The Directive is implemented in the UK by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the "Habitats Regulations").

The Legislative Basis for Appropriate Assessment

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

With specific reference to Neighbourhood Plans, Regulation 106(1) states that:
'A qualifying body which submits a proposal for a neighbourhood development plan must provide such information as the competent authority [the Local Planning Authority] *may reasonably require for the purposes of the assessment under regulation 105* [which sets out the formal process for determination of 'likely significant effects' and the 'appropriate assessment']…'.

1.6 It is therefore important to note that this report has two purposes:

a. To assist the Qualifying Body in preparing their plan by recommending (where necessary) any adjustments required to protect international sites, thus making it more likely their plan will be deemed compliant with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended); and

b. On behalf of the Qualifying Body, to assist the Local Planning Authority to discharge their duty under Regulation 105 (in their role as 'plan-making authority' within the meaning of that regulation) and Regulation 106 (in their role as 'competent authority').

1.7 As 'competent authority', the legal responsibility for ensuring that a decision of 'likely significant effects' is made, for ensuring an 'appropriate assessment' (where required) is undertaken, and for ensuring Natural England is consulted falls on the local planning authority (North Yorkshire Council) and the Neighbourhood Plan examiner. However, they are entitled to request from the Qualifying Body the necessary information on which to base their judgment, which is a key purpose of this report.

1.8 Over the years, the phrase 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' has come into wide currency to describe the overall process set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations from screening through to Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI). This has arisen in order to distinguish the process from the individual stage described in the law as an 'Appropriate Assessment'. Throughout this report, we use the term Habitats Regulations Assessment for the overall process.

2. Methodology

Introduction

2.1 The HRA has been carried out with reference to the general EC guidance on HRA (European Commission, 2001) and general guidance on HRA published by the UK government in 2021 (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, 2021).

2.2 Plate 1 below outlines the stages of HRA according to the current Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities guidance. The stages are essentially iterative, being revisited as necessary in response to more detailed information, recommendations, and any relevant changes to the Plan until no significant adverse effects remain.

Plate 1. Four-Stage Approach to Habitats Regulations Assessment (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, 2021)

HRA Task 1 – Likely Significant Effects (LSE)

2.3 Following evidence gathering, the first stage of any Habitats Regulations Assessment is a Likely Significant Effect (LSE) test - essentially a risk assessment to decide whether the full subsequent stage, known as Appropriate Assessment, is required. The essential question is:

"Is the project, either alone or in combination with other relevant projects and plans, likely to result in a significant effect upon [Habitats] sites?"

2.4 The objective is to 'screen out' those plans and projects that can, without any detailed appraisal, be said to be unlikely to result in significant adverse effects upon Habitats sites, usually because there is no mechanism for an adverse interaction with Habitats sites. This stage is undertaken in Chapter 5 of this report.

3. Physical Scope of the HRA

3.1 There is no guidance that dictates the general physical scope of an HRA of a Plan document. Therefore, in considering the physical scope of the assessment, we were guided primarily by the identified impact pathways (called the source-pathway-receptor model).

3.2 Briefly defined, impact pathways are routes by which the implementation of a project can lead to an effect upon a European designated site now known in the UK as 'Habitats sites'. An example of this would be visual and noise disturbance arising from the construction/decommissioning work or operational phase associated with a project. If there are sensitive ecological receptors within a nearby Habitats site (e.g.

non-breeding overwintering birds), this could alter their foraging and roosting behaviour and potentially affect the site's integrity. For some impact pathways (notably air pollution) there is guidance that sets out distance-based zones required for assessment. For others, a professional judgment must be made based on the best available evidence.

European Sites Relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan

3.3 In the case of the TNP, it has been determined that the Habitats Sites identified in Table 1 require consideration. The background of these Habitats Sites is discussed in **Appendix A**.

Table 1. Habitats site descriptions and distance from TNP area

Site Name/ Designation	Site Description	Distance from Terrington Neighbourhood Area	Screened in Vulnerabilities
Lower Derwent Valley (SAC, SPA & Ramsar)	The Lower Derwent valley contains high-quality examples of lowland hay meadows and represents the greatest area of this habitat at an individual UK site. The site has an abundance of the rare narrow-leaved water-dropwort *Oenanthe silaifolia*. Traditional management has ensured that ecological variation is well-developed, particularly in the transitions between this grassland type and other types of wet and dry grassland, swamp and fen vegetation. Additionally, there is an area of damp alder woodland at Thornton Ellers adjoining marsh and tall fen communities.	18.6 km (hydrologically connected to the River Derwent)	• Hydrological changes • Drainage • Public Access/Disturbance • Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition
River Derwent SAC	The Yorkshire Derwent is considered to represent one of the best British examples of the classic river profile. This lowland section from Ryemouth to the confluence with the Ouse, supports diverse communities of aquatic flora and fauna. The river supports an aquatic flora uncommon in Northern Britain. Several species including river water-dropwort *Oenanthe fluviatilis*, flowering rush *Butomus umbellatus*, shining pondweed *Potamogeton lucens*, arrowhead *Sadittaria sagittifolia*, opposite-leaved pondweed *Groenlandia densa* and narrow-leaved water-parsnip *Berula erecta* are more typically found in lowland rivers in southern England. The Derwent is also noted its diversity of fish communities, which include river *Lampetra fluviatilis* and sea lampreys *Petromyzon marinus* populations that spawn in the lower reaches, as well as bullhead *Cottus gobio*. The diverse habitats also support otters *Lutra lutra*.	4.2 km	• Water Pollution • Water abstraction
Strensall Common SAC	Strensall Common is an example of acidic lowland heath represented predominantly by *Erica tetralix – Sphagnum compactum* wet heath. This habitat has had its extent reduced by drainage. It is a noted locality for marsh gentian *Gentiana pneumonanthe*, narrow buckler-fern *Dryopteris carthusiana* and the dark-bordered beauty moth *Epione vespertaria* as it is associated with creeping willow *Salix repens* on the wet heath. There is also a complex mosaic of wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* and dry heath elements. The *Calluna vulgaris – Deschampsia flexuosa* dry heath is noted for petty whim *Genista anglica* and bird's-foot *Ornithopus perpusillus*.	6.5 km	• Public Access/Disturbance • Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Relevant Impact Pathways

3.4 The Habitats sites that are described in Table 1 and Appendix A are either located within a 10 km radius or in the case of the Lower Derwent Valley (SAC, SPA & Ramsar) are hydrologically connected to the TNP area.

3.5 Based upon Natural England Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) and Supplementary Advice on Conversation Objectives (SACOs), there are three pathways that require consideration regarding increased development within the TNP area and said Habitats Sites. These are:

- Recreational pressure
- Water Quality and Water Resources
- Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

'In Combination' Scope

3.6 The Regulations require that the impacts and effects of any land use plan being assessed are not considered in isolation but in combination with other plans and projects that may also affect the internationally designated site(s) in question.

3.7 When undertaking this part of the assessment, it is essential to bear in mind the principal intention behind the legislation, i.e., to ensure that those projects or plans which in themselves have minor impacts are not simply dismissed on that basis but are evaluated for any cumulative contribution they may make to an overall significant effect. In practice, in combination assessment is therefore of greatest relevance when the plan would otherwise be screened out because its individual contribution is inconsequential. The overall approach is to exclude the risk of there being unassessed LSEs in accordance with the precautionary principle. This was first established in the seminal Waddenzee case.

3.8 For the purposes of this assessment, we have determined that, due to the nature of the identified impacts, the key other plans and projects with potential for in combination LSEs are those schemes that have the following impact pathways: Recreational pressure, water quality and water resources and air quality impacts. The following plans have been assessed for their in-combination impact to interact with the TNP:

- City of York: Local Plan – Publication Draft February 2018 (Regulation 19 Consultation)
- City of York Council: City of York Local Plan – Consolidated Main Modifications September 2024
- North Yorkshire Council: Local Development Scheme 2024 to 2028

4. Physical Scope of the HRA

Recreational Pressure

4.1 Recreational use of a Habitats Site has the potential to:

- Cause disturbance to sensitive species, particularly ground-nesting birds and (where relevant) wintering wildfowl;
- Cause damage through erosion and fragmentation;
- Cause eutrophication as a result of dog fouling; and
- Prevent appropriate management or exacerbate existing management difficulties.

4.2 Different types of Habitats Sites are subject to different recreational pressures and have different vulnerabilities. Studies across a range of species have shown that recreational effects can be complex.

4.3 It should be emphasised that recreational use is not inevitably a problem. Many international sites also contain nature reserves managed for conservation and public appreciation of nature.

4.4 HRAs of Local Plans tend to focus on recreational sources of disturbance as a result of new residents.

Activities causing disturbance

4.5 Disturbing activities are on a continuum. The most disturbing activities are likely to be those that involve irregular, infrequent, unpredictable loud noise events, movement or vibration of long duration. The presence of people and dogs generates substantial disturbance effects because of the areas accessed and the impact of a potential predator on bird behaviour. Birds are least likely to be disturbed by activities that involve regular, frequent, predictable, quiet patterns of sound or movement or minimal vibration. The further any activity is from the birds, the less likely it is to result in disturbance.

4.6 Numerous factors influence a species takes flight when approached by a disturbing stimulus is known as the 'tolerance distance' (also called the 'escape flight distance') and differs between species to the same stimulus and within a species to different stimuli.

4.7 The potential for apparent disturbance may be less in winter than in summer, in that there are often a smaller number of recreational users. In addition, the consequences of disturbance at a population level may be reduced because birds are not breeding. However, activity outside of the summer months can still cause important disturbance, especially as birds are particularly vulnerable at this time of year due to food shortages. Disturbance which results in abandonment of suitable feeding areas can have severe consequences for those birds involved and their ability to find alternative feeding areas. Several empirical studies have, through correlative analysis, demonstrated that out-of-season (October-March) recreational activity can result in quantifiable disturbance:

- Tuite *et al*. found that during periods of high recreational activity, bird numbers at Llangorse Lake decreased by 30% as the morning progressed, matching the increase in recreational activity towards midday. However, no change in numbers was observed during periods of low recreational activity as the morning progressed. In addition, all species were found to spend less time in their 'preferred zones' (the areas of the lake used most in the absence of recreational activity) as the recreational intensity increased;
- Underhill *et al*. counted waterfowl and all disturbance events on 54 water bodies within the South West London Water Bodies SPA and clearly correlated disturbance with a decrease in bird numbers at weekends in smaller sites and with the movement of birds within larger sites from disturbed to less disturbed areas.

4.8 Human activity can affect birds either directly (e.g. by causing them to flee) or indirectly (e.g. by damaging their habitat). The most obvious direct effect is that of immediate mortality, such as death by shooting, but human activity can also lead to behavioural changes (e.g. alterations in feeding behaviour, avoidance of certain areas *etc.*) and physiological changes (e.g. an increase in heart rate) that, although less noticeable, may ultimately result in major population-level effects by altering the balance between immigration/birth and emigration/death. The impact of disturbance on birds changes during the seasons in relation to several very specific factors, for example, the winter below-freezing temperature, the bird's fat resource levels and the need to remain watchful for predators rather than feeding. These considerations lead to birds apparently showing different behavioural responses at different times of the year.

4.9 The degree of impact that varying levels of noise will have on different species of bird is poorly understood, except that a number of studies have found that an increase in traffic levels on roads does lead to a reduction in the bird abundance within adjacent hedgerows – Reijnen *et al.* (1995) examined the distribution of 43 passerine species (i.e. 'songbirds'), of which 60% had a lower density closer to the roadside than further away. By controlling vehicle usage, they also found that the density generally was lower along busier roads than quieter roads.

Mechanical/abrasive damage and nutrient enrichment

4.10 Most types of terrestrial Habitats Sites can be affected by trampling, which in turn causes soil compaction and erosion:

- Wilson & Seney (1994) examined the degree of track erosion caused by hikers, motorcycles, horses and cyclists from 108 plots along tracks in the Gallatin National Forest, Montana. Although the results proved difficult to interpret, it was concluded that horses and hikers disturbed more sediment on wet tracks, and therefore cause more erosion, than motorcycles and bicycles.

- Cole et al. (1995a, b) conducted experimental off-track trampling in 18 closed forest, dwarf scrub and meadow & grassland communities (each trampled between 0 – 500 times) over five mountain regions in the US.

4.11 Vegetation cover was assessed two weeks and one year after trampling, and an inverse relationship with trampling intensity was discovered, although this relationship was weaker after one year than two weeks, indicating some vegetation recovery. Differences in plant morphological characteristics were found to explain more variation in response between different vegetation types than soil and topographic factors. Low-growing, mat-forming grasses regained their cover best after two weeks and were considered most resistant to trampling, while tall forbs (non-woody vascular plants other than grasses, sedges, rushes and ferns) were considered least resistant to trampling. Chamaephytes (plants with buds above the soil surface) were the least resilient to trampling. It was concluded that these would be the least tolerant of a regular cycle of disturbance.

- Cole (1995c) conducted a follow-up study (in 4 vegetation types) in which shoe type (trainers or walking boots) and trampler weight were varied. Although immediate damage was greater with walking boots, there was no significant difference after one year. Heavier tramplers caused a greater reduction in vegetation height than lighter tramplers, but there was no difference in effect on cover.
- Cole & Spildie (1998) experimentally compared the effects of off-track trampling by hiker and horse (at two intensities – 25 and 150 passes) in two woodland vegetation types (one with an erect forb understorey and one with a low shrub understorey). Horse traffic was found to cause the largest reduction in vegetation cover. The forb-dominated vegetation suffered the greatest disturbance but recovered rapidly. Higher trampling intensities caused more disturbance.

4.12 Walkers with dogs contribute to pressure on sites through nutrient enrichment via dog fouling and cause greater disturbance to fauna as dogs as less likely to keep to marked footpaths and tend to move more erratically. Thomas et al (2024) found that dogs walked off the lead in lowland heathland reserves caused a 21% increase in reserve area disturbed and a significant reduction in undisturbed potential breeding habitat available for birds.

4.13 Sites being managed by nature conservation bodies and local authorities frequently resort to hardening eroded paths to restrict erosion, but at the same time, they are losing the habitats formerly used by sand lizards and burrowing invertebrates. Motorcycle scrambling and off-road vehicle use can cause more serious erosion, as well as disturbance to sensitive species.

Water Quality and Water Resources

4.14 Increased amounts of housing or business development can lead to reduced water quality of rivers and estuarine environments. Sewage and industrial effluent discharges can contribute to increased nutrients on Habitats sites leading to unfavourable conditions. In addition, diffuse pollution, partly from urban run-off has been identified during an Environment Agency Review of Consents process and a joint Environment Agency and Natural England evidence review, as being a major factor in causing unfavourable condition of Habitats sites.

4.15 The quality of the water that feeds Habitats sites is an important determinant of the nature of their habitats and the species they support. Poor water quality can have a range of environmental effects:

- At high levels, toxic chemicals and metals can result in immediate death of aquatic life and can have detrimental effects even at lower levels, including increased vulnerability to disease and changes in wildlife behaviour. Eutrophication, the enrichment of plant nutrients in water increases plant growth and consequently results in oxygen depletion. Agal blooms, which commonly result from eutrophication, increase turbidity and decrease light penetration. The decomposition of organic wastes that often accompanies eutrophication is associated with discharges containing available nitrogen;
- Some pesticides, industrial chemicals, and components of sewage effluent are suspected to interfere with the functioning of the endocrine system, possibly having negative effects on the reproduction and development of aquatic life; and
- Increased discharge of treated sewage effluent can result both in high levels of macroalgal growth

4.16 At sewage treatment works, additional residential development increases the risk of effluent escape into aquatic environments in addition to consented discharges to the catchment. In many urban areas, sewage

treatment and surface water drainage systems are combined, and therefore a predicted increase in flood and storm events could increase pollution risk.

Air Quality

4.17 Residential development within Terrington Parish could affect air quality through increased emissions from vehicle exhausts. There are two measures of primary relevance regarding air quality impacts from vehicle exhausts. The first is the concentration of oxides of nitrogen (known as NOx) in the atmosphere. In extreme cases, NOx can be directly toxic to vegetation, but its main importance is as a source of nitrogen, which is then deposited on adjacent habitats. The guideline atmospheric concentration advocated by the Government for the protection of vegetation is 30 micrograms per cubic metre (µgm-3), known as the Critical Level, as this concentration relates to the growth effects of nitrogen derived from NOx on vegetation.

4.18 The second important metric measures the rate of the resulting nitrogen deposition. The addition of nitrogen is a form of fertilisation, which can have a negative effect on woodlands and other habitats over time by encouraging more competitive plant species that can force out the less competitive species that are more characteristic. Unlike NOx in the atmosphere, the nitrogen deposition rate below which we are confident effects would not arise is different for each habitat. The rate (known as the Critical Load) is provided on the UK Air Pollution Information System (APIS) website (www.apis.ac.uk) and is expressed as a quantity (kilograms) of nitrogen over a given area (hectare) per year (kgNha-1 yr-1).

4.19 Emissions of NOx and resulting deposition can have community-level impacts on habitats and Habitats sites. Habitats that are particularly sensitive to elevated nitrogen levels are calcareous grasslands. This is because, naturally these grasslands occur in low nutrient concentrations (i.e. shallow and well-buffered soil). As a result of low nutrient availability, these habitats tend to be rich in species diversity. However, adding nitrogen to this habitat adds a limiting factor that benefits only those species better adapted (i.e. more suitable) to higher nitrogen levels. Those species better adapted to higher nitrogen levels are able to out-compete less adaptable species, leading to a loss in species richness, and under severe nitrogen deposition, this can lead to the loss of the entire habitat.

4.20 The routes that nitrogen deposition impacts habitats and vegetation as described above are through environmental changes, toxicity and the movement of nitrogen through trophic levels. Another route of effect is through nitrogen acidification. For example, a study undertaken by Maskell *et al*. (2010) observed that with increasing acid deposition from NOx there was a decrease in species richness within heathland. Acid deposition can have serious impacts to the health of soil structure and the microbial communities found here. These species carry out a natural decaying process known as nitrification (converting ammonium to nitrate) that generates acidity. However, when in combination with acid deposition from NOx pollution the soil pH may become too acidic for specialised plant communities to survive and result in a net decrease in biodiversity. Acidification tends to be more of an issue for acid substrates, which have poor buffering capacity (i.e. heathland), than neutral or calcareous substrates.

5. Test of Likely Significant Effects

Pathways to Designated Sites

Recreational pressure

5.1 Recreational pressure constitutes a potential impact pathway for Lower Derwent Valley (SAC, SPA & Ramsar) and Strensall Common SAC. However, Lower Derwent Valley SPA/SAC/Ramsar is over 10km outside of the TNP area, so it is screened out of being part of a potential impact pathway for recreational pressure as there is no indication the core recreational catchment of the SAC exends as far as Terrington. Moreover, the Terrington Neighourhood Plan does not make any housing or employment allocations. As such there is no mechanism for the Neighbourhood Plan to have likely significant effects on Strensall Common SAC, particularly at the distance at which it lies from Terrington (minimum of 6.5km to the parish boundary and over 8km to the main settlement of Terrington itself).

Water resourses and quality

5.1 Water quality and water resources constitute a potential impact pathways for Lower Derwent Valley (SAC, SPA & Ramsar) and River Derwent SAC. However, the Terrington Neighourhood Plan does not make any housing or employment allocations. As such there is no mechanism for the Neighbourhood Plan to have likely significant effects on Habitats Sites.

Pathways to Designated Sites

5.2 Air quality presents a potential impact pathway for Lower Derwent Valley (SAC, SPA & Ramsar) and Strensall Common SAC. However, Lower Derwent Valley is more than 10km outside of the TNP area, so it is screened out of being part of a potential impact pathway for air quality. This is because a zone of 10km is typically used to scope in Habitat sites vulnerable to reductions in air quality. This is based on the average UK car journey being approximately 10.6km[1]. Moreover, roads within 200m of Strensall Common SAC are unlikely to form significant journey to work routes for residents of Terrington and the Neighbourhood Plan does not make any housing or employment allocations.

Summary of Policy Screening

5.3 The results of the LSEs screening of policies included in the TNP are presented in Table 2. Where a policy is shaded green, there are no linking impact pathways to Habitats Sites, and LSEs can be excluded. Where the screening outcome is shaded orange, LSEs cannot be excluded, and the policy is screened in for AA.

5.4 Of the 15 TNP policies, none were considered to have the potential to result in LSEs. This means that there are no impact pathways linking them to Habitats Sites and therefore there is no requirement for AA. This is because the Terrington Neighourhood Plan does not make any housing or employment allocations. As such there is no mechanism for the Neighbourhood Plan to have likely significant effects on Habitats Sites, particularly at the distances which they lie from Terrington (minimum of 4.2km).

Summary of Habitats Sites and Impact Pathway Screening

5.5 In the case of the TNP, it has been determined that all of the Habitats Sites assessed were screened out of having impact pathways connected to developments in the TNP area.

5.6 This was based upon a search of surrounding Habitats Sites and the vulnerabilities of their designated features. All the assessed Habitats Sites were subjected to the initial screening exercise.

6. Conclusions

6.1 The purpose of the report was to undertake TOLSEs screening of the TNP. All NP policies were assessed in relation to the following Habitats Sites:

- Lower Derwent Valley (SAC, SPA & Ramsar)
- River Derwent SAC
- Strensall Common SAC

6.2 The TOLSE examined the above Habitats Sites and impact pathways in relation to 15 policies within the TNP and concluded all 15 could be screened out of the AA.

6.3 It was also concluded that the Habitats Sites could be screened out of having impact pathways to development within the TNP area.

[1] GOV.UK (2019). *Average number of trips made and distance travelled*. https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/nts01-average-number-of-trips-made-and-distance-travelled, accessed 13/03/2020

6.4 In conclusion, it is considered that the TNP contains an appropriate policy framework to ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any Habitats Sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

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Appendix A Habitats Sites Background

A.1 Lower Derwent Valley SAC, SPA & Ramsar

1.1.1 Conservation Objectives SAC

7.1 With regard to the SAC (Natural England, 2018) and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

7.2 Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of qualifying species, and,
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

1.1.2 Conservation Objectives SPA

7.3 With regard to the SAC (Natural England, 2019) and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

7.4 Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of qualifying species, and,
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

Qualifying Features SAC

7.5 **Qualifying habitats**: The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:

- Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*). (Alder woodland on floodplains) (Annex I priority habitat).
- Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis).

7.6 **Qualifying species**: The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following species listed in Annex II:

- Otter Lutra lutra

Qualifying Features SPA

7.7 **Qualifying species**: The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following species listed in Annex I:

- Bewick's swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* (Non-breeding)
- Eurasian wigeon *Anas penelope* (Non-breeding)
- Eurasian teal *Anas crecca* (Non-breeding)
- Northern shoveler *Anas clypeata* (Breeding)
- European golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* (Non-breeding)
- Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (Non-breeding)

Environmental Vulnerabilities

7.8 Currents threats and pressures identified in the Site Improvement Plan (Natural England, 2014) include:

- Hydrological changes
- Drainage
- Public access/Disturbance
- Invasive species
- Undergrazing
- Inappropriate scrub control
- Air Pollution: Impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

A.2 River Derwent SAC

1.1.3 Conservation Objectives

7.9 With regard to the SAC (Natural England, 2018) and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

7.10 Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the sites contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of qualifying species, and,
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

Qualifying Features

7.11 **Qualifying habitats**: The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:

- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation. (Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot)

7.12 **Qualifying species**: The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following species listed in Annex II:

- Bullhead Cottus gobio
- River lamprey Lampetra fluviatilis
- Otter Lutra lutra
- Sea lamprey Petromyzon marinus

Environmental Vulnerabilities

7.13 Currents threats and pressures identified in the Site Improvement Plan (Natural England, 2014) include:

- Physical modification
- Water pollution
- Invasive species
- Change in land management
- Water abstraction

A.3 Strensall Common SAC

1.1.4 Conservation Objectives

7.14 With regard the SAC (Natural England, 2018) and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

7.15 Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;

- The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats, and,
- The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely

Qualifying Features

7.16 **Qualifying habitats:** The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:

- European dry heaths.
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* (wet heathland with cross-leaved heath).

Environmental Vulnerabilities

7.17 Currents threats and pressures identified in the Site Improvement Plan (Natural England, 2014) include:

- Public Access/Disturbance
- Inappropriate scrub control

Appendix B Policy Screening

Table 2. Terrington Neighbourhood Plan Policy Screening

Policy Name	Policy Description	Potential Likely Significant Effect?
Environment Policies		
Policy E1: Rural Character and Views	The rural character of the village and its surroundings should be respected through new development by ensuring that: • the scale, design and architectural details used for new buildings must be in keeping with the rural setting, • building materials for new buildings, extensions and boundary treatments should be characteristic of the surroundings, • the design of new buildings should ensure that adequate space is provided around them to compliment the rural character of the village, • in open countryside (i.e. outside the village of Terrington) new built development except that which is necessary for agriculture or countryside related activities will be strongly resisted, • boundary treatment is designed and located so as maintain the rural character of the area, • proposals take advantage of the local topography, landscape and water features, trees and plants in the vicinity and on the site. Views of particular importance as defined on the Policies Map should be protected and not be obstructed by new development.	No Likely Significant Effects. This policy provides details of the conditions development proposals should follow to ensure the rural character of the village and its surroundings are respected. This policy does not allocate any residential or employment development with linking impact pathways to Habitats Sites. Overall, this policy will not result in LSEs on Habitats Sites and is screened out from AA.
Policy E2: Dark Skies and Tranquillity	Any development proposal shall limit the impact of light pollution from artificial externally visible light sources and shall support the integrity of the dark night skies within the Howardian Hills National Landscape. Lighting subject to planning approval (e.g. floodlighting of sports pitches or car parks) should ensure that: • The visibility of lighting from the surround landscape is avoided; • Building design that results in increased light spill from internal lighting is avoided, unless suitable mitigation measures are implemented; • Lighting is not unnecessarily visible in nearby designated habitats. Any planning proposals to install lighting in areas of the Parish that are currently dark at night should be resisted. Proposals for street lighting should be avoided. Planning proposals which would result in the reduction of the tranquillity of the parish will be strongly resisted.	No Likely Significant Effects. This policy describes the conditions that development proposals should meet in regard to protecting dark skies and tranquillity. This policy does not allocate any residential or employment development with linking impact pathways to Habitats Sites. Overall, this policy will not result in LSEs on Habitats Sites and is screened out from AA.
Natural Environment Policies		
Policy NE1: Protecting the Landscape	Any proposals for development should recognise and seek to protect and enhance the historic and natural landscape of the Parish and the Howardian Hills National Landscape. New development on the ridgelines which have adverse impact on the landscape will not be supported. Natural features including field ponds, mature trees and hedgerows should be protected and where appropriate, incorporated into any landscape design schemes and their long-term maintenance ensured. Infrastructure providers should recognise and respect the special landscape and ensure that necessary infrastructure does not adversely affect the landscape.	No Likely Significant Effects. This policy encourages development proposals to protect the historic and natural landscape of the Parish and the Howardian Hills National Landscape. This policy does not allocate any residential or employment development with linking impact

Policy Name	Policy Description	Potential Likely Significant Effect?
		pathways to Habitats Sites. Overall, this policy will not result in LSEs on Habitats Sites and is screened out from AA
Policy NE2: Biodiversity	New development will be required to protect and enhance existing natural features of sites and provide at least 10% net gain in biodiversity. Provision of appropriate species-related measures will be required in new buildings, including, for example, swift bricks, bat and owl boxes and the incorporation of native species into landscaping schemes. Opportunities should also be taken by developers and landowners to link sustainable drainage solutions in new development to complement nature conservation objectives.	No Likely Significant Effects. This policy outlines the requirement for 10% biodiversity net gain from new developments. The policy also recommends developers and landowners linking sustainable drainage solutions into new development. This policy does not allocate any residential or employment development with linking impact pathways to Habitats Sites. Overall, this policy will not result in LSEs on Habitats Sites and is screened out from AA
Policy NE3: Trees, Hedgerows and Woodland	The provision of new trees and hedgerows throughout the Parish will be encouraged and supported. The removal or loss of mature trees on or close to development sites will be resisted where they are healthy and of appropriate species for the location when evaluated using BS5837. Hedgerows should be retained and where parts are removed to allow access, should be replanted along the vision splays. Development affecting Veteran Trees and Ancient Woodland will be refused in line with the NPPF requirements. Development proposals should include a landscaping scheme, which identifies trees and hedgerows to be retained or removed as part of the development, with full details of replacement tree and hedgerow planting of appropriate species, preferably native species.	No Likely Significant Effects This policy encourages development proposals to incorporate trees, hedgerows and woodlands into landscape planning. This policy does not allocate any residential or employment development with linking impact pathways to Habitats Sites. Overall, this policy will not result in LSEs on Habitats Sites and is screened out from AA
Historic Environment Policies		
Policy HE1: Conservation Area and its Setting	Development in the Terrington Conservation Area and its setting should achieve high quality design, set in a clear context in terms of materials, scale, setting and layout. The following criteria apply: • Development should be of an appropriate scale and mass for the immediate area; • Use of locally distinctive details will be required (materials, openings/access and boundary treatments)	No Likely Significant Effects. This policy outlines the criteria needed for development proposals in the Terrington Conservation Area. This policy does not allocate any residential or employment development

Policy Name	Policy Description	Potential Likely Significant Effect?
	Applicants must explain, in a Design and Access Statement and/or Heritage Statement, how the proposal will address these criteria.	with linking impact pathways to Habitats Sites. Overall, this policy will not result in LSEs on Habitats Sites and is screened out from AA
Policy HE2: Protecting local heritage assets	All development proposals affecting identified local heritage assets set out below, identified on Policy Map 1 and at Annex C will be required to take into account the character, context and setting of the assets. The effect of an application on the significance of an identified local heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect a local heritage asset, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset concerned. • Identified Heritage Assets include: • Terrington Village standpipes • Telephone box • Finger posts • Village signs • Pillar and wall letter boxes	No Likely Significant Effects. This policy outlines local heritage assets that will be protected from development proposals that would affect them. This policy does not allocate any residential or employment development with linking impact pathways to Habitats Sites. Overall, this policy will not result in LSEs on Habitats Sites and is screened out from AA
Sustainable Development Policies		
Policy SD1: High Quality Design	Proposals for good quality new development (including new buildings and extensions to existing buildings) will be supported, where they are in accordance with the guidelines and design principles set out in the Terrington Design Code. All new development must: • Relate to the existing development pattern in the specific settlement in terms of enclosure and definition of streets/spaces; • Be of an appropriate scale and density in relation to its setting; • Use materials appropriate to the development's context, particularly stone and red pantile; • Be of a design with a locally inspired or distinctive character, ensuring architectural details such as windows and chimneys are appropriate; • New dwellings should not be more than 2 storeys in height; • In Terrington village, be well integrated with the community and facilities by reinforcing pedestrian connections and taking opportunities to provide new ones; • Integrate car parking within landscaping so that it does not dominate the street.	No Likely Significant Effects. This policy provides high quality design criteria for new development proposals. This policy does not allocate any residential or employment development with linking impact pathways to Habitats Sites. Overall, this policy will not result in LSEs on Habitats Sites and is screened out from AA
Policy SD2: Provision of energy efficient buildings	The design and standard of any new building should aim to meet a high level of sustainable design and construction and be optimised for energy efficiency, targeting net zero operational carbon emissions. This includes the following measures (where relevant to the proposed development, feasible, and viable): • Siting and orientation to optimise passive solar grain, • The use of high quality, thermally efficient building materials, • Installation of energy efficiency measures such as loft and wall insulation and double glazing. • Incorporation of on-site energy generation from renewable sources such as solar panels.	No Likely Significant Effects. This policy provides measures for the provision of energy efficient buildings. This policy does not allocate any residential or employment development with linking impact pathways to Habitats Sites.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Potential Likely Significant Effect?
	• Alterations to existing buildings should be designed with energy reduction in mind and comply with sustainable design and construction standards. • The retrofit of existing buildings including heritage properties is encouraged to reduce energy demand and to generate renewable energy where appropriate, providing it safeguards historic characteristics.	Overall, this policy will not result in LSEs on Habitats Sites and is screened out from AA
Policy SD3: Water management & Efficiency	Proposals must incorporate a sustainable and integrated approach to the management of flood risk, surface water (including run off) and foul drainage. All development involving the loss of permeable surfaces, loss of trees, loss of soft landscaping or loss of any other feature that reduces flood risk is required to use appropriate mitigation measures to prevent an increase in surface water flood risk within the site or elsewhere. This should be proportionate to the scale of the proposal, with small interventions (such as planting or use of permeable surfaces) acceptable for minor developments. All developments must be designed taking into account best practice in water efficiency, such as water efficient fittings and appliances, water harvesting and storage features.	No Likely Significant Effects. This policy states that development proposals must provide sustainable water management and efficiency. This policy does not allocate any residential or employment development with linking impact pathways to Habitats Sites. Overall, this policy will not result in LSEs on Habitats Sites and is screened out from AA
Transport Policies		
Policy T1: Car Parking	Development proposals will provide parking in line with North Yorkshire Council's parking standards and have adequate on-site parking to meet current and future needs, unless alternative and accessible car parking arrangements can be made which do not add to on-street congestion. New development should not result in the loss of publicly accessible off-street car parking or parking for existing facilities such as the school and the Doctors Surgery. Developments which propose to remove off-road parking spaces will only be supported where alternative provision is made which increases or maintains the number of accessible parking spaces available on or within the immediate vicinity of the site.	No Likely Significant Effects. This policy encourages improvements to infrastructure for car parking. This policy does not allocate any residential or employment development with linking impact pathways to Habitats Sites. Overall, this policy will not result in LSEs on Habitats Sites and is screened out from AA
Policy T2: Provision for pedestrians, cyclists and horseriders	New development should include measures that that keep traffic speeds low and improve the provision of pavements and access for pedestrians, cyclists and horseriders. Where they are proposed, new roads, junctions, pavements and traffic management measures should be designed to complement the rural character of the Parish and reflect local heritage. The rights of way network will be retained and both new links within Terrington village, to neighbouring settlements and to the wider countryside will be encouraged.	No Likely Significant Effects. This policy encourages development proposals that improve or provide infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists and horseriders. This policy does not allocate any residential or employment development with linking impact pathways to Habitats Sites.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Potential Likely Significant Effect?
		Overall, this policy will not result in LSEs on Habitats Sites and is screened out from AA
Community Policies		
Policy C1: Community facilities	The following community facilities will be retained and planning applications which result in either the loss of or significant harm will be resisted: • The Village Hall, playground and sports courts • the Village Shop • Doctors Surgery • the School • Allotments • Bowling Green • All Saints Church of England Church Other uses may be considered if it can be clearly demonstrated that the continued use of any of the above listed facilities is:- a. no longer required because an improved service is provided within close proximity, or b. no longer viable with evidence that the property has been actively marketed, commensurate with its use at an open market value for a period of at least 12 months. Proposals to improve the viability or offer of a community facility by way of the extension, replacement or redevelopment of buildings, structures and land, will be supported, provided the design of the scheme respects the village character in general, and the resulting increase in use is appropriate in design terms and will not have negative impact on the amenities of adjoining residential properties. The provision of new community facilities will be encouraged. Any proposed replacement facility in a different location will need to demonstrate that the new facility is in a location where local people can access by foot or other sustainable means of transport.	No Likely Significant Effects. This policy encourages the improvement, retention and addition of community facilities. This policy does not allocate any residential or employment development with linking impact pathways to Habitats Sites. Overall, this policy will not result in LSEs on Habitats Sites and is screened out from AA
Policy C2: Local Green Spaces	The following areas shown on Policy Map 3 are designated as Local Green Spaces: • The Plump • Playing Field, Play Area and Tennis Courts • Bowling Green • Cemetery • Churchyard • Terrington Village verges • Ganthorpe 'Green' • Mowthorpe Garden of Rest Proposed development within the Local Green Spaces will be treated consistently with those for the Green Belt and development should not be approved except in very special circumstances. Inappropriate development will be resisted to protect their special character and contribution to the Parish.	No Likely Significant Effects. This policy designates and encourages the protection of Local Green Spaces. This policy does not allocate any residential or employment development with linking impact pathways to Habitats Sites. Overall, this policy will not result in LSEs on Habitats Sites and is screened out from AA
Policy C3: Supporting Local Employment and Agriculture	Proposals for the development of new small businesses and for the expansion or diversification of existing businesses, including farm-based operations, will be encouraged, providing that:	No Likely Significant Effects.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Potential Likely Significant Effect?
	• It can be demonstrated that there will be adverse impact from increased traffic, lighting, noise or other emissions or activities arising from the proposed development; • It would have an acceptable impact on the character and scale of the village, its rural hinterland and landscape; and • Where relevant, opportunities are taken to secure the re-use of vacant or redundant historic buildings as part of the development, and • The proposals make adequate provision for car parking and bicycle spaces for employees and visitors. Applications for extensions for part change of use of dwellings to enable flexible or home working within the development boundary will be supported, subject to there being appropriate parking and that the residential amenity of neighbouring properties is maintained. In each instance, the provision of effective high speed broadband services will be encouraged and appropriate measure should be incorporated into the design of workplaces.	This policy encourages the provision of local employment spaces under certain conditions. This policy does not allocate any residential or employment development with linking impact pathways to Habitats Sites. Overall, this policy will not result in LSEs on Habitats Sites and is screened out from AA

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