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Cawthorne Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

Strategic Environmental Assessment & Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report

February 2019

Kirkwells

The Planning People

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This screening report is designed to determine whether the contents of the Cawthorne Neighbourhood Development Plan (hereafter referred to as Cawthorne Neighbourhood Plan or Cawthorne NDP) requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004; and / or a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with Article 6(3) and (4) of the EU Habitats Directive.
- 1.2 Cawthorne Parish Council has commenced preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan and has provided draft policy iterations for Barnsley Council's informal comments. The Parish Council is proposing to undertake a non-statutory consultation in March to April 2019, and once further changes to the Neighbourhood Plan have been made, hopes to embark on pre-submission consultation and publicity of the Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with Regulation 14 of Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 later in 2019. The latest pre-submission consultation draft version of the Plan has formed the basis of this screening opinion.

2.0 Cawthorne NDP

- 2.1 The Neighbourhood Plan applies to the Parish of Cawthorne in the Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley, South Yorkshire. The Parish includes the village of Cawthorne and a wider rural area of scattered smaller settlements and farms.
- 2.2 The Parish is mostly rural and designated as Green Belt, although Cawthorne village is inset. The village has a conservation area and there are 81 listed buildings including Grade II* Cannon Hall, Church of All Saints and Wool Greaves Farmhouse and Cannon Hall Country Park is a Historic Park and Garden. Development within the Parish has mostly been focussed on within the village boundary. There are also several areas of wildlife and geological interest including ancient woodlands, local wildlife sites and local geological sites.
- 2.3 The Cawthorne NDP will set out how the people of Cawthorne Parish wish to see their community develop in the future. Drawing on the evidence base and community feedback, it sets out what the area is like currently, identifies opportunities and key issues for the future, and establishes a long term Vision for the area.
- 2.4 The draft plan sets out six objectives to deliver the Vision, which are:
1. To protect and enhance the natural and physical environment of Cawthorne Parish including local landscape character, wildlife and biodiversity assets, amenity areas, green open spaces, open farm land, and community allotments.
 2. To support the provision of improved community leisure, sports and recreation facilities for future generations.
 3. To protect the distinctive built heritage and character of Cawthorne Village and Parish by ensuring new development is designed sensitively, taking into consideration the principles set out in the Village Design Statement.

4. To enhance the wellbeing of all members of our community by supporting the provision of fair, accessible housing to meet the needs of local people.

5. To preserve the unique atmosphere of the award-winning village of Cawthorne, whilst at the same time encouraging visitors to the area, so that business and tourism can thrive. Local businesses will be nurtured to allow the agricultural and rural economy to diversify and grow, enhanced by the provision of community led sustainable green energy and improved communication technologies.

6. To provide a supportive framework for the Parish Council to address non-planning issues, to ensure that Cawthorne benefits from appropriate improvements in transport, parking, access, road conditions and communications infrastructure. Such infrastructure improvements will support the Parish's development and growth over the Plan period. Accessibility and connections to local footpaths and bridle paths will be enhanced and parking facilities, speed control and traffic management measures will be improved.

2.5 These objectives provide the basis for five policy areas in the draft Plan. No site allocations are proposed in the draft Plan.

2.6 The Neighbourhood Plan proposes policies on the following topics:

- **Landscape, Wildlife and the Natural Environment** - these policies aim to protect and enhance the distinctive local landscape character, key views and wildlife in the parish and requires renewable energy schemes to minimise any adverse impacts on natural and built heritage;
- **Community and Sports Facilities** - important local facilities are identified and protected and investment in new facilities is supported. Several Local Green Spaces are identified for protection;
- **Design and Heritage** - the Village Design Statement has been used as a basis for design policies which seek to protect the historic character of the village and promote high quality design in new developments;
- **Housing** - a policy has been prepared to support limited infill development within the built up area of the village (development boundary) which provides the types and sizes of houses that local people need; and
- **Tourism and Business** - investment in local economic development is supported to help provide local employment opportunities which are appropriate to the rural area.

2.7 Section 3 of this document sets out the legislative background to SEA and HRA and outlines the regulations that require the need for this screening exercise. Section 4 provides a screening assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Cawthorne NDP and whether there is a need for a full SEA. Section 5 provides a screening assessment of the likely significant effects of the implementation of the Cawthorne NDP and the need for a HRA. Section 6 provides a summary and conclusions.

3.0 Legislative Background

Introduction

- 3.1 A Neighbourhood Plan must meet certain basic conditions. This includes demonstrating that the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations. Draft Neighbourhood Plan proposals should therefore be assessed to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects or a significant effect on a European important habitat.

The Requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.2 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC and was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or SEA Regulations. Detailed Guidance of these regulations can be found in the Government publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (ODPM 2005).
- 3.3 Where a Neighbourhood Plan could have significant environmental effects, it may require SEA. Guidance states that the requirement for SEA and the level of detail needed will depend on what is proposed. SEA may be required, for example, where:
- a Neighbourhood Plan allocates sites for development;
 - the Neighbourhood Area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan;
 - the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.
- 3.4 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 required Local Authorities to produce Sustainability Appraisals (SA) for all local development documents to meet the requirement of the EU Directive on SEA. It is considered best practice to incorporate requirements of the SEA Directive into an SA.
- 3.5 However, the 2008 Planning Act amended the requirement to undertake SA for Development Plan Documents (DPDs) only, but did not remove the requirement to produce SEA. Neighbourhood Plans are not DPDs meaning there is no legal requirement to have SA undertaken on them; however, Neighbourhood Plans may still require SEA.
- 3.6 In accordance with Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, Draft Neighbourhood Plan proposals should therefore be assessed to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. This process is commonly referred to as a "screening" assessment and determines whether a full assessment is needed.
- 3.7 To fulfil the legal requirement to identify if the Cawthorne NDP requires SEA, a screening for SEA and the criteria for establishing whether a full assessment is needed, is undertaken in Section 4 of this report.

The Requirement for Habitat Regulations Assessment

- 3.8 Articles 6(3) and 6 (4) of the European Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna state that an Appropriate Assessment is required for any land use plans or projects that are considered likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects. Natura 2000 sites are those sites designated under the Habitats Directive to ensure the protection of European important habitats, and include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Offshore Marine Sites (OMS) and, within the UK, Ramsar sites.
- 3.9 An HRA is required when it is deemed that likely negative significant effects may occur on Natura 2000 sites as a result of the implementation of a plan / project.
- 3.10 To fulfil the legal requirements to identify if likely significant effects will occur with the implementation of the Cawthorne NDP upon Natura 2000 sites, a screening assessment has been undertaken in Section 5 of this report.

4.0 Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening

Criteria for Assessing the Effects of the Cawthorne Neighbourhood Development Plan

4.1 Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out below:

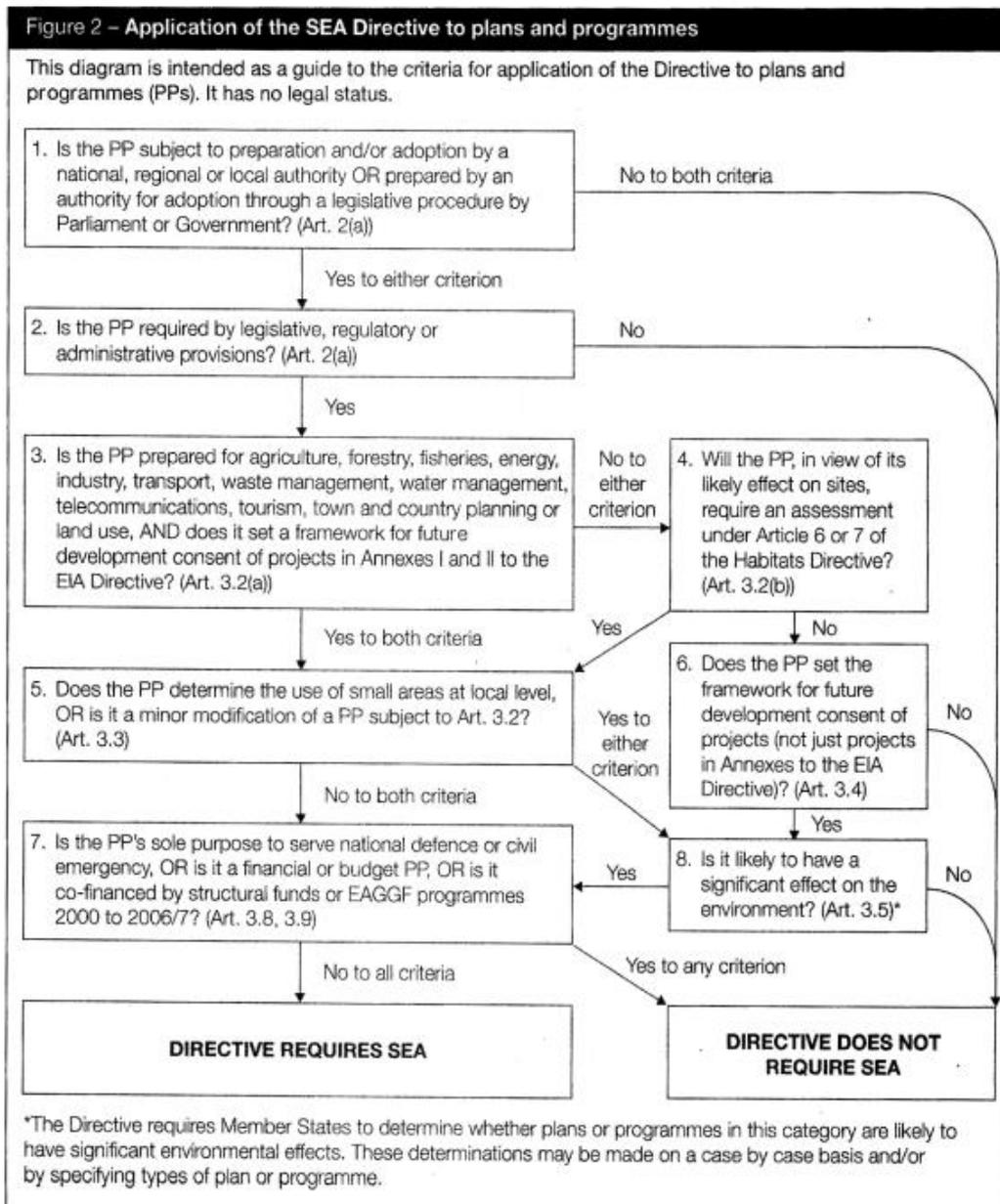
1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to
 - the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,
 - the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
 - environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to
 - the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,
 - the cumulative nature of the effects,
 - the transboundary nature of the effects,
 - the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),
 - the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
 - the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
 - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,
 - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,
 - intensive land-use,
 - the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

Source: Annex II of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC

Assessment

4.2 One of the basic conditions for Neighbourhood Plans is the requirement for them to be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority. The Barnsley Local Plan was adopted in January 2019 and therefore the Cawthorne NDP must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the Local Plan.

- 4.3 The Local Plan was subject to a full Sustainability Appraisal¹ which included a SEA and this previously completed SEA has been taken into account in undertaking the screening assessment of the Cawthorne Neighbourhood Plan. This ensured that there were no likely significant effects which would be produced from the implementation of the Plan, and if so, ensured mitigation measures were in place.
- 4.4 An assessment of the proposed Cawthorne NDP policies and their conformity / conflict with the adopted Local Plan is provided in Appendix 1. This confirms that there is general conformity and limited conflict between the Local Plan and the Cawthorne NDP, and there are no significant changes introduced by the Cawthorne NDP.
- 4.5 The diagram below illustrates the process for screening a document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required.



¹ <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/4526/sd5-sustainability-appraisal-scoping-report-2014.pdf>

- 4.6 The process above has been undertaken and the findings can be viewed in Table 1 below. This shows the assessment of whether the Cawthorne NDP will require a full SEA. The questions in Table 1 are drawn from the diagram above which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied.

Table 1: Establishing the Need for SEA		
Stage	Y/N	Reason
1. Is the PP (plan or programme) subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	The Cawthorne NDP is not a DPD, however, if the document receives 50% or more votes in support at referendum, it will be made (adopted) by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	N	Communities have the right to produce a Neighbourhood Plan if they so wish. There is no legislative, regulatory or administrative requirement to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. However, if made, the Plan would form part of the statutory development plan and it is therefore considered necessary to answer the following questions to determine if SEA is required.
3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	Y	The Cawthorne NDP is prepared for Town and Country Planning and land use. It therefore sets out a framework of future development in the Neighbourhood Area to which it applies.
4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	?	Screening assessment for HRA is provided in Section 5 of this report.
5. Does the PP Determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	Y	The Cawthorne NDP will include policies which will influence the use of small areas and sites at a local level. However, it does not propose to significantly increase the quantum of development already planned for in the recently adopted Barnsley Local Plan.
6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Y	Once made, the Cawthorne NDP will form part of the statutory development plan and will be used in the determination of planning applications.
7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)	N	N/A

8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	N	The Cawthorne NDP is unlikely to have any significant effect on the environment.
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Screening Assessment

- 4.7 The results of the preceding assessment indicate that, depending upon the content of a neighbourhood plan, a Strategic Environmental Assessment may be required. For this reason, neighbourhood plans should be assessed individually in order to determine their likely significant effects on the environment.
- 4.8 The criteria for determining the likely significant effects referred to in Article 3 (5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule 1 of the Regulations. The proposals within individual Neighbourhood Plans will need to be assessed against these criteria:
1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to
 - the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,
 - the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
 - environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection)
 2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to
 - the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,
 - the cumulative nature of the effects,
 - the trans-boundary nature of the effects,
 - the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),
 - the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
 - the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
 - special national characteristics or cultural heritage,
 - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,
 - intensive land-use,

- the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.
- 4.9 The policies set out in the draft Cawthorne NDP (February 2019 version) have been used to undertake this screening assessment. If the conclusion of the screening exercise is that a SEA is not required, any major changes to the existing policies or introduction of new ones should be subject to a further screening assessment to ensure that significant effects are not likely.
- 4.10 The table below sets out the assessment of policies in the Cawthorne NDP in relation to the criteria outlined earlier:

Table 2: Assessment of the Likelihood of Significant Effects on the Environment

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects	Is the Cawthorne NDP likely to have a significant environmental effect?	Justification for Screening Assessment
The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	No	The Cawthorne Neighbourhood Plan sets a local policy framework for development proposals. It supports the implementation of policies in the adopted Local Plan which have already been subject to SEA as part of the Sustainability Appraisal.
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	No	The Cawthorne Neighbourhood Plan must be in conformity with the adopted Barnsley Local Plan. It therefore supports the implementation of higher tier policies at the neighbourhood level and, as such, is not considered to have a significant influence on other plans and programmes.
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	No	The Cawthorne Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development at the neighbourhood level. Policies set out in the Plan protect assets of natural and built heritage value and provide locally distinct planning policies to protect them. The likelihood of significant effects on the environment is, therefore, minimised.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects	Is the Cawthorne NDP likely to have a significant environmental effect?	Justification for Screening Assessment
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.	No	Because of the limited scale of development proposed in the neighbourhood plan, environmental impacts are likely to be small. Existing environmental problems may be addressed through the implementation of the Plan's policies.
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	No	The Cawthorne Neighbourhood Plan must be in conformity with higher level development plans - in this case the Barnsley Local Plan. This has had regard to European Community legislation on the environment. Consequently, the policies of the neighbourhood plan are not considered to be relevant to the implementation of EC legislation.
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.	No	Some development is likely over the Plan period meaning that some environmental change will take place. However, the Plan policies are designed to ensure that any new development will be sustainable and any environmental impacts minimised.
The cumulative nature of the effects.	No	The neighbourhood plan's policies are unlikely to have significant cumulative impacts on the local environment.
The trans-boundary nature of the effects	No	The policies in the Cawthorne Neighbourhood Plan are unlikely to have significant environmental impacts on neighbouring areas
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents).	No	No significant risks to human health or the environment as a result of the Plan's policies have been identified. In fact, the Plan is likely to improve human health by improving access to green spaces and the countryside and tackling issues such as volume of traffic and provision of parking in the village.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects	Is the Cawthorne NDP likely to have a significant environmental effect?	Justification for Screening Assessment
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	No	The Cawthorne Neighbourhood Plan is concerned with development within the neighbourhood area. The geographical area covered by the Plan is 1500 hectares and it has a population of 1,151. The potential for environmental impacts is likely to be limited and minimal.
<p>The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; - intensive land-use. - the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or International protection status. 	No	<p>The neighbourhood plan area is rural in character and its natural heritage assets include Local Wildlife Sites at Margery Wood / Cawthorne Park, Daking Brook, and Wool Greaves Meadows and Ancient Woodlands at Margery Wood / Cawthorne Park, Shuff Wood, Susannah Spring, Whin Moor Plantation and Bull Haw Carr (part), Banks Wood and Low Mill Wood. There are no sites designated as nationally or internationally Important within the Plan area.</p> <p>There are 81 Listed Buildings in the area, a historic park and garden and a designated Conservation Area.</p> <p>The Cawthorne Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to adversely affect the value and vulnerability of the area in relation to its natural or cultural heritage. In fact, it actually provides greater support to enhance the natural and cultural assets of the area.</p>

4.11 On the basis of the SEA Screening Assessment set out in Table 2 above, the conclusion is that the Cawthorne Neighbourhood Plan will not have significant effects in relation to any of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations, and therefore does not need to be subject to SEA.

4.12 The main reasons for this conclusion are:

- The Cawthorne Neighbourhood Plan supports the implementation of policies in the adopted Barnsley Local Plan which have already been subject to SEA.

- The Cawthorne Neighbourhood Plan is a lower tier plan in the hierarchy of planning documents for the area, and therefore has limited influence on other plans or programmes.
- The Plan is concerned with development at the neighbourhood level. Its impacts are therefore unlikely to be strategic.
- Through its policies, the Cawthorne Neighbourhood Plan seeks to avoid or minimise negative environmental effects.

Screening Outcome

- 4.13 As a result of the assessments in Table 1 and Table 2 above, it is unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Cawthorne NDP that were not covered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the Barnsley Local Plan. The Cawthorne NDP does not allocate sites for development, no sensitive natural heritage assets are adversely affected by the proposals in the plan (in fact they are protected) and as such, it is concluded that Cawthorne NDP does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.

5.0 Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening

Introduction

- 5.1 The HRA process is broadly divisible into three distinct stages, with the need to complete each stage determined by the results of the previous stage. In summary these are:

- **Stage 1: Evidence Gathering and Screening**

This stage is associated with collecting evidence regarding those parts of the Natura 2000 network that have the potential to be impacted by the strategic land-use plan, either alone, or in combination with other projects or plans. Where no significant effects are perceived, sites may be screened out of the need for further assessment during Stage 2.

- **Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment of Significant Impacts**

Where it is considered a Natura 2000 site may experience significant effects from a project or strategic land-use plan, either alone or in combination, a detailed assessment of likelihood and severity of the impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network is undertaken. This assessment is based on a detailed review of the project or plan in conjunction with the structure, function and conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 site. This stage may also include a preliminary assessment regarding the potential for the identified impacts to be mitigated.

- **Stage 3: Assessment of Alternative Solutions and Mitigation Measures**

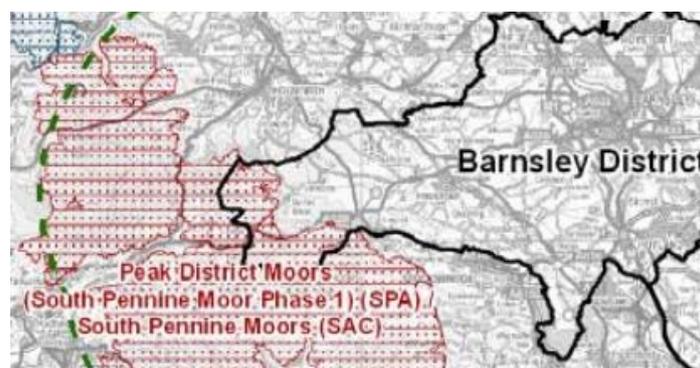
Where impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network are perceived, this stage examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or strategic land-use plan in order to avoid these impacts. Where potential for adverse impacts remains, and where it is deemed that a project or land-use plan should proceed for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, (IROPI), an investigation of appropriate mitigation and compensatory measures is undertaken.

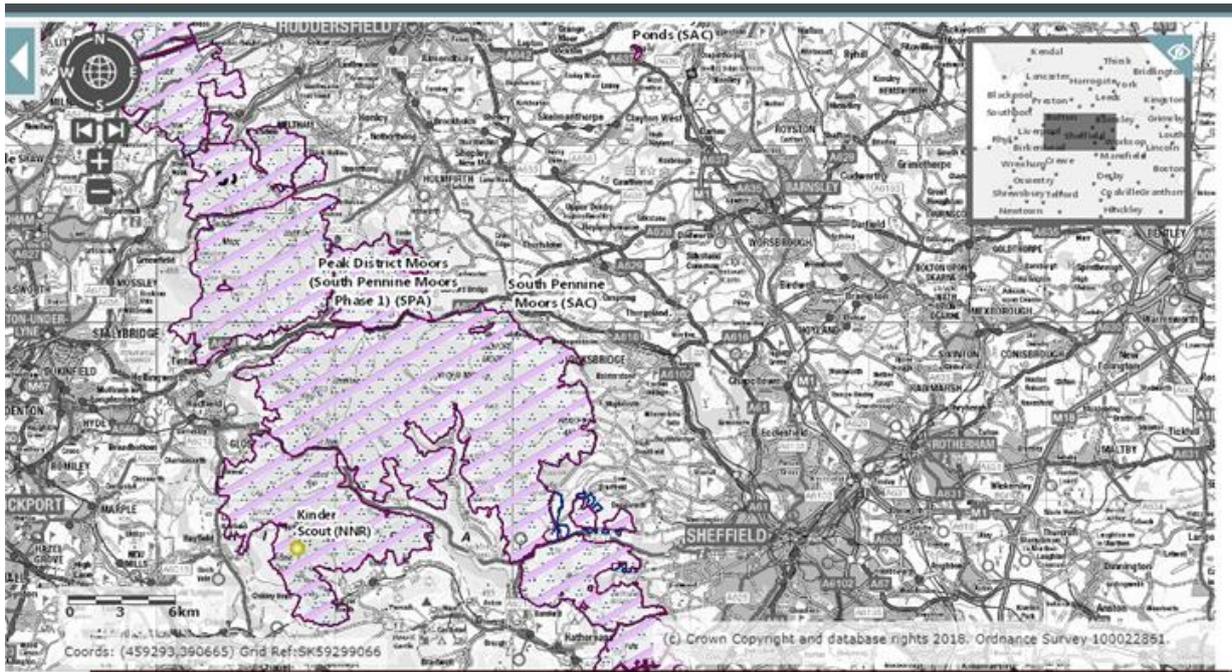
- 5.2 This report focuses on Stage 1 of the process.

Relevant Natura 2000 Sites

- 5.3 Cawthorne is within 15km of the following Natura 2000 sites:

Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors) Special Protection Area/Special Area of Conservation.



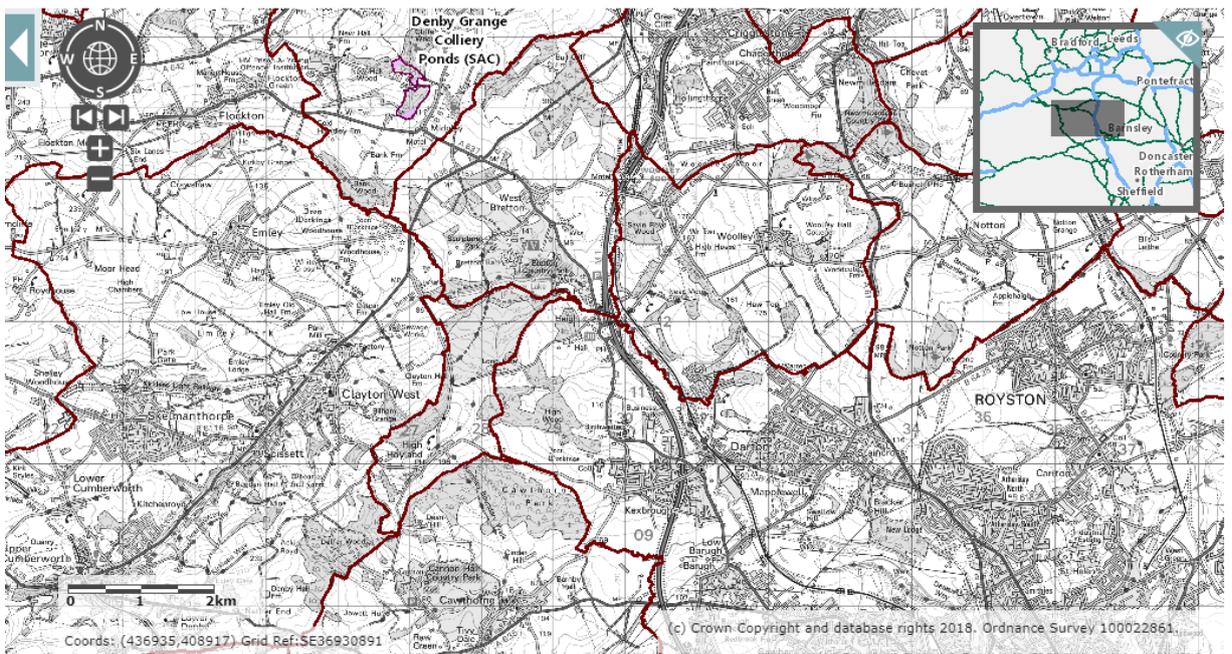


Source <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

5.4 The site is of European importance for several upland breeding species including birds of prey and waders. The area is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK for European dry heaths, blanket bogs and Old Sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles.

Denby Grange Colliery Ponds Special Area of Conservation

5.5 In addition Denby Grange Colliery Ponds SAC lies approximately 5km to the north of Cawthorne parish, within Wakefield Borough.



Source <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

- 5.6 Denby Grange Colliery Ponds SAC is considered by Wakefield MD Council in their Screening Report for the HRA for their Site Specific Proposals DPD. A buffer zone of 2km was established by WMDC around the SAC in consultation with Natural England. This site relates to Great Crested Newts which are unlikely to travel in excess of 1km, therefore a 2km buffer zone is adequate for this particular SAC. The closest point the Barnsley borough boundary comes to the SAC boundary is 2.5km so no impacts from Barnsley's Local Plan (or therefore Cawthorne NDP) are likely.
- 5.7 The adopted Barnsley Local Plan has been subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening². This concluded that, overall, the majority of the policies and proposed sites within the Local Plan would not result in any harm to European Sites. By concentrating development in existing settlements and proposed environmental and habitat protection allocations, the Local Plan will help to protect the integrity of the Special Area of Conservation/Special Protection Area. There is however a risk of a potentially negative effect on the European sites arising from the proposed housing allocations within the buffer zone, and further assessment will be required if they are to be allocated in the next stage of the plan.
- 5.8 The Appropriate Assessment identified key vulnerabilities/key environmental conditions which may be affected by the Local Plan as being a loss of habitat and increased housing numbers which may lead to more visitor or recreational disturbance and the possibilities of increased traffic and its effect on air pollution. These are considered in more detail in relation to the specific Local Plan proposals.
- 5.9 Two sites in Cawthorne were considered further as specific Local Plan proposals. One site is an area of Safeguarded Land, Site Ref SAF27 North of Darton Road, Cawthorne. Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Sustainability Appraisal Site Assessment Addendum Report Ref Issue 19 January 2018³ sets out that in the Site Selection Methodology carried out by BMBC it is noted that the site is a greenfield site and the site is considered to have some adverse local ecological impacts, but with scope for mitigation. It is about 15km from the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA.
- 5.10 Another site was also considered as a possible housing allocation in the emerging Local Plan. This Sustainability Appraisal Site Assessment Addendum Report identified this as Land at Cawthorne (CA2a). The site has a neutral effect on biodiversity. This site is not expected to have any negative impact on designated sites, habitats or species. The Site Selection Methodology carried out by BMBC for this site notes that the site is considered to have no detrimental local ecological impacts. The site is not included as a site allocation in the adopted Local Plan.
- 5.11 Neither of the 2 sites is allocated in the Cawthorne Neighbourhood Plan.
- 5.12 The Appropriate Assessment also concluded that because of the location of the European site within the Green Belt and other protective designations such as local wildlife sites, local nature reserves and ancient woodlands for example, it was unlikely that there would be any direct threat from proposals for development. However proposals that may potentially

² <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/planning-and-buildings/local-planning-and-development/our-new-local-plan/local-plan-examination-2016-17/local-plan-examination-library/>

³ <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/planning-and-buildings/local-planning-and-development/our-new-local-plan/local-plan-examination-2016-17/local-plan-examination-library/>

cause pollution, or impact on water bodies via drainage or extraction, or otherwise damage ecology should be avoided.

- 5.13 The impact of any policies or proposals affecting the use of land within 5km of the sites, will require assessment, as will borough wide policies to ensure that there is no indirect impact.
- 5.14 One of the main issues for the Local Plan is any potential loss of feeding areas for birds outside the site boundary in the west of the borough. Whilst there is not a clear radius where effects may occur, a distance of 5 km from the boundary of the sites is considered to be a sensible area to consider. The areas of land which are important for the birds are likely to be the upland grasslands close to the SPA/SAC, and watercourse/ wetland features.
- 5.15 The Cawthorne Neighbourhood Plan policies and proposals are in conformity with those in the adopted Barnsley Local Plan which has been subject to Appropriate Assessment. This confirms that most policies and policies would not result in significant environmental effects on the South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation/Special Protection Area, except in the case of housing allocations within the 5km buffer zone. None of these fall within the Cawthorne Neighbourhood Plan area. It is therefore concluded that no further work will be required in order to comply with the Habitat Regulations.

6.0 Summary and Conclusions of the Screening Assessments

Summary

- 6.1 Cawthorne Parish forms a large rural area within the Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley. It is mainly designated as Green Belt, but includes Cawthorne village which is inset within the Green Belt and has a Conservation Area and numerous Listed Buildings as well as a historic park and garden. There are also a number of smaller settlements and scattered farms. The area includes a number of natural heritage assets including several Local Wildlife Sites.
- 6.2 The Cawthorne NDP is unlikely to significantly increase the quantum of development proposed within the adopted Barnsley Local Plan and it is expected to be in general conformity with the statutory Development Plan. The draft policies that are proposed in the Cawthorne NDP seek to provide a local interpretation, clarify and add detail to the strategic policies of the Local Plan. The Cawthorne NDP does not therefore propose a significantly different policy direction to the adopted Development Plan in Barnsley.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 6.3 The SEA screening assessment concluded that the policies in the Cawthorne NDP are likely to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan. It is therefore unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Cawthorne NDP that were not covered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the Barnsley Local Plan.
- 6.4 It is therefore concluded that the Cawthorne NDP does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.

Habitat Regulations Assessment

- 6.5 The policies of the Barnsley adopted Local Plan have also been subject to HRA. The screening assessment concluded that there would be no likely significant effect on the Natura 2000 network, either alone or in combination with other local plans.
- 6.6 For the reasons outlined above, it is also concluded that the Cawthorne NDP does not require a full HRA to be undertaken.

Appendix 1 Assessment of Cawthorne NDP draft policies and their general conformity to the adopted Barnsley Local Plan.

Cawthorne Draft NDP Policy	Barnsley Strategic Policies	General Conformity
<p>C1 Protecting Local Landscape Character</p>	<p>Local Plan Policy D1 Design sets out that Development is expected to be of high quality design and will be expected to respect, take advantage of and reinforce the distinctive, local character and features of Barnsley, including:</p> <p>Landscape character, topography, green infrastructure assets, important habitats, woodlands and other natural features;</p> <p>Views and vistas to key buildings, landmarks, skylines and gateways; and</p> <p>Heritage and townscape character including the scale, layout, building styles and materials of the built form in the locality.</p>	<p>The landscape character policies in the NDP is consistent with the policy in the adopted Local Plan. However, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to go further by providing more detailed local requirements for future developments. NDP Policy C1 describes local landscape character around Cawthorne and identifies significant local features and views which are locally important and which should be protected.</p> <p>There are unlikely to be any significant environmental effects that have not already been considered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the emerging new Local Plan.</p>
<p>C2 Protecting Local Wildlife</p>	<p>Policy BIO1 Biodiversity and Geodiversity sets out that development will be expected to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geological features of the borough by various measures.</p> <p>Local Plan Policy GI1 Green Infrastructure seeks to protect, maintain, enhance and create an integrated network of connected and multi-functional Green Infrastructure assets including those that enhance biodiversity.</p>	<p>The wildlife policy in the NDP is consistent with Local Plan Policies BIO1 and GI1. However, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to go further by providing more detailed local requirements for future developments, including references to specific habitats and wildlife species which occur locally.</p> <p>There are unlikely to be any significant environmental effects that have not already been considered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the emerging new Local Plan.</p>

Cawthorne Draft NDP Policy	Barnsley Strategic Policies	General Conformity
C3 Renewable Energy	Local Plan Policy RE1 Low Carbon and Renewable Energy requires such development to have no material harm on such issues as character, biodiversity, heritage assets, views and highways.	<p>The renewable energy policy in the NDP is consistent with the policy in the Local Plan. However, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to go further by providing locally relevant restrictions, taking into account the need to protect the registered park and garden and the conservation area, and their settings.</p> <p>There are unlikely to be any significant environmental effects that have not already been considered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the emerging new Local Plan.</p>
C4 Protecting and Enhancing Community Facilities	Local Plan Policy E7 Loss of Local Services and Community Facilities in Villages protects local services and community facilities in villages; changes of use to new uses will only be permitted where the business or facility cannot be economically successful; or the change of use would not have a significant effect on the ability of local people to access local services.	<p>The NDP Policy is consistent with the policy in the Local Plan. However the NDP policy provides local detail by identifying the facilities which should be protected in the NDP area.</p> <p>There are unlikely to be any additional significant environmental effects arising from the NDP policy.</p>
C5 Protecting and Enhancing Recreational Facilities	Local Plan Policy GS1 Green Space protects recreational areas generally and Policy HE4 Developments affecting Historic Areas or Landscapes will protect the Country Park.	<p>The NDP Policy is consistent with the policy in the Local Plan.</p> <p>Draft Policy C5 identifies local recreational facilities for protection and supports investment in new facilities.</p> <p>There are unlikely to be any additional significant environmental effects arising from the NDP policy.</p>
C6 Local Green Spaces	Local Green Space would be considered to fall under Green Infrastructure as protected in Local Plan Policy GI1.	The NDP identifies several local green spaces which should be protected. The identification and protection of Local Green Spaces is a

Cawthorne Draft NDP Policy	Barnsley Strategic Policies	General Conformity
		<p>relatively new power set out in the NPPF.</p> <p>The NDP policy is consistent with the policy in the Barnsley Local Plan. However, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to go further by identifying specific Local Green Spaces that should be protected.</p> <p>There are unlikely to be any significant environmental effects that have not already been considered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the emerging new Local Plan.</p>
<p>C7 Heritage and Design</p>	<p>Local Plan Policy D1 Design requires development to consider heritage, townscape and landscape character including the scale, layout, building styles and materials of the built form and Policy HE1 The Historic Environment supports proposals which conserve and enhance the significance and setting of the borough's heritage assets, paying particular attention to those elements which contribute most to the borough's distinctive character and sense of place. Policies HE3 Development affecting Historic Buildings and HE4 Developments affecting Historic Areas or Landscapes require that developments: respect historic precedents of scale, form, massing , architectural detail and materials; and respect views and important landscape elements.</p>	<p>The Local Plan seeks to ensure development contributes positively to the local historic environment and heritage assets. The NDP goes further than the Local Plan by drawing out relevant detail relating to context and design, drawn from the Village Design Statement and further, more up to date work by the NDP group. Candidate local heritage assets are also identified.</p> <p>There are unlikely to be any significant environmental effects that have not already been considered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the emerging new Local Plan.</p>
<p>C8 General Principles for New Development in Cawthorne Parish</p>	<p>Local Plan Policy D1 Design requires development to consider heritage, townscape and landscape character</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan emphasises that new residential development</p>

Cawthorne Draft NDP Policy	Barnsley Strategic Policies	General Conformity
	<p>including the scale, layout, building styles and materials of the built form.</p>	<p>should respect character and local distinctiveness.</p> <p>There are unlikely to be any significant environmental effects that have not already been considered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the emerging new Local Plan.</p>
<p>C9 Criteria for New Housing Development</p>	<p>Under Local Plan Policy LG2 Location of Growth Cawthorne is identified as a village. Villages are identified as the third tier for development and the supporting text sets out that <i>"there will be a slower pace and scale of growth in villages and rural areas"</i>-</p>	<p>The Cawthorne NDP conforms to the new Local Plan.</p> <p>NDP Policy C9 supports small scale residential development within the development boundary to meet local needs including housing for first time buyers, young people and older residents wishing to downsize to smaller properties. These requirements are drawn from extensive consultations with local residents.</p> <p>There are unlikely to be any significant environmental effects that have not already been considered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the emerging new Local Plan.</p>
<p>C10 Supporting Local Economic Development and Tourism</p>	<p>Local Plan Policy E5 Promoting Tourism and encouraging Cultural Provision promotes tourism and advises that tourist related development in rural areas will be protected and encouraged to support</p>	<p>The Cawthorne NDP supports the provision of facilities for small scale business and proposals linked to diversification of the rural economy. It also supports home working. This is</p>

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	<p>and diversify the local economy, subject to the requirements of Policy E8 Rural Economy. Policy E6 Rural Economy encourages a viable rural economy by allowing development which supports appropriate diversification.</p>	<p>consistent with the Local Plan which seeks to encourage the creation of new enterprises to support employment locally, including home working, and farm based diversification.</p> <p>Given this general conformity, there are unlikely to be any significant environmental effects that have not already been considered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the Barnsley Local Plan.</p>
<p>C11 Car and Cycle Parking in Cawthorne Village and at Canon Hall Leisure Cluster</p>	<p>Local Plan Policy T1 Accessibility Priorities sets out how the Council will facilitate sustainable transport links to and from existing and proposed employment, interchange, community and leisure and tourism facilities in the borough, including provision for car parking.</p>	<p>The Local Plan recognises the importance of local infrastructure.</p> <p>This policy is in conformity with the Local Plan, subject to green belt policies and is likely to result in environmental benefits.</p> <p>Given this general conformity, there are unlikely to be any significant environmental effects that have not already been considered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the Barnsley Local Plan.</p>

Appendix 2 Extract from Barnsley Local Plan Examination Consultation 2018 Addendum to Habitats Regulations Assessment

Table 2: Screening - Assessment of likely significant effects of Local Plan policies on the South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA

Local Plan Policy	Possible Impacts arising from the Local Plan	Discussion	Risk of effects
<p>LG2 the location of growth</p>	<p>The submitted version of the Local plan carried forward the spatial strategy set out in the Core Strategy, which was to focus growth on Urban Barnsley and the Principal Towns. One of the Inspectors concerns raised in the interim findings report was that the Local Plan was not planning positively for villages. As a result of this some additional sites are being proposed in some of the larger villages.</p> <p>Urban Barnsley is in the centre of the Borough and relatively remote from the sensitive areas associated with the sites. The majority of the Principal towns are located in the east of the borough. Together these areas are intended to see the most growth in Barnsley.</p> <p>One of the additional sites proposed is within the 5km buffer in the village of Oxspring.</p>	<p>The housing and employment elements of this growth are considered by E2 and H2 below.</p> <p>In general terms it is considered that this spatial strategy is unlikely to affect Natura 2000 sites. However there does remain a small possibility of low-level, indirect impacts due to increased recreational pressures from new residents.</p> <p>In line with the precautionary principle there are a number of policies in the Local Plan which would help to avoid or protect against and adverse effect on sites. These include:</p> <p>BI01 Biodiversity and Geodiversity states that development will be expected to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geological features of the borough by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting and improving habitats, species, sites of ecological value and sites of geological value with particular regard to designated wildlife and geological sites of international, national and local significance <p>Development which may harm a biodiversity or geological feature will not be permitted unless effective mitigation and/or compensatory measures can be ensured.</p> <p>The South Pennine Moors SCA and SPA are specifically mentioned in the supporting text for the policy</p> <p>LC1 Landscape Character states that development will be</p>	<p>Likely significant effect</p>
	<p>One of the main issues for the Local Plan is any potential loss of feeding areas for birds outside the site boundary in the west of the borough.</p> <p>Whilst there is not a clear radius where effects may occur, the areas of land which are important for the birds are likely to be the upland grasslands close to the SPA/SAC.</p>	<p>expected to retain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of the individual Landscape Character Area in which it is located (as set out in the Landscape Character Assessment of Barnsley Borough 2002 and any future updates)</p> <p>The following policies would also serve to offset any possible effects on the sites:</p> <p>G11 Green Infrastructure states that we will create, maintain and enhance an integrated network of connected and multifunctional open spaces that amongst other things</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhances biodiversity and landscape character <p>At a strategic level we have identified a number of GI corridors which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Don Valley Corridor <p>The supporting text for the policy recognises that this corridor crosses several local authority boundaries and flows through a varied landscape extending from the South Pennine moors.</p> <p>We have a GI Strategy for the borough which considers these issues further.</p> <p>GB1 Green Belt seeks to protect the general extent of the green belt and requires that development within them is in accordance with PPS2. Approximately 75% of Barnsley is proposed to remain in Green Belt and this policy offers the majority of the west of the borough protection from inappropriate development.</p> <p>GS1 Greenspace seeks to protect and improve all areas of greenspace to meet the standards in our greenspace strategy. This policy also expects new development to provide and maintain appropriate greenspace in accordance with 11 Infrastructure and Planning Obligations. Details on this provision will be set out in a SPD</p>	

		<p>Our Green Space Strategy Part 1 was adopted by the Council in 2006. It identifies types of greenspace, what they are used for and sets out standards for greenspaces which describes how much should be available to people within set distances of their homes.</p> <p>In addition there are measures and actions being undertaken with regard to habitats through the Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan 2008 – 2012 (still in force but under review). Relevant sections of this are attached at Appendix 2.</p>	
Policy H2 the distribution of new homes	<p>Additional sites are proposed to deal with a proposed increase in the overall housing figure in response to the Inspector's interim findings. Additional housing sites are proposed in Urban Barnsley, Cudworth, Hoyland and the villages of Oxspring, Cawthorne, Great Houghton, Silkstone Common, Thurgoland, Tankersley, Broomhill and Brierley.</p>	<p>This is a relatively low level of housing growth compared with the other locations across the borough where housing is to be focussed. Of all the other areas of growth only Royston has a lower figure for housing numbers.</p> <p>The main impact of the new houses will be increased recreational pressure on adjacent open areas. Given that the housing growth is relatively small it is anticipated that the any impacts will also be of a small scale. As detailed above we will also require new developments to provide on-site greenspace which should be appropriate to the needs of the area, would also meet the recreational needs of new residents and offset any pressure on sensitive areas.</p> <p>Our Green Space Strategy sets out standards for green space in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quantity – making sure each town and village has enough green space of each type; • accessibility – how far people should expect to go to get to green spaces; and • quality – the quality of the space people should expect to find. 	Likely significant effect
		<p>With regard to the natural and semi-natural areas we have set a standard of a 2ha site within 800m of the settlement. We will aim to meet these standards and in doing so should provide people with access to open areas. Ensuring that a hierarchy of natural areas are provided in line with the Green Space strategy standards, there is less pressure to access more sensitive sites, such as the SAC and SPA.</p> <p>In terms of recreational routes from Penistone to the Peak Park and sensitive sites, the main non-motorised route is the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT), a long distance multi-user public path. Barnsley and Sheffield councils are currently creating the Little Don Trail which will be a further multi-user trail running from Stocksbridge to Langsett (and then connecting to the TPT near Hazelhead), largely on a disused railway line. There are not any other major routes and as such intrusion should be minimised. In addition Derbyshire County Council have produced maps of Public Rights Of Way (PRoW) routes which show a limited number of routes into the Peak Park from Barnsley that intrude onto the SAC and SPA sites. Furthermore their remoteness means they are unlikely to appeal to the typical urban visitor to the moors.</p> <p>It is recognised for example that people like to walk their dog within 15 minutes of home. As such people in Penistone are more likely to use locally accessible greenspaces such as Penistone Recreation Ground and the Meadows along with other smaller greenspaces in Penistone rather than putting significant additional pressure on sensitive sites.</p>	
H8 Affordable Housing Policy	<p>Where a need can be proven this policy allows affordable housing in villages, including those washed</p>	<p>The policy requires sites for affordable housing in the rural settlements to be clearly related to need and in sustainable locations, within the village boundaries where possible. As such</p>	No likely significant effect

	over as Green Belt. Some of these villages are in the west of the borough where there is a particular need and lack of provision	they are likely to be small scale. The number of homes likely to come forward under this policy are limited and will be considered via the development management process rather than through allocations.	
GB6 Safeguarded Land	This policy sets out that the permanent development of safeguarded land will only be permitted following adoption of a replacement Local Plan which proposes development. Some flexibility may be allowed where there is a shortage of housing land supply and it can be proven that no alternative site is available to meet the need and the site is considered to be sustainable. Otherwise development will not take place on safeguarded sites until after 2033.	EC7 Land east of Sheffield Road, Oxspring is 5.1km from the SAC/SPA. The sites lie just beyond the agreed 5km buffer and although it is primarily grassland it is in a valley bottom close to a 'B' road, housing and trees so in our opinion it would not be appropriate to require further surveying for golden plover.	No likely significant effect

Kirkwells

The Planning People

For more information on the contents of this document contact:

Louise Kirkup

Director

Kirkwells

Lancashire Digital Technology Centre

Bancroft Road

Burnley

Lancashire

BB10 2TP

01282 872570