

**Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
Management Plan 2019 - 2024  
Habitats Regulations Assessment  
Screening Report  
January 2019**

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## 1. Introduction

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 requires that Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB) Management Plans are produced and reviewed at regular intervals. The Howardian Hills AONB Management Plan will set out how the AONB will manage the landscape features and natural beauty of the area.

A Draft Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Screening Report has been prepared and will be consulted upon with the Draft AONB Management Plan. There is also a requirement under European and UK legislation to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Plan. The HRA is a test of the effects of the plan on the integrity of European nature conservation sites (referred to from this point on as 'European sites')<sup>1</sup>.

This report sets out the methodology for undertaking the HRA, and identifies European sites which will be considered as part of this assessment and determines whether there may be a likely significant effect (LSE) on these sites.

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<sup>1</sup> In this report European Nature Conservation Sites, namely Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation, are considered alongside international Ramsar Wetland Sites, consistent with UK Government Policy (see section 3).

## 2. Description of Howardian Hills AONB Management Plan

The primary objective of designation of the AONB is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area (including flora, fauna, geological and landscape features). The Draft Howardian Hills Management Plan 2019 – 2024 also states that account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and the economic and social needs of communities (with particular regard to sustainable development). The Management Plan also states that the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

The AONB Management Plan influences development within the Plan area because relevant authorities, including local authorities and National Parks, when exercising their functions including making planning decisions, have a duty to have regard to the purpose of the AONB and its Special Qualities<sup>2</sup>.

The Management Plan contains a Vision and a set of Objectives and Actions which help formulate local authority policies and define key partner's functions in relation to the AONB. In the Howardian Hills AONB, the constituent local authorities agreed that the Joint Advisory Committee should co-ordinate preparation of the Management Plan on their behalf.

The Management Plan aims to provide a framework for partnership working with all stakeholders who have an interest or involvement in the AONB's management. The Plan specifically provides a focus for:

- Drawing together up-to-date information on the AONB
- Considering conflicting pressures and issues
- Establishing clear and practical Objectives and Actions to guide integrated decision-making
- Recommending priorities for action
- Identifying the resources and funding require

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<sup>2</sup> The duty is set out under [Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000](#)

### 3. Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

#### The Habitats Directive and the requirement to undertake an appropriate assessment (AA)

The United Kingdom is subject to Council Directive 92/43/EEC<sup>3</sup> on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora, which is often referred to as the Habitats Directive. The principal aim of the Directive is to promote biodiversity *‘by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species listed in the Annexes to the Directive at a favourable conservation status’*<sup>4</sup>.

The Habitats Directive aims to create *‘a coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation’*. This network also includes Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds, designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Council Directive 2009/147/EC<sup>5</sup> (The Wild Birds Directive) and is termed the Natura 2000 Network.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive places a requirement on certain plans and projects to consider its effects on European sites:

*“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to **appropriate assessment** of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives”* (European Commission, 1992).

#### The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

The Habitats Directive is transposed into UK law by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017<sup>6</sup> (The Habitat Regulations). Regulation 63 sets out the requirements for the undertaking of AA where a plan *‘is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site or a European offshore marine Site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects)’*.

Regulation 8 provides clarity on what is meant by ‘European Sites’ which includes both terrestrial and marine SPAs, Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Sites of Community Importance (SCIs), potential SACs (pSACs) and potential SPAs (pSPAs).

#### Ramsar sites and other sites

Ramsar sites are of international (rather than just European) importance and are designated for wetlands. In practice, most Ramsar sites also receive protection as SPAs. The Government’s National Planning Policy Framework<sup>7</sup> (NPPF) gives Ramsar sites and proposed Ramsar sites the same protection as European sites.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043>

<sup>4</sup> <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1374> (accessed May 2018)

<sup>5</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32009L0147>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1012/contents/made>

<sup>7</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf)

The NPPF also provides the same level of protection to pSACs, pSPAs and 'sites identified, or required' as *compensatory measures for adverse effects on European sites* as fully designated European sites.

While the AONB Management Plan is not a planning document, and thus not regulated by the NPPF, the NPPF is taken as reflective of wider Government policy. Therefore, all Ramsar sites located in the study area (see section 4) will be considered alongside European sites in this assessment, and when this report refers to European sites, Ramsar sites are included in that definition.

### What is a 'European Site'?

According to the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), which is the public body that advises the UK Government on UK-wide and international nature conservation, European sites include:

**Special Areas of Conservation** – *'strictly protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive. Article 3 of the Habitats Directive requires the establishment of a European network of important high quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the 189 habitat types and 788 species identified in Annex 1 and II of the Directive (as amended).'*

**Special Protection Areas** – *'strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Birds Directive, which came into force in April 1979. They are classified for rare and vulnerable birds (as listed on Annex I of the Directive), and for regularly occurring migratory species'.*

Although not designated under European legislation **Ramsar Sites** are also considered as European sites in this assessment. These are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands that was established in Iran in 1971.

Sources:

JNCC. Special Areas of Conservation [<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-23>] accessed May 2018

JNCC, Special Protection Areas [URL: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-162>] accessed May 2018

JNCC. Ramsar sites [<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-161>] accessed May 2018

### A staged approach to HRA

The Habitats Regulations refer to the undertaking of an AA in relation to plans and projects. However, in practice HRAs are a stepwise process, by which the requirement to undertake an AA is determined by screening whether the plan or project may result in a LSE on a European site. If a LSE is determined then an AA of the effects of the plan or project on the integrity of European sites is required. If it is not possible to determine there would be no adverse effect in the integrity of the European site then further steps need to be followed including considering alternatives to the proposal, and the requirement to identify the extent to which a plan should proceed because of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI).

The AA is a discrete stage of a potentially multi-staged process and to avoid confusion the process as a whole is usually referred to as HRA. The HRA process has been divided into 4

discrete stages, as illustrated by Table 1 (below). This Screening Report documents the undertaking of Stages 1 and 2 of the HRA process.

Table 1: HRA: Key stages

Stage 1		Progress
<b>Pre-screening</b>	<p>1) Establish the outline methodology for undertaking the Assessment.</p> <p>2) Identify whether the plan is subject to HRA.</p>	Undertaken in this screening report.
Stage 2		
<b>Scoping and initial screening for LSE</b>	<p>1) Identify European sites in and around the plan area.</p> <p>2) Identify the conservation objectives and threats to site integrity of European sites.</p> <p>3) Identify potential effects of the Plan on European sites.</p> <p>4) Examine other plans and programmes that could contribute to 'in combination' effects.</p>	Undertaken in this screening report.
	<p><i>If no likely significant effects are identified – report will document no LSE and consult Natural England on the findings.</i></p> <p><i>If a LSE is identified or any significant uncertainty exists the precautionary principle applies - proceed to <b>Stage 3</b>.</i></p>	
Stage 3		
<b>Assessment under Regulation 63 of The Habitats Regulations: AA</b>	<p>Consider if the elements of the plan identified as having a LSE 'alone or in combination' with other plans and projects will cause direct and indirect effects on the integrity of European sites in light of their conservation objectives (the 'AA').</p> <p>1) Consider how any effects on the integrity of a site could be avoided by changes to Plan and the consideration of alternatives.</p> <p>2) Develop mitigation measures (including timescale and protective measures).</p> <p>3) Report outcomes of AA including mitigation measures; consult with Natural England (NE), the Environment Agency and wider (public) stakeholders as necessary.</p>	<u>No LSEs identified.</u> NE to be consulted on the Screening Report. If agree with outcomes of the Screening Report then Stage 3 not required.
	<p><i>If plan will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of European sites alone or in combination with other sites then the plan can proceed and no further HRA is required.</i></p> <p><i>If effects or any uncertainty remains following the consideration of alternatives and development of mitigation measures proceed to <b>Stage 4</b>.</i></p>	

Stage 4		
<b>Procedures where significant effect on integrity of international site remains (Derogations)</b>	<p>If an adverse effect on site integrity is determined a plan or programme can only proceed provided a series of 'sequential tests' (Habitat Directive's article 6 (4) derogation requirements) are satisfied. These are:</p> <p>Test 1: There must be no feasible <u>alternative solutions</u> to the plan or project which are less damaging to European Sites;</p> <p>Test 2: There must be '<u>imperative reasons of overriding public interest</u>' (IROPI) for the plan or project to proceed;</p> <p>Test 3: All necessary <u>compensatory measures</u> must be secured to ensure that the overall coherence of the network of European Sites is protected.</p>	<u>No LSEs identified</u> . NE to be consulted on the Screening Report. If agree with outcomes of the Screening Report then Stage 4 not required.

### Source – Pathway – Receptor approach

The underlying principle of the HRA is the '*source – pathway –receptor*' approach which will be followed to determine whether there will be a LSE on any European sites.

A 'source-pathway-receptor' approach is often used in environmental risk management. It is a way of developing a conceptual understanding of how environmental harm can occur.

If environmental or any other form of hazard is to occur it must originate from somewhere. For instance a water pollution incident wouldn't occur unless there is a source or causal agent for that pollution (e.g. agricultural run off or an industrial facility). This is the **source**. Environmental hazards would not present any problems unless there is a **receptor** that would be vulnerable to damage if exposed to the hazard originating from the source. However, there must also be a **pathway** by which the hazard can reach the receptor. Where the European sites are considered vulnerable to certain impacts those impacts can only be considered possible where there is a source for that impact and a pathway to the receptor.

### Consideration of recent case law

Particular regard has been taken to the May 2018 ECJ case of *People over Wind and Sweetman v Coilte Teoranta* case<sup>8</sup>. The judgement rules that mitigation to prevent harm to a European site should not be considered at LSE screening stage in order to determine no AA is required (i.e. determine no LSE). Mitigation should only be applied at the AA stage in order to determine no adverse effect of site integrity. Therefore, no mitigation has been applied at this stage for the purpose of the HRA. However, reference to other objectives and actions within the Management Plan is not considered as mitigation for the purposes of HRA but to ensure that relevant parts of the broader Management Plan are considered where relevant to individual objectives.

<sup>8</sup><http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=&docid=200970&pageIndex=0&doclang=en&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=619449>

#### 4. Stage 1 - Identification of whether the plan is subject to HRA

The Regulation 63 of The Habitat Regulations states that certain types should be subject to a HRA:

*“63.—(1) A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which—*

*(a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and*

*(b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site, must make an appropriate assessment of the implications of the plan or project for that site in view of that site’s conservation objectives”*

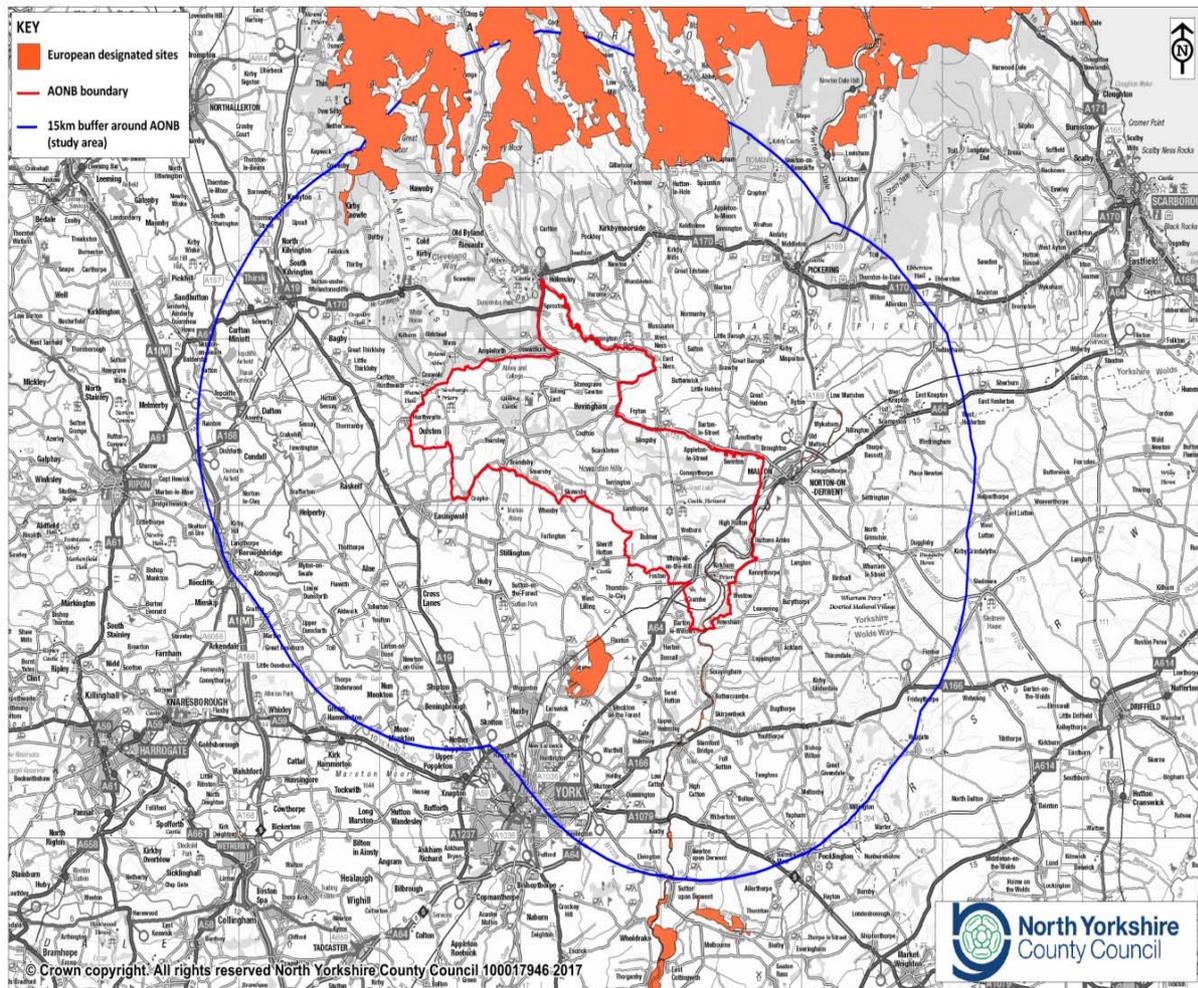
The Habitat Regulations do not define what constitutes a plan, but the Howardian Hills AONB Management Plan is considered to be a plan for the purpose of the HRA. The second consideration is whether or not the plan is ‘directly connected with or necessary to the management of [a European Site]’. The Management Plan seeks to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB as a whole, rather than being necessary to the management of nature conservation sites, and therefore is subject to HRA.

Therefore, it is concluded that the Howardian Hills AONB Management Plan should be subject to further consideration under The Habitat Regulations, and should proceed to ‘stage 2’ to determine whether there is a LSE, either alone or in combination, on any designated European sites.

## 5. Stage 2: Scoping and initial screening for LSE

### Identification of European sites in and around the plan area

The Plan Area of the Howardian Hills AONB is shown at Figure 1. The map also shows European (and Ramsar Sites) in the area - only the River Derwent SAC is located within the Howardian Hills AONB.



**Figure 1: The area of coverage of the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan and distribution of European Sites within the AONB and a 15km buffer**

As impacts from the Management Plan may occur beyond the administrative boundary of the AONB where there is a pathway between the source of impacts and a European site, a 15km buffer has been applied to the outer boundary of the AONB area to identify European sites where there is a potential LSE for further consideration. This area (AONB plus the 15km buffer) is the Study Area. For certain impacts longer range pathways may exist, and these will be investigated on a case-by-case basis.

Table 2 lists the European sites within the study area and their qualifying features.

**Table 2: European Sites situated within and around the Howardian Hills AONB.**

Type	Name of Site	Qualifying features
SAC	River Derwent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation (rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot)</li> <li>River lamprey (<i>Lampreta fluviatilis</i>)</li> <li>Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)</li> <li>Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>)</li> <li>Bullhead (<i>Cottus gobio</i>)</li> </ul> <p>Taken from European Site Conservation Objectives for River Derwent Special Area of Conservation, Site code: UK0030253. 30 June 2014 – version 2.</p>
SAC	North York Moors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> (wet heathland with cross-leaved heath)</li> <li>European dry heaths</li> <li>Blanket bogs (priority habitat)</li> </ul> <p>Taken from European Site Conservation Objectives for North York Moors Special Area of Conservation Site code: UK0030228. 30 June 2014 – version 2.</p>
SAC	Lower Derwent Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>).</li> <li>Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) (alder woodland on floodplains) (priority habitat)</li> <li>Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)</li> </ul> <p>Taken from Lower Derwent Valley Special Area of Conservation Site Code: UK0012844. 30 June 2014 – version 2.</p>
SAC	Strensall Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> (wet heathland with cross-leaved heath)</li> <li>European dry heaths</li> </ul> <p>Taken from European Site Conservation Objectives for European Site Conservation Objectives for Strensall Common Special Area of Conservation Site code: UK0030284 30 June 2014 – version 2.</p>
SPA	North York Moors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Falco columbarius</i> – Merlin.</li> <li><i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> – European Golden Plover.</li> </ul> <p>Taken from European Site Conservation Objectives for North York Moors Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9006161 30 June 2014 – version 2.</p>
SPA	Lower Derwent Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>; Bewick's swan (Non-breeding)</li> <li><i>Anas penelope</i>; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding)</li> <li><i>Anas crecca</i>; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding)</li> <li><i>Anas clypeata</i>; Northern shoveler (Breeding)</li> <li><i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>; European golden plover (Non-breeding)</li> <li><i>Philomachus pugnax</i>; Ruff (Non-breeding)</li> <li>Waterbird assemblage</li> </ul> <p>Taken from European Site Conservation Objectives for Lower Derwent Valley Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9006092 30 June 2014 – version 2</p>

Ramsar	Lower Derwent Valley	<p>Qualifying features</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 1: The site represents one of the most important examples of traditionally managed species-rich alluvial flood meadow habitat remaining in the UK. The river and flood meadows play a substantial role in the hydrological and ecological functioning of the Humber Basin.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 2: The site has a rich assemblage of wetland invertebrates including 16 species of dragonfly and damselfly, 15 British Red Data Book wetland invertebrates as well as a leafhopper, <i>Cicadula ornate</i> for which Lower Derwent Valley is the only known site in Great Britain.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 4: The site qualifies as a staging post for passage birds in spring. Of particular note are the nationally important numbers of Ruff, <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> and Whimbrel, <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 5 – assemblages of international importance – species with peak counts in winter: 31942 waterfowl (year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance: Qualifying species /populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eurasian Wigeon, <i>Anas penelope</i>, NW Europe (8350 individuals, representing an average of 2% of the GB population).</li> <li>• Eurasian Teal, <i>Anas crecca</i>, NW Europe (4200 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the population).</li> </ul> <p>Taken from Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) for Lower Derwent Valley RAMSAR. Version 3, 13 June 2008 <a href="http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/RIS/UK11037.pdf">http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/RIS/UK11037.pdf</a></p>
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### Identifying the conservation objectives and threats to the integrity of European sites

In determining the potential for LSEs of the Plan on the European sites identified in the study area, (and listed above in Table 2), the conservation objectives of the European sites and the possible threats to the integrity of the site has been considered. These have been listed in Appendix 1 for reference.

The key threats to site integrity is a summary of information provided in the vulnerabilities section of the JNCC Standard Data Forms for the each site as well as other data gathered including Supplementary Advice for sites where available. This provides a summary of the processes that may cause damage to a site and prevent conservation objectives being achieved, but the Screening Report has also considered other potential impacts to the European sites in addition to those listed.

## Screening for LSE in Combination with other Plan and Programmes

The Howardian Hills AONB Management Plan sets the strategic framework across the AONB for future land and development management. The Management Plan including the Objectives will be screened for LSEs on European sites both alone and in combination with other plans and projects.

The Howardian Hills AONB Management Plan is a strategic document and in many cases it will not exhibit specific direct impacts on individual European sites as it will not define specific interventions or occur at specific locations. However, there still exists the potential that these more strategic AONB Management Plan Objectives may potentially result in impacts to European sites.

Table 3 summarises the observations made by Tyldesley (2009)<sup>9</sup> and makes observations of potential relevance to an AONB Management Plan.

Table 3: Strategic-level impacts on European Sites (categories of impact and some source material for the mechanisms by which effects may occur are adapted from text in Tyldesley, D. 2009)

<b>Category of impact that could arise from a strategic change</b>	<b>How such impacts might occur</b>
Type of change	Theoretically a specific type of change might be proposed in an AONB Management Plan that may have a significant effect on one or more European sites regardless of the quantum of change or the location of that change. For instance, an objective that proposes that tourism should be focussed towards European sites rather than the AONB as a whole may have implications for European sites if they are sensitive to recreational pressure.
Quantity of change	In some cases a significant effect may occur as a result of the quantum of change that is likely to occur due to a specific objective. For instance, if a strategy would result in an increase in the quantity of farmers employing alternative management practices for farmland, designated habitats adjacent to farmland may be impacted by the change in management of large areas of land.
Location of change	There may be a strategic need to focus on, for example, traffic routing problems in a specific area. In such cases the necessary interventions may take place close to a European Site and exhibit direct effects, or may indirectly steer other forms of development to a location so that they exhibit an effect. In the objectives of the

<sup>9</sup> Tyldesley, D. 2009. The Habitats Regulations Assessment of Local Development Documents Revised Draft Guidance for Natural England.

	Management Plan locations are not referred to, however this may become more of an issue at an 'actions' scale.
Blocking of other proposals or approaches	Future alternative approaches may be blocked by policies in a strategy. For instance a non-damaging policy approach may no longer be an option if the strategy commits an area to a specific approach that may in the longer term be damaging.
Justifying damaging development	Inclusion within a strategy may give justification to interventions that would have otherwise been considered on their merits alone. This may form part of a case to justify 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' that would allow the certain development or actions to go ahead under various regulatory controls, whereas were a project considered in its own right a different case may need to be made. It is therefore important to ensure that only interventions that are consistent with the Habitats Regulations' requirements are included in the Management Plan.
Combined/cumulative effects	Where on its own the Management Plan may not be likely to have significant effects, certain objectives or actions may work in combination with other plans and projects in such a way that a significant effect may occur.

### **In Combination Impacts: Consideration of other Plans and Projects in this Assessment**

The Habitat Regulations requires that all LSE of plans and projects, whether they are alone or in combination with other plans and projects, be assessed for their impacts on European sites. The in-combination assessment means that plans and projects which may not result in a LSE when considered individually, could result in LSE when considered cumulatively with other plans and projects.

It is also important that in-combination assessment remains manageable and results in a meaningful assessment. Therefore, the focus of in-combination assessment will be on plans and projects for future direct land management or development as these plans are considered to be the key sources of potential impacts.

It is recognised that the Howardian Hills AONB Management Plan will be implemented in the context of changing spatial patterns and housing growth, as directed by other local spatial strategies, such as Local Plans and Local Development Frameworks. Many of the Plans reviewed during in-combination assessment will have been subject to a HRA. These HRA documents will be useful in ascertaining the extent to which those plans are expected to impact on European sites. Table 4 shows the plans that will be considered for in-combination impact in this assessment.

Table 4: Plans to be reviewed for possible in-combination effects where necessary

Name of Plan	Plan Type	Geographical Scope
Hambleton adopted Core Strategy and adopted Development Policies DPD <sup>10</sup>	Land use plan	Hambleton District
Hambleton Local Plan Preferred options <sup>11</sup>	Land use plan	Hambleton District
The Ryedale Plan Publication Draft <sup>12</sup>	Land use plan	Ryedale District
North York Moors National Park Adopted Core Strategy and Development Policies DPD <sup>13</sup>	Land use plan	North York Moors National Park
Minerals and Waste Joint Plan Publication Draft <sup>14</sup>	Land use plan	North Yorkshire, City of York and the North York Moors National Park
North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2016 - 2045 <sup>15</sup>	Transport plan	North Yorkshire County Council

### Recording the results of the LSE Screening Assessment

The Objectives will be screened for their LSE (alone or in-combination) on European sites. Potential effects from all objectives and actions will also be categorised as follows, following:

- **No negative effect:** these are elements of the plan that would have no negative effect on any European Site
- **No significant negative effect:** these are elements of the plan that could have an effect, but the likelihood is there would be no significant negative effect on a European site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects
- **Likely significant effect alone:** these elements of the plan will require an AA
- **Likely significant effect in combination:** a strategy categorised in this way will be subject to appropriate assessment unless the effect made by the strategy alone can be reduced to no significant negative effect or no negative effect
- **Uncertain:** this is where it is not possible to make a judgement on the likelihood of significant effects occurring. These impacts will require further investigation via an AA

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.hambleton.gov.uk/info/20039/planning/283/adopted\\_local\\_development\\_framework](https://www.hambleton.gov.uk/info/20039/planning/283/adopted_local_development_framework) - accessed May 2018

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.hambleton.gov.uk/localplan/site/index.php> accessed May 2018

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.ryedaleplan.org.uk/local-plan-sites/submission-and-forthcoming-examination> accessed May 2018

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/planning/framework/Adopted-Core-Strategy-and-Development-Policies.pdf> accessed May 2018

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/north-yorkshire-minerals-and-waste-plan> accessed May 2018

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/local-transport-plan> accessed May 2018

Table 5: Assessment of Likely Significant effects from the AONB Management Plan on European designated sites

Objective/Action	Possible impact of objective/action on European Site (sources/pathway)	Which European Sites could be affected (receptors)	Is the impact significant?	Other plans and projects which might act in combination	Risk of a significant in-combination effect	References/notes
NCES1 Gain a better understanding of the AONB's natural capital assets, their quality and their relative roles/significance in the provision of ecosystem services	Objective relates to information gathering and improving knowledge only.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
NCES2 Promote sustainability and support appropriate projects that benefit the AONB's natural capital, ecosystems services and Special Qualities	The objective seeks to promote sustainable development, and enhance natural capital (and related ecosystem services) and AONB Special Qualities.	All	No significant negative	None	No negative effect	Objective doesn't grant permission for any projects, it only offers support for sustainable projects which benefit the AONB. It is considered that for the project to be sustainable it would not result in a LSE on a

						European site, and the protection provided by objective s NE1 – NE4.
NCES3 Monitor climate change trends/scenarios and evaluate potential future impacts on the AONB	The objective only relates to monitoring climate change, and using such information for future planning and management of the AONB.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
NE1 Continually improve knowledge of the biodiversity resources in the AONB	Relates to information gathering only.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
NE2 Ensure that appropriate protection is given to the best nature conservation sites in the AONB	The objective seeks to protect sites within the AONB, and thus are complimentary to the objectives of the Habitat Regulations.	All	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	

NE3	Assist with the implementation of 25YEP/BD2020/WFD /LBAP targets for priority habitats in the AONB (broadleaved woodland; grasslands; wetlands) to improve condition and increase network connectivity	The objective helps meet government targets for biodiversity and water quality and increase habitat connectivity; all of which have a positive effect.	All	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
NE4	Assist with the implementation of 25YEP/BD2020/WFD /LBAP targets for priority species for which the AONB is important	The objective helps meet government targets for priority species which will have a positive effect.	All	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
NE5	Assist with the implementation of 25YEP/BD2020/WFD	Through this objective, village wildlife would be enhanced leading	All.	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	

/LBAP targets for wildlife within villages	to healthier populations of key species and greater abundance of key habitats.					
NE6 Monitor and where appropriate support control of invasive non-native species in the AONB	This objective seeks to ensure that non-native species to the AONB will be controlled, thus limiting their potential negative effects on species native to the AONB. This will have a net positive effect on Natura 2000 sites.	The River Derwent SAC, North York Moors SAC, Strensall Common SAC, North York Moors SPA, Lower Derwent Valley SPA, Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
NE7 Encourage the conservation of important geodiversity sites and features in the AONB	This objective seeks to conserve geodiversity sites within the AONB and is not predicted to result in an impact to any designated sites.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	

NE8	Provide assistance to farmers and land managers, to help them manage their land sympathetically	This objective seeks reduce the potential impacts of management practices on the AONB.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
NE9	Ensure continued recognition of the Howardian Hills as a priority area for biodiversity	This objective may help focus conservation action with the AONB, helping to improve habitats and connectivity between sites. It is not predicted to result in a LSE due to the absence of a pathway.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	Numerous studies show the beneficial effects of reducing the fragmentation of sites through landscape scale conservation. See for example Watts <i>et al</i> , 2005. Evaluating Biodiversity in Fragmented Landscapes, Forestry Commission, Edinburgh [URL: <a href="http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcin073.pdf/\$file/fcin073.pdf">http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcin073.pdf/\$file/fcin073.pdf</a> ].

HE1	Improve understanding of the AONB's historic environment and its significance	The objective relates to information gathering only, and is not predicted to result in a LSE due to the absence of a pathway.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
HE2	Conserve and enhance the significance of the AONB's historic environment	The conservation and enhancement of the historic environment is not predicted to result in a LSE due to the absence of a pathway.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
HE3	Help local people to identify the non-designated heritage assets which contribute to the character of their area and support the development of management strategies for their	The identification of heritage assets is not predicted to result in a LSE on any on Natura 2000 sites due to the absence of an impact pathway	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	

conservation and enhancement						
LC1 Support the retention of village services and the identification and implementation of projects that maintain and enhance village character, sustainability, economy and sense of community	The objective provides support for projects which maintain and enhance the character of villages, services etc. Although enhancement of services could potentially lead to impacts, the requirements for consideration of sustainability and the absence of a pathway means there is no LSE on designated sites.	River Derwent SAC	No significant negative effect, although there may be possible impacts from the enhancement of services. However, the emphasis on the sustainability of the proposals, and the protection provided by other objectives including NE1 – NE4, mean that there is no LSE.	None	No negative effect	
LC2 Encourage voluntary and community engagement with the local natural and	This objective will enable people to become engaged in work to protect the natural and historic environment of the	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	

historic environment of the AONB	AONB. There is no LSE from the objective due to the absence of an impact pathway.					
AG1 Encourage the development and uptake of new Government support mechanisms that promote sustainable farm and rural business development	There are potential environmental benefits from the uptake of sustainable farming practices, environmental stewardship schemes (and the outline proposals post Brexit <sup>16</sup> )	River Derwent SAC	No significant negative	None	No negative effect	Consider the context of other objectives, including NE1 and NE4 and their support of key government targets including WFD, and biodiversity targets.
AG2 Support farm businesses in the AONB by providing advice and appropriate assistance	The provision of advice and assistance to farmers within the AONB, which will be provided within the context of the AONB Special Qualities and the aims of the Management Plan,	River Derwent SAC	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	Consider the context of other objectives, including NE1 and NE4 and their support of key government targets including WFD, and biodiversity targets.

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-for-food-farming-and-the-environment>

	will not result in a LSE on any Natura 2000 sites.					
AG3 Ensure high standards of design and careful siting of all new farm buildings and infrastructure	Ensuring good design and appropriate siting, when considered in the context of the ANOB and the aims of the Management Plan, is predicted not to result in LSE on a designated site.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	Objective is not providing permission for such schemes but seeks to maximise design and location to benefit the AONB and its Special Qualities.
FW1 Ensure that all woodland felling, management and creation proposals recognise the Special Qualities of the AONB	Ensuring that woodland management and creation recognise AONB and its special qualities will not result in a LSE.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	Consider the context of other objectives, including NE1 and NE4 and their support of key government targets including WFD, and biodiversity targets.
FW2 Encourage a multi-objective approach to	The objective is predicted not to result in a LSE on	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	

woodland management in the AONB	any designated site due to the absence of an impact pathway.					
FW3 Monitor and mitigate the incidence and impacts of pests and diseases in the AONB	The monitoring and management of pests and diseases may result in their early detection and management, which may be beneficial to the management of designated sites. The objective is not considered to result in a LSE to a designated site due to the absence of a pathway.	River Derwent SAC	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	Consider the context of other objectives, including NE6.
FW4 Encourage the use of trees and shrubs of climate-appropriate provenance when planting or re-stocking, to develop future resilience	The objective is predicted not result in a LSE to any designated sites.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	

FW5 Encourage new areas of woodland where these would conserve or enhance the Special Qualities of the AONB, enhance habitat or natural capital networks, or provide ecosystem services benefits	<p>This objective will ensure that woodland management is carried out in a way that benefits AONB habitats and / or Special Qualities.</p> <p>This could have a net positive effect on Natura 2000 sites through creation of new habitat, and increasing connectivity between habitats.</p>	All	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
FW6 Support the continued development of local and regional markets for timber and woodland products	This objective relates to the market development for timber and woodland products.	None	No negative effect as woodland is a qualifying feature of any European site in the AONB.	None	No negative effect	

<p>FW7 Encourage the development and uptake of new grant and advice mechanisms that achieve AONB Management Plan objectives for woodland management and creation</p>	<p>The increasing the uptake schemes which achieve AONB management plan objectives, is not predicted to result in a LSE on any designated sites.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No negative effect</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No negative effect</p>	
<p>DRE1 Ensure that all new development is compatible with the aims of AONB designation and has regard to social, economic and environmental sustainability</p>	<p>This objective will not result in a LSE on any designated site. The objective doesn't permit development but seeks to ensure that any development is compatible with the AONB and considers sustainable development.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No negative effect</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No negative effect</p>	

<p>DRE2 Encourage high standards in both the design of new development within the AONB and the management of existing buildings/features</p>	<p>The objective doesn't permit development but seeks enhance design of developments. This objective is predicted to not result in a LSE on any designated site.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No negative effect</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No negative effect</p>	
<p>DRE3 Encourage the mitigation of intrusive features, to enhance the local landscape character and tranquillity of the AONB</p>	<p>This objective relates to aesthetic qualities and potential impact of the built environment on the AONB and its Special Qualities. The objective does not permit or support development, but seeks to mitigate their impacts should permission be granted.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No negative effect</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No negative effect</p>	

<p>DRE4 Support appropriate minerals-working proposals which conserve and enhance the Special Qualities of the AONB</p>	<p>This objective relates to minerals development in the AONB, which is supported by objective where it conserves or enhances the AONB Special Qualities.</p> <p>Mineral development can result in significant environmental effects ranging from hydrological changes to indirect impacts from increased traffic.</p>	<p>River Derwent SAC</p>	<p>No negative effect</p> <p>The objective doesn't grant permission for such schemes but only adds support in certain instances.</p> <p>The specification of 'appropriate minerals –working' should ensure that European sites are not subject to unacceptable impacts, particularly when considered with other objectives including NE2, NE3, NE4 and NE9.</p>	<p>Joint Minerals and Waste Plan Publication Draft <sup>17</sup></p>	<p>No significant effect</p> <p>The Joint Minerals and Waste Plan has not yet been adopted, so there is uncertainty over the Policies and site allocations.</p> <p>However, the most recent HRAs for the Plan (Publication Draft HRA Screening<sup>18</sup>, HRA Addendum<sup>19</sup> ) did not identify any LSE for the Policies or proposed allocated sites.</p>	<p>The objective doesn't permit minerals permission but merely provides support for appropriate minerals development. Therefore, there is no LSE from the objective, and the competent authority for minerals developments, and minerals allocations as part of the Joint Minerals and Waste Plans, must consider the potential impacts of the Plans and Projects, both</p>
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<sup>17</sup> <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/north-yorkshire-minerals-and-waste-plan>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fileroot/Planning%20and%20development/Minerals%20and%20waste%20planning/Examination%20Library/Core%20Documents/CD29%20Habitats%20Regulation%20Assessment.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fileroot/Planning%20and%20development/Minerals%20and%20waste%20planning/Examination%20Library/Core%20Documents/CD29%20Habitats%20Regulation%20Assessment.pdf>

					The AONB is not the competent authority for development management decisions on minerals, so cannot be held accountable for mineral plan and project level impacts.	alone and in combination, including with the AONB Management Plan.
DRE5 Support appropriate renewable energy installations that do not have adverse impacts on the Special Qualities of the AONB	The policy doesn't permit renewables projects, but provides support for them where appropriate. Renewable energy schemes, including wind power or hydropower could have negative impacts on bird and bat populations or aquatic and riparian habitats. However, as the objective only provides support for appropriate	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	There relevant competent authority for the renewable energy projects must undertake a HRA for the projects, in combination with other plans and projects.

	schemes it is considered that the policy doesn't result in a LSE.					
DRE6 Support rural business, local employment, training & skills and farm diversification activities that do not have adverse impacts on the Special Qualities of the AONB	The objective which supports rural businesses, training and skills will not result in a LSE on any designated sites.	None	No significant negative	None	No negative effect	
DRE7 Encourage the expansion of modern telecommunications infrastructure, whilst safeguarding the Special Qualities and tranquillity of the AONB	The objective supports the expansion of telecoms infrastructure. Such infrastructure can have the potential a negative effect on European Site. However, the supports such infrastructure, rather than grant	None	No significant negative	None	No negative effect	Additional protection is provided by policy NE2 which protects designated sites.  The competent authority for granting permissions at project level or allocating sites

	<p>permission or allocate such sites. Therefore, it is considered that the objective will not result in a LSE to any designated sites.</p>					<p>through local plans, must undertake a HRA, including considering in combination impacts.</p>
<p>DRE8 Encourage the increased provision of local-needs/affordable housing in the AONB</p>	<p>The building of new houses within the AONB can result in impacts to designated sites, including changes to hydrology, loss of habitats or disturbance to species.</p> <p>However, the objective encourages affordable housing, rather than grants permission or allocates sites through local plans.</p>	<p>River Derwent SAC</p>	<p>No negative effect</p>	<p>Ryedale Local Plan</p> <p>Hambleton Local Plan</p>	<p>No negative effect</p>	<p>Ryedale Plan – the HRA Screening did not identify the previous AONB Management Plan, as possibly acting in combination with the Local Plan. It is considered that there is no LSE from the Management Plan to act in combination with the Plan due to the absence of a pathway.</p> <p>The AA conducted for the housing</p>

	<p>Read in conjunction with the wider Management Plan, including NE2, it is considered that the objective will not result in a LSE.</p>					<p>allocations in the Ryedale allocations did not include any housing allocations within AONB and therefore, cannot act cumulatively with the objective.</p> <p>Hambleton Local Plan - the HRA Screening for the produced for the preparation of the new Local Plan did not identify the previous AONB Management Plan as possibly acting in combination with the Local Plan. It is considered that there is no LSE from the Management Plan to act in combination with the local plan.</p>
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						Furthermore, the HRA screening <sup>20</sup> document did not identify any housing allocations within the AONB to act in combination with the management plan.
RTT1 Encourage solutions to specific traffic routing issues in and around the AONB, to discourage through-traffic and ensure that other traffic uses the most appropriate route	Reduction of traffic by encouraging drivers to use the most appropriate route etc. may reduce impacts resulting from air pollution, disturbance etc. It is predicted that the objective will not result in a LSE on any designated sites.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
RTT2 Support initiatives to monitor and address traffic and driver	It is predicted that the objective will not result in a LSE	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	

<sup>20</sup> Hambleton **Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report (November 2016)** is available [here](#) – accessed May 2018

behaviour issues in the AONB	on any designated sites.					
RTT3 Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport as alternatives to the private car	The objective may result a reduction in impacts resulting from air pollution, disturbance etc. It is predicted that the objective will not result in a LSE on any designated sites.	None.	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
RTT4 Maintain the existing rural character of the road network in the AONB	It is predicted that the objective will not result in a LSE on any designated sites.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
RTT5 Support proposals for improvement of the A64 trunk road through the AONB, subject to these being fully justified and sensitive to local characteristics. Proposals should	This objective seeks to ensure a full justification is made for any improvement works on the A64 and to ensure that negative effects are mitigated where possible. The	River Derwent SAC	No negative effect.	None	No negative effect	The competent authority for the possible A64 improvement must take a HRA of the proposal, alone and in combination with other plans and projects, including the AONB

aim to minimise environmental impact, make maximum use of the existing road alignment and utilise new techniques such as 'green bridges' where possible.	objective doesn't grant permission for such works, and it is considered the objective will not result in a LSE on any designated sites.					Management Plan where relevant.
RAT1 Encourage sustainable recreational activities that do not conflict with the Special Qualities of the AONB.	Significant increases in recreation may lead to possible negative effects including impacts from disturbance, increase air pollution from vehicles etc. However, the objective only encourages sustainable recreation, which by its nature should not result in significant impacts on designated sites. Therefore, predicts no LSE on	None	No significant negative effect as policy encourages sustainable recreation, and when read as part of the broader plan including NE2, mitigates possible impacts.	None	No negative effect	

	any designated sites.					
RAT2 Promote the attractions and Special Qualities of the AONB to encourage sustainable use and support the local visitor economy	Significant increases in recreation may lead to possible negative effects including impacts from disturbance, increase air pollution from vehicles etc. However, the objective only encourages sustainable recreation, which by its nature should not result in significant impacts on designated sites. Therefore, predicts no LSE on any designated sites.	None	No significant negative effect as policy encourages sustainable recreation, and when read as part of the broader plan including NE2, mitigates possible impacts.	None	No negative effect	
RAT3 Maintain and improve both the condition and network of Public	Maintenance of the PROW network will include small-scale projects that are	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	

Rights of Way in the AONB.	likely to prevent wider environmental damage through erosion and disturbance.					
RAT4 Carry out recreational management measures as appropriate, to enhance enjoyment by the public and address local issues.	Recreational management will include small-scale projects with unknown but very small scale environmental effects.	None	No significant negative effect as objective NE2 ensures additional protection	None	No negative effect	
RAT5 Develop routes within the AONB for different user groups and provide self-guided information.	Route development within the AONB, if it requires physical works, should be carried out in accordance with other Management Plan objectives which seek to protect the natural features and Special Qualities of	None.	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	

	the AONB, meaning that there should not be any significant effect on protected sites.					
AP1 Maintain awareness and understanding of the AONB designation, its importance and the role and work of the Joint Advisory Committee.	This objective relates to knowledge promotion only. Therefore, it is predicted there is no LSE on any designated sites, due to the absence of an impact pathway.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
AP2 Promote awareness of the Special Qualities of the AONB	This objective relates to promotion and increased only. Therefore, it is predicted there is no LSE on any designated sites, due to the absence of an impact pathway.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	

<p>IM1 Consolidate and develop funding and partnership mechanisms to achieve Management Plan objectives</p>	<p>Objective relates to creation of funding opportunities to help to achieve the Management Plan objectives, which have been found to have no significant effect on Natural 2000 sites. Therefore, it is predicted there is no LSE on any designated sites, due to the absence of an impact pathway.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No negative effect</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No negative effect</p>	
<p>IM2 Ensure that the AONB Partnership has a robust business model that is resilient to future challenges</p>	<p>This objective relates to the business plan for the AONB only and therefore it is predicted that there will be no LSE on any designated sites, due to the absence of an impact pathway.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No negative effect</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No negative effect</p>	

MN1 Monitor the performance of the AONB partnership and AONB unit	This objective relates to information gathering only.	None	No negative effect	None	No negative effect	
MN2 Monitor the condition of the AONB	This objective relates to information gathering only, and therefore it is predicted that there will be no LSE on any designated sites, due to the absence of an impact pathway.	None	No negative effect.	None	No negative effect.	
Can the objectives be changed to avoid significant effects? Do residual effects remain?				Not applicable as no LSE on any designated sites were identified		
Is an appropriate assessment required?				No		

## **6. Conclusions**

This assessment has concluded that there are no likely significant effects on any European designated sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. As such no further HRA (e.g. appropriate assessment is required).

## **7. Consultation**

The statutory body for the purposes of HRA screening is Natural England. This Screening Report September will accompany the Draft Howardian Hills AONB Management Plan, and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report, when undertaking consultation with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England. In addition, this report will be placed on the AONB website and on the consultation circulated with the above mentioned documents as part of the wider stakeholder consultation.

### Further Information

Further information on this screening report can be obtained from:

The Environmental Policy Officer  
Heritage Services  
North Yorkshire County Council  
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## Appendix 1:

Table 6: Conservation Objectives and Threats to Site Integrity

Name of Site, JNCC Site Code and Area	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
<p>Lower Derwent Valley SAC</p> <p>Location Grid Reference: SE703441</p> <p>JNCC site code(s): UK0012844</p> <p>Size: 9.15 km<sup>2</sup> (915.91 Ha)</p>	<p><b>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>)</li> </ul> <p><b>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>); Alder woodland on floodplains</li> </ul> <p><b>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i></li> </ul>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and 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>	<p><b>Coal mining or other extractive industry</b> causing physical loss of habitat (removal and smothering) or hydrological change;</p> <p><b>Flood management</b> and tidal barrage causing hydrological change and physical damage (barrier effects and habitat fragmentation);</p> <p><b>Domestic and industrial sewage outflow</b> causing non-toxic contamination (e.g. nutrient enrichment);</p> <p><b>Intensive agriculture</b> causing physical loss of habitat, physical damage (through erosion, habitat fragmentation or siltation from agricultural runoff), toxic contamination of groundwater (e.g. from sheep dipping) or non-toxic contamination (nutrient enrichment);</p> <p><b>Polluting Industry</b> causing pollution (such as acidification from sulphur deposition);</p> <p><b>Alteration of channel structure</b> (canalisation, artificial barriers, etc.) causing physical loss and damage to habitat (through removal of and damage to riverside woodlands, barrier effects and habitat fragmentation) and hydrological change (water level and flow rate);</p>

Name of Site, JNCC Site Code and Area	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
			<p><b>Water abstraction</b> causing hydrological change or physical damage (drying and consequential habitat fragmentation);</p> <p><b>Waste management</b> (such as landfill) causing physical loss of habitat or hydrological change;</p> <p><b>Housing, inappropriate access and other development</b> leading to recreational pressure, causing physical damage (e.g. erosion) or disturbance of nesting and/or over-wintering birds.</p>
<p>North York Moors SAC</p> <p>Location Grid Reference: NZ711021</p> <p>JNCC site code: UK0030228</p> <p>Size: 440.82 km<sup>2</sup> (44,082.25 Ha)</p>	<p><b>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath</li> <li>European dry heaths</li> </ul> <p><b>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blanket bogs *</li> </ul> <p>*priority habitat</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 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><b>Agricultural management</b> (e.g. overgrazing) causing physical loss of habitat, physical damage (erosion, habitat fragmentation, nutrient enrichment); Under-grazing may cause physical loss of habitat (e.g. through scrub encroachment);</p> <p><b>Operations affecting hydrology</b> may lead to hydrological change (water level and flow rate), physical loss and damage to habitat through drying and fragmentation;</p> <p><b>Recreational pressure</b> causing physical damage to habitats such as erosion and fragmentation, accidental fires;</p> <p><b>Polluting industry and waste management</b> causing acid or nitrogen deposition or physical loss of habitat.</p>
<p>River Derwent SAC</p>	<p><b>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i></li> </ul>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its</p>	<p><b>Flood management</b> can cause hydrological change and physical damage to habitat (barrier effects and habitat fragmentation);</p>

Name of Site, JNCC Site Code and Area	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
<p>Location Grid Reference: SE704474</p> <p>JNCC site code(s): UK0030253</p> <p>Size: 4.11 km<sup>2</sup> (411.23 Ha)</p>	<p><b>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation; Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot</li> </ul> <p><b>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i></li> <li>Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i></li> <li>Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i></li> </ul>	<p>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> <li>The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sewage</b> can cause habitat loss (through smothering) and eutrophication (leading to changes in species composition);</p> <p><b>Siltation</b> (agricultural runoff) can cause physical damage (barrier effects, habitat fragmentation), physical loss of habitat (e.g. through smothering);</p> <p><b>Agricultural and industrial pollution</b> (incl. sheep dip) can cause toxic contamination of water, eutrophication, physical loss or damage (barrier effects);</p> <p><b>Alteration of channel structure</b> can lead to hydrological change (flow rate), physical loss and damage to riparian habitat (erosion of silt beds);</p> <p><b>Artificial barriers</b> (e.g. flood defences) causing physical damage (barrier effects, habitat fragmentation) to the site;</p> <p><b>Water abstraction</b> may lead to hydrological change (water level and flow rate);</p> <p><b>Waste management</b> may cause physical loss of habitat, nutrient deposition, acidification, and hydrological change.</p>
<p>Strensall Common SAC</p> <p>Location Grid Reference: SE651598</p>	<p><b>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></li> <li>European dry heaths</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats</li> </ul>	<p><b>Poor heather management</b> entailing physical loss (removal), damage (habitat fragmentation), accidental fires;</p> <p><b>Lack of scrub management</b> causing physical loss (smothering by scrub encroachment);</p>

Name of Site, JNCC Site Code and Area	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
<p>JNCC site code(s): UK0030284</p> <p>Size: 569.63 (Ha)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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><b>Overgrazing by sheep</b> causing physical loss (removal), physical damage (erosion, habitat fragmentation, non-toxic contamination (nutrient enrichment));</p> <p><b>Recreational pressure</b> causing physical damage (erosion and fragmentation, accidental fires);</p> <p><b>Toxic contamination</b> by herbicides</p>
<p>Lower Derwent Valley SPA</p> <p>Location Grid Reference: SE703441</p> <p>JNCC site code(s): UK9006092</p> <p>Size: 9.15 km<sup>2</sup> (915.91 Ha)</p>	<p><b>Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Anas clypeata</i>; Northern shoveler</li> <li><i>Anas crecca</i>; Eurasian teal</li> <li><i>Anas penelope</i>; Eurasian wigeon</li> <li>Bewick's swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>) - regularly supports 0.7% of the GB population</li> <li>Ruff (<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>) - supports 19% of the GB population</li> <li>Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) - regularly supports at least 2.4% of the GB breeding population</li> </ul> <p>Article 4.1 qualification</p> <p>Winter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>; Bewick's swan</li> <li><i>Philomachus pugnax</i>; Ruff</li> <li><i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>; European golden plover</li> </ul> <p>Article 4.2 Qualification</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 the habitats of the qualifying features</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> <li>The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Dead leaf litter accumulation</b> may cause habitat loss due to drying out of reed bed;</p> <p><b>Coal or other extraction industry</b> may cause physical loss of habitat (e.g. through removal) or hydrological change;</p> <p><b>Flood management and tidal barrage</b> may exhibit effects such as hydrological change (water level and flow rate), physical damage (barrier effects and habitat fragmentation);</p> <p><b>Domestic and industrial sewage outflow</b> may lead to non-toxic contamination (phosphorous / nutrient enrichment);</p> <p><b>Intensive agriculture</b> may lead to physical loss of habitat (removal), physical damage (erosion, habitat fragmentation, siltation of waterbodies from agricultural runoff), toxic contamination of groundwater (e.g. from sheep dipping) and non-toxic contamination (nutrient enrichment);</p> <p><b>Process industry</b> may cause non-toxic contamination (acidification from sulphur deposition);</p>

Name of Site, JNCC Site Code and Area	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
	<p>-Breeding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Anas clypeata</i>; Northern shoveler</li> </ul> <p>-Wintering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Anas crecca</i>; Eurasian teal</li> <li><i>Anas penelope</i>; Eurasian wigeon</li> </ul> <p>Article 4.2 qualification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40616 waterfowl, including:</li> <li><i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i></li> <li><i>Anas penelope</i></li> <li><i>Anas crecca</i></li> <li><i>Pluvialis apricaria</i></li> <li><i>Philomachus pugnax</i></li> </ul>		<p><b>Alteration of channel structure</b> (canalisation, artificial barriers, etc) may lead to physical loss and damage (removal of and damage to riverside woodlands, barrier effects and habitat fragmentation), or hydrological change (water level and flow rate);</p> <p><b>Water abstraction</b> could cause hydrological change (water level and flow rate) or physical damage (drying and habitat fragmentation);</p> <p><b>Waste management</b> (e.g. landfill) may lead to physical loss (removal and smothering), nutrient deposition and acidification, hydrological change (water level and flow rate);</p> <p><b>Housing development, inappropriate access and other development</b> could cause recreation pressure leading to physical damage (erosion and fragmentation, accidental fires) and disturbance of nesting and/or over-wintering birds, as well as physical loss of habitat.</p>
<p><b>North York Moors SPA</b></p> <p><b>Location Grid Reference: NZ711021</b></p> <p><b>JNCC site code(s): UK9006161</b></p>	<p><b>Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Falco columbarius</i>; Merlin</li> <li><i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>; European golden plover</li> </ul> <p>Article 4.1 qualification</p> <p>-Breeding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Falco columbarius</i>; Merlin</li> <li><i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>; European golden plover</li> </ul>	<p>The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 populations of the qualifying features</li> <li>The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Agricultural management</b> (e.g. overgrazing) causing physical loss of habitat (removal), physical damage (erosion, habitat fragmentation, and non-toxic contamination (nutrient enrichment); and under-grazing leading to physical loss (smothering, scrub encroachment), this includes improvement of in-bye land;</p> <p><b>Poor heather management</b> may lead to physical loss of habitat (removal) and</p>

Name of Site, JNCC Site Code and Area	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
<p><b>Size:</b> <b>44,082.25 Ha</b></p>			<p>damage to habitats (e.g. through habitat fragmentation);</p> <p><b>Agricultural drainage</b> could cause hydrological change, physical loss and damage (drying and fragmentation);</p> <p><b>Recreational pressure</b> could cause physical damage (erosion and fragmentation, accidental fires) and disturbance of nesting birds;</p> <p><b>Illegal persecution of raptors</b> may cause loss of species, reduced breeding success.</p>

Table 7: Ramsar sites within the Study Area

Name of Site, JNCC Site Code and Area	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
<p>Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar</p> <p>Location Grid Reference: SE703441</p> <p>JNCC site code(s): UK11037 (Ramsar)</p> <p>Size: 9.15 km<sup>2</sup> (915.91 Ha)</p>	<p>The site qualifies under:</p> <p><b>Ramsar criterion 1:</b> The site represents one of the most important examples of traditionally managed species-rich alluvial flood meadow habitat remaining in the UK. The river and flood meadows play a substantial role in the hydrological and ecological functioning of the Humber Basin.</p> <p><b>Ramsar criterion 2:</b> The site has a rich assemblage of wetland invertebrates including 16 species of dragonfly and damselfly, 15 British Red Data Book wetland invertebrates as well as a leafhopper, <i>Cicadula ormate</i> for which Lower</p>	<p>No specific Ramsar conservation objectives have been published for this site. This Ramsar site's interest features are covered by the conservation objectives for the SAC, Special Protection Area or Sites of Special Scientific Interest as appropriate.</p>	<p><b>Coal or other mineral extraction</b> causing physical loss of habitat, hydrological change (water level and flow rate);</p> <p><b>Flood management</b> and tidal barrage leading to hydrological change (water level and flow rate), physical damage (barrier effects and habitat fragmentation);</p> <p><b>Domestic and industrial sewage outflow</b> causing non-toxic contamination (phosphorous / nutrient enrichment);</p> <p><b>Intensive agriculture</b> leading to physical loss of habitat (removal), physical damage</p>

Name of Site, JNCC Site Code and Area	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
	<p>Derwent Valley is the only known site in Great Britain</p> <p><b>Ramsar criterion 4:</b> The site qualifies as a staging post for passage birds in spring. Of particular note are the nationally important numbers of Ruff, <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> and Whimbrel, <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>.</p> <p><b>Ramsar criterion 5:</b> Assemblages of international importance – 31942 waterfowl – species with peak counts in winter.</p> <p><b>Ramsar criterion 6:</b> species / populations at levels of international importance:</p> <p>-<i>Anas penelope</i> (2% of GB population);</p> <p>-<i>Anas crecca</i> (1% of the population).</p>		<p>(erosion, habitat fragmentation, siltation from agricultural runoff), toxic contamination of groundwater (sheep dipping), and non-toxic contamination (nutrient enrichment);</p> <p><b>Process industry</b> causing non-toxic contamination (acidification from sulphur deposition);</p> <p><b>Alteration of channel</b> structure (canalisation, artificial barriers, etc) leading to physical loss and damage (removal of and damage to riverside woodlands, barrier effects and habitat fragmentation), hydrological change (water level and flow rate);</p> <p><b>Water abstraction</b> resulting in hydrological change (water level and flow rate), physical damage (drying and habitat fragmentation);</p> <p><b>Waste management</b> causing physical loss of habitat, nutrient deposition and acidification and hydrological change;</p> <p><b>Housing, inappropriate access and other development</b> leading to recreational pressure may lead to physical damage (erosion and fragmentation, accidental fires); disturbance of nesting and/or over-wintering birds.</p>