Northumberland
County Council

HABITATS REGULATIONS
ASSESSMENT REPORT
DECEMBER 2021

OF

HAYDON PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:
SUBMISSION DRAFT
November 2021

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Contents

Habitats Regulations Assessment Report, December 2021 of Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan Submission Draft November 2021		
Version & Date	Assessing Officer	Supervising Officer
18/05/2021	Ann Deary Francis, Ecologist	David Feige, Principal Ecologist and AONB Officer
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1. Introduction

Purpose of the Habitats Regulations Assessment Report

1.1 Haydon Parish Council are leading the preparation of a neighbourhood development plan (the Plan) to provide locally specific planning policies intended to address issues identified as being important to the local community, particularly where those issues are perceived as not being adequately addressed through existing planning policies.

1.2 As the 'competent authority' under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), Northumberland County Council is required to assess development plans through the HRA process. The purpose of a HRA is to assess possible effects of development plans on the nature conservation interests of sites designated under the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives. These sites consist of Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and also include Ramsar Sites. The HRA process is an iterative process and the integration of the HRA process as part of the preparation of development plans is fundamental to the plan making process as policies in the plan can potentially affect designated sites.

1.3 HRA is an iterative process and the remaining stages will be completed alongside and will inform preparation of the Plan. The screening opinion provided in this Report will be reviewed once the Plan is submitted to the County Council to ensure that any revisions to policies arising following the pre-submission consultation stage do not result in any variation to this opinion.

Format of the Habitats Regulations Assessment Report

1.4 This HRA Report establishes the scope of and the process for completing the HRA of the Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan Submission Draft (November 2021) and undertakes an assessment of the Plan. The HRA Report includes the following:

1. HRA requirements and process.
2. Stage 1A: Identifies the European sites.
3. Stage 1B: Identifies the Trend Analysis.
4. Stage 1C: Analysis of proposals and polices in the Haydon Bridge Neighbourhood Development Plan - Identification of Likely Significant Effects
5. Stage 1D: Consideration of other plans and projects
6. Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment
7. Conclusion
8. Bibliography

Appendices

Habitats Regulations Assessment Consultation

1.5 It is a requirement of the Habitats Regulations to consult the appropriate nature conservation statutory body (Natural England). Consultation has taken place and Natural England confirm their agreement with the County Council, in their letter dated 23rd June 2021that the Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan Pre-Submission Draft July 2021 can be screened out of further stages of assessment. Minor amendments to the Plan in July 2021 and November 2021 do not require additional consultation with Natural England. This is included at Appendix 1.

1.6 This HRA report will be issued to Haydon Parish Council and the Steering Group to assist in supporting the submission of their Plan to the County Council and to assist the independent examination of the Plan in due course.

2. Habitats Regulations Assessment Requirements and Process

2.1 As a member of the European Union, the UK is bound by the terms of the Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the Birds Directive) and the Council Directive9 2/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna (the Habitats Directive). These are implemented in the UK through the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations (as amended) which provide for the protection of areas of European importance for wildlife, in the form of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), designated under the Habitats Directive, and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), designated under the Birds Directive. Collectively, these are termed European sites, and the overall network of European sites is termed Natura 2000.

2.2 The UK is also a signatory to the Convention on wetlands of international importance especially as waterfowl habitat, which was signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971. Areas designated under this Convention are called Ramsar sites. Although Ramsar sites are not European sites as a matter of law, the Government has chosen as a matter of policy to protect and manage them by applying the same procedures to them. Consequently, Ramsar sites are treated as European sites in practice.

2.3 Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive states the following concerning 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. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.*

If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted."

2.4 Regulation 105(1) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 states that

"*Where a land use plan -*
(a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site in Great Britain 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 the site,

the plan-making authority for that plan shall, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives."

Regulation 106 of the Regulations states;
"106.—(1) A qualifying body (i.e. Parish Council, or body designated as a Neighbourhood Forum) which submits a proposal for a Neighbourhood development plan must provide such information as the competent authority may reasonably require for the purposes of the assessment under regulation 105 or to enable it to determine whether that assessment is required."

2.5 The purpose of an HRA is to demonstrate that a land-use plan (or other plan or project) will not have any adverse effects on the integrity of any European sites. The assessment determines whether the plan would adversely affect the integrity of any European site in terms of its conservation objectives. Where adverse effects are identified alternative solutions should be identified and the plan modified to avoid any adverse effects. The Planning Authority can adopt the plan only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site.

2.6 The European Commission's own guidance on the application of the test of likely significant effect accepts that policies in a plan that are no more than general policy statements or which express the general political will of an authority cannot be likely to have a significant effect on a site.[1]

2.7 This issue has also been addressed in the High Court case of Feeney, in which the judge stated that:

"A Local Plan is a high level strategic document and the detail falls to be worked out at a later stage. Each appropriate assessment must be commensurate to the relative precision of the plans at any particular stage and no more. There does have to be an appropriate assessment at the Local

[1] European Commission, 2000, *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC* section 4.3.2 at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/provision_of_art6_en.pdf

Plan stage, but such an assessment cannot do more than the level of detail of the strategy at that stage permits" [2]

2.8 Therefore, there is a balance to be struck between being sufficiently rigorous in the assessment of potential effects, and undertaking a lot of unnecessary work or even causing a plan to fail the appropriate assessment test of 'adverse effect on site integrity' on the basis of risks that are more hypothetical than real, or risks that are too poorly defined at the Local Plan stage to be meaningfully assessed at this stage. Therefore some potential effects may be noted at this stage as requiring more detailed assessment during the development management process.

2.9 The Feeney case has also provided helpful guidance concerning the role of protective policies for European sites or protective wording within policies. It is clear that a general protective policy in itself cannot be regarded as adequate mitigation for any significant effects, because planning applications must be determined in accordance with the Development Plan. Therefore relying too heavily on a general protective policy can just create internal conflicts with other policies within the Plan.

2.10 However, an element of a policy that safeguards European sites or a policy qualifying a particular proposal so as to avoid likely significant effect has been found to be permissible[3], as has adopting something in principle that will not actually happen if the protective condition or qualification is not being satisfied[4]. However, it is essential that such safeguards are sufficiently specific that they are not just general safeguards apply to a range of European sites and a range of effects.

Assessment Methodology to meet the requirements of the Habitats Directive

2.11 The Council has adopted the following assessment methodology to meet the requirements of the Habitats Directive:

Stage One – Screening

This comprises an initial analysis to determine whether the Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan is likely to have a significant effect on any European sites. The Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan will require appropriate assessment unless it is certain that it will not have a significant effect on any European sites.

- Stage 1A: Identification of European sites relevant to the assessment, and analysis of them in terms of reasons for designation, factors affecting their integrity and trends affecting them.
- Stage 1B: Identification of underlying trends that could affect the integrity of sites.
- Stage 1C: Analysis of the Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan objectives, proposals and proposed policies in terms of their possible adverse effects on the integrity of European sites, examination of options and alternatives to avoid or reduce these effects.

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[2] Sean Feeney v Oxford City Council and the Secretary of State CLG para 92 of the judgment dated 24 October 2011 Case No CO/3797/2011, Neutral Citation [2011] EWHC 2699 Admin http://www.oxford.gov.uk/Library/Documents/Barton%20AAP/Barton%20AAP%20CD%207.20.1%20Appendix%20Feeney%20v%20OCC%202011.pdf

[3] Feeney; paragraphs 88, 90 and 92

[4] Feeney; paragraph 96

- Stage 1D: Identification of other plans and projects relevant to the assessment, to identify any likely in-combination effects. Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that plans and projects likely to have a significant effect on a European site alone *or in combination with other plans or projects* shall be subject to appropriate assessment.

Stage Two – Appropriate Assessment

2.12 Determination of whether any proposals or policies in the Local Plan identified at the screening stage as having a likely significant effect would have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European sites, in view of the conservation objectives for those sites and the nature of the likely significant effect that has been identified. Modifications to those proposals or policies are identified to avoid any adverse effects on site integrity.

If mitigation is not possible and adverse effects on site integrity remain, the process must proceed to Stage Three.

Stage Three – Alternative Solutions

2.13 The identification of alternative solutions to the relevant proposals or policies so as to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of European sites. The plan must then be modified in light of these findings.

Stage Four – Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest and Compensatory Measures

2.14 If a plan or project has adverse effects on the integrity of a European site which cannot be avoided or mitigated for and there are no alternative solutions, consideration must be given to whether there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest for proceeding with the plan or project. This stage involves central Government and must be notified to the European Commission. If there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures must be identified to maintain and enhance the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network. This will only be in exceptional circumstances and must be supported by strong justification.

2.15 The European Court of Justice provided a ruling to the Irish Courts in case C323/17[5] (People over Wind) on 12th April 2018 in response to a request for a ruling to answer the following question:

'*Whether, or in what circumstances, mitigation measures can be considered when carrying out screening for appropriate assessment under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive?'*

The ruling was:

Article 6(3)…. Must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out, subsequently, an appropriate assessment of the implications, for a site concerned, of a plan or project, it is not appropriate, at

5 http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf;jsessionid=0B015136ECA453B45E5BC9B13397F53A?text=&docid=200970&pageIndex=0&doclang=en&mode=lst&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=5349699

the screening stage, to take account of measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site.'

2.16 This ruling overturned existing practice in the UK, which was to consider the benefits of any proposed mitigation at the screening stage, when determining whether a proposal is likely to have a significant effect on any European sites. Full consideration has been given to this ruling in the preparation of this Habitats Regulations Assessment. Reliance has not been given to mitigation measures at the screening stage, and all policies likely to have a significant effect in the absence of mitigation have been taken forward to appropriate assessment. Consequently it is considered that this HRA is consistent with the ECJ ruling in Case C 323/17.

3. Stage 1A: Identification of European sites

3.1 The following European sites are wholly or partly within 10km of the plan boundary or are considered to have the potential to be affected by the Plan, and so are within the scope of the Habitats Regulations Assessment:

Special Areas of Conservation

- Border Mires, Kielder-Butterburn in the plan boundary, with several further units within 10km.
- Tyne and Allen River Gravels – in the plan boundary with a further unit 35km from the western plan boundary.
- Roman Wall Loughs – at northern plan boundary.
- North Pennines Moors – at southern plan boundary.
- North Pennines Dale Meadows – 2.3km from southern plan boundary.

Special Protection Areas

- North Pennines Moors – at southern plan boundary.

Ramsar Sites

- None

Site Analysis

3.2 This stage of the assessment details the reasons that relevant European sites have been designated (the qualifying features), the objectives intended to be achieved by designating and managing the sites, and the environmental conditions that are key to maintaining the integrity of the site. Guidance from the European Commission states that 'a site can be described as having a high degree of integrity where the inherent potential for meeting site conservation objectives is realised, the capacity for self-repair and self-renewal under dynamic conditions is maintained, and a minimum of external management support is required' (EC, 2000; para 4.6.3)

An asterisk ***** beside a qualifying feature indicates that the feature is listed as a priority habitat on Annex l of the Habitats Directive.

Site	**Qualifying Features**	**Conservation Objectives**	**Key Environmental Conditions to Support Site Integrity**
Border Mires Kielder – Butterburn SAC	Blanket bogs * Petrifying springs with tufa formation* European dry heaths Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix Transition mires and quaking bogs	To maintain the qualifying features in favourable condition (or restore them to favourable condition)	Blanket bog – high water table, low grazing levels, absence of burning, absence or low levels of human activity that cause erosion (e.g. military activities, recreational pressure), no peat extraction, absence of plantation conifers from hydrological unit or self-seeded conifers from peat body, low atmospheric or aquatic nutrient inputs. Petrifying springs – active tufa deposition from very base-rich water, low fertility, no damage to tufa from human or livestock trampling. Dry heath – grazing pressure not limiting dwarf shrub cover, mosaic of small burns and unburnt areas if burnt, low atmospheric or aquatic nutrient inputs. Wet heath – grazing pressure not limiting dwarf shrub cover, mosaic of small burns and unburnt areas if burnt, low atmospheric or aquatic nutrient inputs. Transition mires – high water table, balance between seepage and surface water maintained, enriched water from land drainage or surface run-off excluded, low atmospheric nutrient inputs.
Tyne and Allen River Gravels SAC	Calaminarian grassland	To maintain in (or restore to) favourable condition the calaminarian grassland	Appropriate grazing levels to maintain key species and bare ground, continuation of extreme conditions of toxicity and drought stress.

Site	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Environmental Conditions to Support Site Integrity
North Pennine Moors SPA	Internationally important breeding populations of Annex 1 species: Hen harrier Merlin Peregrine Golden plover	To maintain in (or restore to) favourable condition the upland moorland for the populations of Annex 1 species.	Low levels of human disturbance (heather burning, vehicles, livestock, dogs, people), especially between April and mid-July, and no illegal persecution or egg collection. Abundance of small birds and day-flying moths; areas of tall heather and scattered 0.5 -2ha tree clumps especially on slopes (merlin) Abundance of small mammals and small–medium sized birds; tall heather especially on slopes for nesting and grassland and grass-heath mosaics for feeding (hen harrier) Abundance of small-medium sized birds (peregrine) Abundance of earthworms, leatherjackets, beetles and spiders; maintenance of areas of short grassland, grassland with bracken and burnt heather especially on flatter plateaux, with extensive unobstructed views (golden plover)
North Pennine Moors SAC	Alkaline fens Blanket bogs ***** Calaminarian grasslands Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytes European dry heaths Juniper,Northern atlantic wet heaths Old sessile oak woods,Petrifying springs with tufa formation***** Dry grassland and scrub on calcareous substrates Montane acid grasslands Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation Siliceous scree Marsh saxifrage	To maintain in (or restore to) favourable condition the qualifying features.	Blanket bog – high water table, low grazing levels, absence of burning, absence or low levels of human activity that cause erosion (e.g. military activities, recreational pressure), low atmospheric or aquatic nutrient inputs. Petrifying springs – active tufa deposition from very base-rich water, low fertility, no damage to tufa from human or livestock trampling. Dry heath – grazing pressure not limiting dwarf shrub cover, mosaic of small burns and unburnt areas if burnt, low atmospheric or aquatic nutrient inputs. Wet heath – grazing pressure not limiting dwarf shrub cover, mosaic of small burns and unburnt areas if burnt, low atmospheric or aquatic nutrient inputs. Alkaline fens – maintenance of high piezometric head and low fertility, low levels of disturbance by livestock trampling or vehicles. Chasmophytic vegetation and scree – low levels of trampling by humans or livestock. Calaminarian grassland – very low nutrient inputs, appropriate grazing levels, continuation of extreme conditions of toxicity and drought stress. Old oak woods – browsing/grazing by native/non-native/agricultural ungulates low enough to permit regeneration and avoid undesirable shifts in stand composition

Site	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Environmental Conditions to Support Site Integrity
			or structure, low levels of pollution including eutrophication from adjacent farmland.
Roman Wall Loughs SAC	Naturally eutrophic lakes with pondweed vegetation	To maintain in (or restore to) favourable conservation status the qualifying features	Water quality maintained within appropriate parameters, sedimentation rates not increased by primary productivity being elevated by anthropogenic eutrophication.
North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC	Mountain hay meadows *Molinia* meadows	To maintain in (or restore to) favourable condition the mountain hay meadows.	Low nutrient inputs from farmyard manure only; sufficient removal of biomass, low level of poaching.

4. Stage 1B: Analysis of Trends

4. Stage 1B: Analysis of Trends

4.1 Trends are influences on a European site other than other plans and projects, which have influenced it and are likely to continue to influence it. It is important that relevant trends are considered alongside the plan that is subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment and other plans and projects, in order to identify the factors which, in combination, may be affecting a European site.

4.2 The following trends have been identified as being relevant to this Habitats Regulations Assessment:

- Air quality
- Water quality and hydrology
- Tourism and recreation
- Large scale development
- Climate change
- Non-native invasive species

Air Quality

4.3 The pollutants that have the most important impacts on important plant communities in the UK comprise nitrogen compounds causing eutrophication (excessive nutrient levels), and nitrogen and suphur compounds causing acidification.

Nitrogen Deposition

4.4 Sources of oxidised nitrogen mainly comprise nitrate (NO_2), nitrogen oxides (NO_3) and nitric acid (HNO_3) and are together referred to as NOx. They are mainly produced by combustion of fossil fuels from power stations, vehicle exhausts and industrial and domestic combustion. Reduced nitrogen comprises gaseous ammonia (NH_3) and fine particulate ammonium (NH_4^+) and arises mainly from agricultural sources comprising animal waste and artificial fertilizers.

4.5 Nitrogen is a major plant nutrient, but many wild plants cannot assimilate excess nitrogen from deposition. Those that can (mainly larger grass species and large fast-growing forbs such as nettles and docks) rapidly outcompete other species through shading or competition for limiting resources. This leads to the loss of slower growing and more specialist species as more vigorous ones take advantage of the increased nutrient levels, causing profound changes in semi-natural plant communities.

Acid Deposition

4.6 The main sources of acid deposition are SO_2 from power stations and industrial combustion processes burning large quantities of fossil fuels, NOx also from combustion and the transformation of ammonia from agriculture to acidifying nitrogen compounds. The contribution of SO_2 has declined hugely since the 1970s as emissions from large combustion plants have been tackled and sulphur levels in fuels have been reduced, and consequently nitrogen emissions are now the main sources of acid deposition.

4.7 Acid deposition causes direct and indirect effects. Direct effects comprise damage to sensitive vegetation, while indirect effects are caused mainly by changes to soil chemistry as the pH falls, such as the mobilisation of toxic aluminium ions and leaching of important base cations such as magnesium. These changes alter the composition of plant communities, as species intolerant of more acid conditions decline and are lost. The significance of impacts depends on the levels of deposition and the buffering capacity of the receiving environment; basic environments have a higher buffering capacity while acid soils and waters have a much lower buffering capacity and so are more severely affected.

4.8 Although technological advances have reduced NOx emissions from vehicle engines, this benefit is offset by increasing traffic levels, and NOx levels are identified as a problem for sensitive sites adjacent to major transport routes.

4.9 Vehicle use is likely to continue to increase in Northumberland for a number of reasons; rising levels of car ownership, increasing levels of economic activity and increasing levels of tourism. The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges[6] includes an equation describing the characteristic decrease in pollutant concentrations with increasing distance from roads. Based on this and other research, it is considered that NOx emissions generated within 200m of a European site which has interest features which are vulnerable to nitrogen deposition need to be considered in Habitats Regulations Assessments.

[6] http://www.dft.gov.uk/ha/standards/dmrb/vol11/section3/ha20707.pdf

European sites currently receiving acid deposition, nitrogen deposition or both above their critical loads

4.10 The following tables are based on data from the UK Air Pollution Information System (APIS)[7]. The 'Site Relevant Critical Loads' tool in APIS provides critical loads for nitrogen and acidity in all SACs and SPAs in the UK for which critical load data is available. It also provides deposition data for each site and apportionment information for major sources. A Critical Load is defined as a quantifiable estimate of exposure to one or more pollutants below which significant harmful effects on specified sensitive elements of the environment do not occur according to present knowledge.

Nitrogen

Site	Most sensitive interest feature	Critical Load (kg N/ha/yr)[8]	Deposition (kg N/ha/yr)[9]			Source Attribution
			Max	Min	Mean	
North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC	Mountain hay meadows	10-20	34	14.1	23.5	Livestock 42% Fertilizer 6% Road vehicles 6%
North Pennines Moors SAC	Blanket bog	5-10	31.5	15	21.8	Livestock 42% Fertilizer 6% Road vehicles 6%
Tyne and Allen River Gravels SAC	Calaminarian grasslands	15-25	19.5	15.8	18.2	Livestock 39% Fertilizer 6% Road vehicles 6%
North Pennines Moors SPA	Moorland habitat supporting golden plover, hen harrier	5-10	31.5	15	20.9	Livestock 42% Fertilizer 6% Road vehicles 6%
Langholm – Newcastleton Moors SPA	Moorland habitats supporting hen harrier	10-20	21.1	16.5	18.9	Livestock 41% Fertilizer 6% Road vehicles 6%

[7] www.apis.ac.uk/srd accessed 07-09/11/18
[8] A range is given to reflect the range of ecosystem responses to nitrogen inputs
[9] Based on 3 year monitoring data for 2013-2015

Acid Deposition

Site	Most sensitive interest feature	Critical Load [10] (Nitrogen|Sulphur keq H+/ha/yr)	Current Deposition (Nitrogen|Sulphur keq H+/ha/yr)[11]			Source Attribution
			Max	Min	Mean	
North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC	Mountain hay meadows	Min 0.223|0.663 Max 0.581|4.22	2.44|0.71	0.97|0.22	1.68|0.44	Livestock 31% Fertilizer 4% Road vehicles 4% Industrial and residential combustion 6%
North Pennines Moors SAC	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Min 0.536|4.220 Max 0.178|0.170	2.25|0.61	0.93|0.17	1.56|0.4	Livestock 32% Fertilizer 5% Road vehicles 4% Industrial and residential combustion 6%
Tyne and Allen River Gravels SAC	Calaminarian grasslands	Min 0.223|0.850 Max 0.438|1.660	1.48|0.31	1.12|0.21	1.3|0.28	Livestock 30% Fertilizer 5% Road vehicles 5% Industrial and residential combustion 6%
North Pennines Moors SPA	Moorland habitat supporting golden plover, hen harrier	Min 0.178|0.170 Max 0.536|4.220	2.25|0.61	0.93|0.17	1.5|0.38	Livestock 31% Fertilizer 5% Road vehicles 4% Industrial and residential combustion 6%

NB 1. Marine and intertidal features were not considered to be at risk due to the buffering effects of seawater.

2. Information was not available for freshwater sites, but the risk presented from atmospheric nitrogen was considered to be de *minimus* compared to inputs from surface and groundwater runoff.

[10] Calculating acidity critical loads is complex due to the range of nitrogen and sulphur compounds involved. However the minimum figure is an indication of the level that could cause harm to the interest feature in the most sensitive situation and the maximum figure is that likely to cause harm in any situation. Keq H+ is a measure of potential acidity resulting from deposition of sulphur and oxidised and reduced nitrogen.

[11] Based on 3 year monitoring data for 2013-2015

4.11 The table shows that the most significant exceedences of critical loads of acid deposition occur in heathland and mire communities, and are especially severe in the North Pennines SAC. Exceedences of critical loads of nitrogen occur more widely across heathland, mire and grassland communities.

Water Quality

4.12 Maintaining high water quality is central to the wellbeing of a number of European sites in Northumberland; most obviously the Roman Wall Loughs SAC, the River Eden SAC and the River Tweed SAC. However, other sites such as Newham Fen SAC and Ford Moss SAC could be adversely affected by raised nutrient inputs from agricultural fertilizer and manure or sewage, reaching these sites via aquatic pathways. Parts of rural Northumberland are not served by mains sewerage, resulting in the usage of non-mains systems such as septic tanks and package treatment plants. Their proper functioning is dependent on appropriate maintenance by their owners, which isn't always kept up, potentially resulting in a large number of small sources of pollution that can be hard to trace and manage.

Hydrology

4.13 The supply of water in Northumberland is divided into two water resource zones, Kielder WRZ and Berwick and Fowberry WRZ. The Kielder WRZ serves most of the population of Northumberland and is supplied via river systems and reservoirs. For the most part, there are no water availability issues within this WRZ, primarily due to the very substantial supplies at Kielder Reservoir; however, both the rivers Coquet and Font have been identified as experiencing water availability issues. The Berwick and Fowberry WRZ is supplied primarily from an underlying aquifer, and supply shortages have been experienced during periods of high demand. Water abstraction for agriculture occurs from the Tweed catchment rivers, potential impacts on the SAC are being managed through abstraction licence reviews.

Tourism and Recreation

4.14 Tourism is concentrated in certain areas of the county, especially the coast, although the Hadrian's Wall corridor is being increasingly promoted as a tourist destination, as is Northumberland National Park (a separate local planning authority area) and, to a lesser extent, the North Pennines AONB. Disturbance can be a significant impact arising from coastal recreation, with potential adverse impacts on nesting and feeding tern species, feeding and roosting migratory and winter waders and wildfowl and on fragile dune communities. Disturbance of breeding birds caused by increasing levels of recreational access can also be an issue away from the coast, especially in upland SPAs, where breeding populations of golden plover, merlin and hen harrier all require low levels of disturbance. Dogs, especially off-lead animals, increase the effect of casual disturbance of birds by walkers.

4.17 European sites at particular risk of disturbance impacts include the Northumbria Coast SPA and Ramsar Site, Lindisfarne SPA and Ramsar Site and the North Northumberland Dunes SAC. European sites vulnerable to disturbance from increasing visitor numbers include the North Pennines SPA. The Tyne and Allen River Gravels SAC is vulnerable to damage from the Pennine Way and from riverside caravan and camping sites.

4.18 Improvements in treatment of sewage arising from coastal settlements in order to meet Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive obligations will help to ensure that increasing visitor numbers do not contribute to the eutrophication of intertidal and subtidal habitats.

Large Scale Development

4.19 Development of land is occurring at a comparatively modest pace in Northumberland, with the bulk of housing and industrial development occurring in and adjacent to the settlements of south-east Northumberland, on the periphery of the Tyneside conurbation. New development causes a range of impacts that can affect European sites, including increased or changing patterns of air pollution from changing or increasing vehicle uses, and increases in water demand and in waste arisings. Urban expansion can also cause loss of or increased disturbance to land which is used as high tide and night time roosts by bird species which are key features of the coastal SPAs, and it can increase disturbance within these SPAs, for example through increased recreational use of the intertidal zone and through light pollution. Recreational disturbance such as dog walking can be a particular problem when new residential development occurs close to the Northumbria Coast SPA and Ramsar Site; feeding opportunities for turnstone and purple sandpiper are already restricted by the tides and the limited daylight of winter, so lost feeding time and increased energy use evading perceived predators could be significant. Some high tide and night time roost sites used by these species are known to occur in close proximity to development, but overall knowledge of the location of roost sites is incomplete. There is currently a high degree of uncertainty about the breeding locations of the golden plover that winter on the Northumberland Coast; however, adverse effects on the wintering populations could affect the integrity of the North Pennines Moors SPA or other SPAs that they breed in.

4.20 Demand for particular types of building stone, for markets within and outwith Northumberland, can create demand for particular sites to be quarried. In Northumberland, demand for dimensional building stone is generally for sandstone, with a low likelihood of significant effects on European sites.

4.21 The highest quality concreting sands and gravels in Northumberland are derived from igneous rocks, and so occur in the north of the county, in valleys of rivers which are within the River Tweed SAC. Potential significant effects include releases of silt or pollutants to the watercourses and hydrological changes arising from water abstraction for processing.

Climate Change

4.22 Changes in climate arising from increasing levels of atmospheric CO_2 are very complex and difficult to predict. However, increasingly warm dry summers and mild, stormy winters along with rising sea levels seem to be the most likely trends. Possible impacts on European sites include the following:

- coastal squeeze, as habitats such as saltmarshes and sand dunes are caught in a decreasing amount of space between rising sea levels on their seaward side and human land uses on their landward side. This is likely to affect all coastal European sites, but effects will be felt first and most severely on European sites with intertidal habitats and dunes, which are Berwickshire and North

Northumberland Coast SAC, Tweed Estuary SAC, North Northumberland Dunes SAC, Lindisfarne SPA and Ramsar Site, Northumbria Coast SPA and Ramsar Site. Increased depths of water due to sea level rise may also affect coastal reefs and caves in the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC.

- increasing wildfires affecting combustible plant communities such as heaths and bogs, affecting upland sites such as the North Pennines Moors SAC, North Pennines Moors SPA, Harbottle Moors SAC, Simonside Hills SAC, Border Mires Kielder-Butterburn SAC, Moor House – Upper Teesdale SAC, Irthinghead Mires Ramsar Site and Langholm – Newcastleton Hills SPA.
- rivers and wetlands increasingly affected by low flows in summer and floods in winter, for example the River Tweed SAC, River Eden SAC, Tyne and Allen River Gravels SAC, Tyne and Nent SAC.
- distribution patterns of many species affected by shifts in their 'climate space' (the geographic area which has the appropriate climate for that species), predominately towards higher latitudes and higher altitudes. This may affect arctic-alpine communities in the North Pennines Moors SAC and Moor House-Upper Teesdale SAC especially severely.
- increasing rates of colonisation by new species, including pests and diseases
- higher summer water temperatures, with consequent decrease in levels of dissolved oxygen and increases in levels of primary productivity and decay processes.

4.23 Measures likely to assist in reducing the impacts of or in adapting to climate change include habitat restoration to improve 'ecosystem services', and land use change to facilitate the movement of communities and species. Examples of ecosystem services include the hydrological functioning of blanket bogs in absorbing large quantities of water from rainfall and gradually releasing it to watercourses, and the flood storage function of river floodplains. The hydrological function of blanket bogs in the uplands of Northumberland and surrounding areas has been adversely affected by the excavation of drainage ditches, especially during the 1950s – 1970s, and through afforestation. Projects to block ditches and restore afforested bogs are underway in the North Pennines and the Border Uplands, but are of a small scale compared to the areas affected. The area of functional floodplain in Northumberland has been greatly reduced over a long time period as flood defences have been put in place for settlements and farmland; however, increasingly severe winter storms will increase the need for it. Coastal realignment (the setting back of coastal defences) has the potential to allow coastal habitats such as saltmarsh to migrate landwards rather than being lost to coastal squeeze; projects are currently underway at Alnmouth and Goswick through the Northumberland Foreshores Project which will demonstrate the potential of this approach, although again these are of very limited scale compared to the problem.

4.24 The issue of facilitating the movement of communities and species in response to movements in their climate space is complex, as they vary greatly in their ability to make such movements and they requirements that they have in order to do so; accordingly such changes are likely to be chaotic rather than simple, with more adaptable species and less specialist communities faring much better than more demanding and specialist ones. It is unclear whether beneficial land management practices can be initiated on a significant enough scale to assist in this process; however, those activities that are most likely to have a beneficial effect in this

respect include restoring existing habitats to good condition to maximise their resilience, and increasing ecological connectivity by increasing the overall extent of semi-natural vegetation in the wider countryside; reinforcing and expanding features that act as links and corridors such as watercourses and their associated riparian habitats; increasing the density of networks of habitats such as wetlands, semi-natural grasslands and native woodlands; and managing farmland in a way that integrates food production and wildlife conservation. This requires that nature conservation is planned and implemented at a landscape scale, rather than on the traditional site-by-site basis.

Invasive Species

4.25 Thousands of non-native species have become established in the UK, having been brought here either intentionally or accidently by people. A small proportion of non-native plants have become highly invasive, displacing native vegetation and forming dense single-species stands of little value to wildlife. Similarly, a few such animals are displacing native species, either directly or via pests or diseases that they have brought with them. Significant problems within European sites are as follows:

- Pirri-pirri bur is adversely affecting dune grassland within the North Northumberland Dunes SAC.
- *Spartina* (a saltmarsh grass) is adversely affecting mudflats within the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC and Lindisfarne SPA.
- Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed is displacing native riparian vegetation in the River Tweed SAC, a problem which is being addressed through the Tweed Invasives Project.
- Crayfish plague, associated with the introduced signal crayfish, is spreading in northern England, and so the integrity of the River Eden SAC is at risk.
- Pacific oyster *Crassostrea gigas*, a non-native invasive species is currently being farmed within Lindisfarne SPA and Ramsar Site, Northumberland Marine SPA and the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC.

5. Stage 1C: Analysis of proposals and polices in the Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan - Identification of Likely Significant Effects

5.1 The objectives, policies and community actions contained within the Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan have been evaluated to identify where there could be a likely significant effect on the interest features of European sites.

Paragraph 177 of the NPPF states that the presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), unless an appropriate assessment has concluded that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site.

5.2 The following European sites are within a 10km of the boundary of the Plan. Each European Site is underpinned by a number of component Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The sites are shown at Figure 1.

Special Areas of Conservation

- Border Mires, Kielder-Butterburn in the plan boundary, with several further units within 10km.
- Tyne and Allen River Gravels – in the plan boundary with a further unit 1km from the western plan boundary.
- Roman Wall Loughs – at northern plan boundary.
- North Pennines Moors – at southern plan boundary.
- North Pennines Dale Meadows – 2.3km from southern plan boundary.

Special Protection Areas

- North Pennines Moors – one small section within plan boundary at southern edge, large areas adjacent to southern plan boundary.

Ramsar Sites

- None

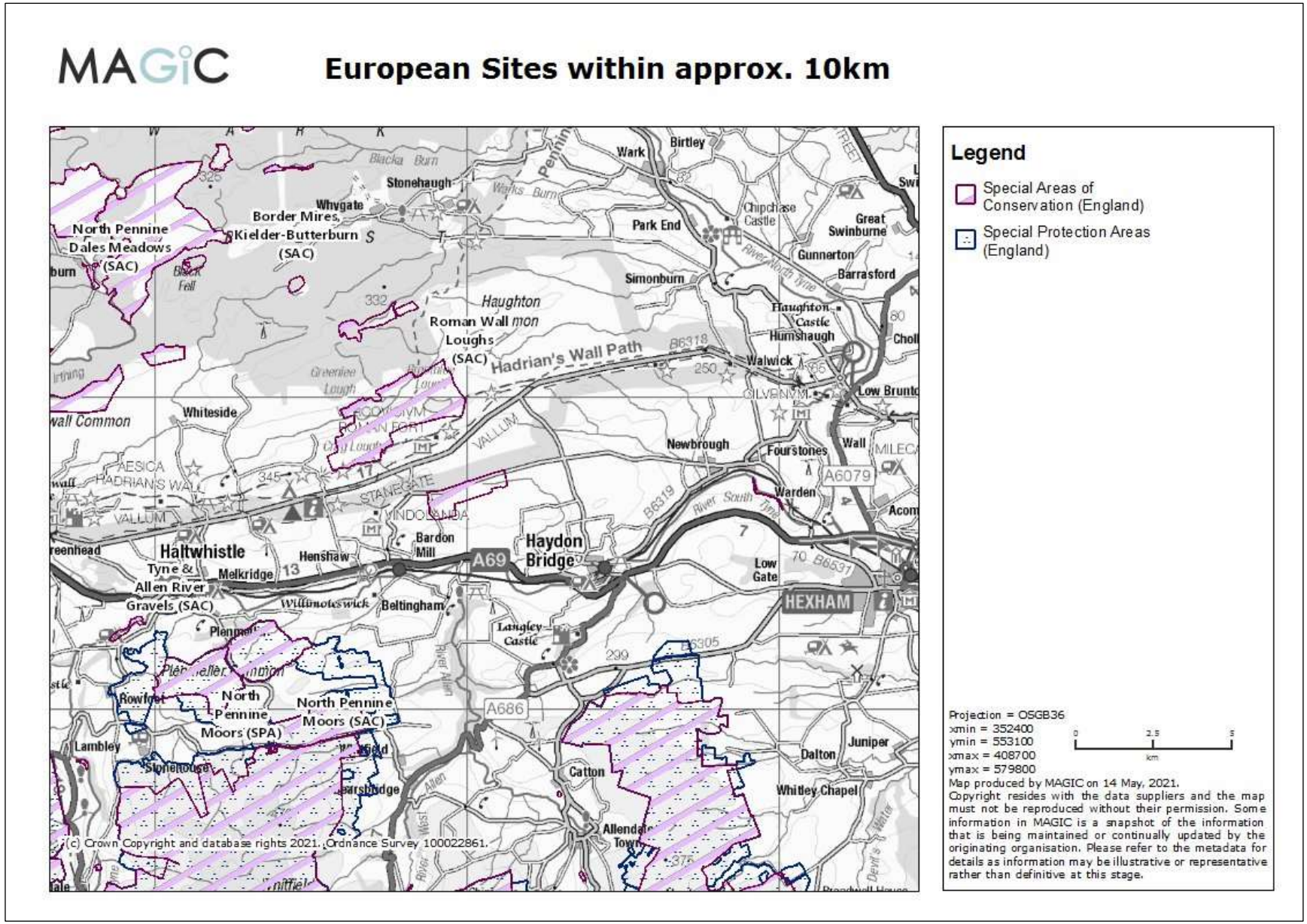

Fig. 1. European Sites within 10km.

5.3 **Current Condition of Designated Sites and Threats to Site Integrity**

Site	Qualifying Features	Current Condition of Component SSSIs within 10km of the Plan boundary	Threats to Site Integrity
North Pennines Moors SPA and SAC	Breeding bird assemblage, upland habitats See detail in table at 3.2	Hexhamshire Moors (SPA and SAC) 11% of the site is in favourable condition and 89% in unfavourable recovering. Whitfield Moor, Plenmeller and Asholme Commons (SPA and SAC) 18% of the site is in favourable condition and 82% in unfavourable recovering.	The main reasons for some compartments not being in favourable condition concern issues with land management. No problems with recreational disturbance were noted, and there was an increase in breeding waders between surveys undertaken in 1994/95 and in 2007.
Tyne and Allen River Gravels SAC	Calaminarian Grassland	Wharmley Riverside 100% of the underlying SSSI is in unfavourable declining condition. Beltingham River Shingle 100% unfavourable recovering condition.	The site is declining because of loss of open, calaminarian grassland to coarser vegetation, which is believed to be caused by declining loads of heavy metals in the river as spoil heaps resulting from former mine workings become depleted over time. No problems with recreational disturbance were noted.
Roman Wall Loughs SAC	Naturally eutrophic lakes with pondweed vegetation	Roman Wall Loughs 31.41% favourable. 68.59% unfavourable.	Land management issues are the main threat to site integrity; especially where likely to cause changes in nutrient levels or non-native species introduction. No problems with recreational disturbance are noted, with large areas not accessible to the public.
Border Mires Kielder-Butterburn SAC	Blanket bogs * Petrifying springs with tufa formation* European dry heaths Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix Transition mires and quaking bogs	Muckle Moss SSSI 100% favourable condition Kielder Mires SSSI 64.24% favourable. 32.84% unfavourable. Lampert Mosses SSSI 33.88% favourable. 66.12% unfavourable.	Land management issues are the main threat to site integrity. No problems with recreational disturbance are noted.

5.4 Assessment of the Plan's Objectives:

5.4.1 OBJECTIVE 1: Sustainability and climate change

This objective is a general statement of policy, which seeks to define the acceptability of proposals and match future housing to community needs. It is therefore not likely to have a significant effect on a European Site.

5.4.2 OBJECTIVE 2: Built and Historic Environment

This objective is a general statement of policy, which seeks to define the acceptability of proposals and match future housing to community needs. It is therefore not likely to have a significant effect on a European Site.

5.4.3 OBJECTIVE 3: Natural Environment

This is an environmental protection objective. There is no likely negative significant effect on European Sites.

5.4.4 OBJECTIVE 4: Housing.

This objective is a general statement of policy, which seeks to define the acceptability of proposals and match future housing to community needs. It is therefore not likely to have a significant effect on a European Site.

5.4.5 OBJECTIVE 5: Vibrant and Thriving Community.

This objective is a general statement of policy/general aspiration and is therefore not likely to have a significant effect on a European Site.

5.4.6 OBJECTIVE 6: Local Economy.

This objective is a general statement of policy/general aspiration and is therefore not likely to have a significant effect on a European Site.

5.4.7 OBJECTIVE 7 – Accessibility and Transport

This objective is a general statement of policy/general aspiration and is therefore not likely to have a significant effect on a European Site.

5.5 Assessment of the Plan Policies:

5.5.1 Policy H1: Sustainable development

This policy outlines a number of requirements for new development that must be met. The policy contains an adequate protection element (at H1f), is therefore not considered to have a credible risk of a significant effect on European Sites. It is therefore screened out.

5.5.2 Policy H2: Sustainable location of new development

This policy outlines a number of requirements for new development that must be met. The scale of such development is so small that recreational disturbance impacts on European sites by trampling or disturbance are considered to be *de minimis* and can be screened out.

5.5.3 Policy H3: Embedding energy efficiency and renewable energy

This policy outlines a number of design and sustainability requirements for new development that must be met.

Therefore, there is no credible risk of a likely significant effect on European Sites within 10km of the plan boundary.

5.5.4 Policy H4: Community energy and renewable energy technologies

This policy outlines a number of design and sustainability requirements for new development that must be met.

Therefore, there is no credible risk of a likely significant effect on European Sites within 10km of the plan boundary.

5.5.5 Policy H5: Flood prevention and alleviation

This policy outlines a number of design and sustainability requirements for new development that must be met.

Therefore, there is no credible risk of a likely significant effect on European Sites within 10km of the plan boundary.

5.5.6 Policy H6: Design

This policy outlines a number of design requirements for new development that must be met.

Therefore, there is no credible risk of a likely significant effect on European Sites within 10km of the plan boundary.

5.5.7 Policy H7: Policy H8: Haydon Bridge Conservation Area

This is a policy concerning design principles and protection of built heritage. Therefore, there is no credible risk of a likely significant effect on European Sites within 10km of the plan boundary.

5.5.8 Policy H8: Landscape

This is a policy concerning design principles and protection of landscape character. Therefore, there is no credible risk of a likely significant effect on European Sites within 10km of the plan boundary.

5.5.9 Policy H9: Biodiversity

This is an environmental protection policy and is screened out.

5.5.10 Policy H10: Green infrastructure

This is an environmental protection policy and is screened out.

5.5.11 Policy H11: Local green space

This is an environmental protection policy and is screened out.

5.5.12 Policy H12: Protected open space

This is an environmental protection policy and is screened out.

5.5.13 Policy H13: Meeting housing needs

This policy outlines a number of requirements for new development that must be met. The policy seeks to explain the criteria by which new housing will be assessed, with other policies being used to determine other aspects of suitability. Therefore, this policy is screened out.

5.5.14 Policy H14: Land west of Langley Gardens and north of Ratcliffe Road

The site to which this policy relates is identified in the Northumberland Local Plan as a housing site for up to 50 dwellings. The policy supports the development and sets out a number of criteria concerning the design and composition of the development.

The Tyne and Allen River Gravels SAC is 6km from this site, with no good footpath linkages, and with the site being inaccessible by foot. The Tyne and Allen River Gravels SAC is complex, in that maintenance of the Calaminarian grassland plant communities that form the interest features of these sites is dependent on the ongoing deposition of heavy metals such a lead and zinc, which are washed out of historic mine workings upstream of these sites. The policy does not include any activities which may impact on the interest features of the SAC, or environmental mechanisms which may cause indirect effects on those interest features.

Therefore this policy does not have a credible risk of a likely significant effect on the site, and all policies are screened out.

The Roman Wall Loughs SAC interest features are natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hyrdrocharition* type vegetation, naturally nutrient-rich lakes which are often dominated by pondweed. Sedimentation, nutrient enrichment and invasive species are the main threats to the integrity of the site. Recreational pressure is not identified as being a significant threat to the site, and the Pennine Way traverses the site.

The policy does not have a credible risk of likely significant effects on the site, and is screened out.

The North Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation and North Pennine Moors Special Protection Area lie just under 1km south of the Neighbourhood Plan boundary at its nearest point. The first unit of the North Pennines Dale Meadows SAC is 2.3km from the southern plan boundary. This is within the zone of influence for recreational disturbance (including trampling) at upland sites.

The Northumberland Local Plan: Publication Draft Plan (Regulation19) Habitats Regulations Assessment (NCC, 2018) considers additional housing numbers in the context of the Local Plan, and concludes that the available evidence does not support a credible risk of a likely significant effect from recreational disturbance on the North Pennines SPA/SAC or the North Pennines Dales Meadows SAC due to the small numbers of housing sites allocated, and the absence of evidence of recreational pressure affecting those sites.

All Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are underpinned by one or more Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). Natural England's Site of Special Impact Risk Zone mapping does not include residential developments of any size *in this location* in its criteria of projects likely to have impacts on SSSIs, and therefore impacts on the SPAs and SACs are also unlikely.

Therefore the policy does not have a credible risk of likely significant effects on the site and is screened out.

Policy H10: Biodiversity provides a protection policy relating to all new development within the plan area, which provides additional assurance.

5.5.15 Policy H15: Community services and facilities

The policy is to protect and enhance community services and is screened out.

5.5.16 Policy H16: Haydon Bridge Village Centre

This is a policy concerning design principles and protection of built heritage. Therefore, there is no credible risk of a likely significant effect on European Sites within 10km of the plan boundary.

5.5.17 Policy H17: Tourism

This policy supports tourism development within the plan boundary, which is likely to be small in scale, but may be located close to European Sites.

Tyne and Allen River Gravels SAC is complex, in that maintenance of the Calaminarian grassland plant communities that form the interest features of these sites is dependent on the ongoing deposition of heavy metals such a lead and zinc, which are washed out of historic mine workings upstream of these sites. The policy does not include any activities which may impact on the interest features of the SAC, or environmental mechanisms which may cause indirect effects on those interest features. Therefore this policy does not have a credible risk of a likely significant effect on the site, and is screened out.

The Roman Wall Loughs SAC interest features are natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hyrdrocharition type vegetation, naturally nutrient-rich lakes which are often dominated by pondweed. Sedimentation, nutrient enrichment and invasive species are the main threats to the integrity of the site. Recreational pressure is not identified as being a significant threat to the site. The policy does not have a credible risk of likely significant effects on the site, and is screened out.

The North Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation and North Pennine Moors Special Protection Area lie just under 1km south of the Neighbourhood Plan boundary at its nearest point. The first unit of the North Pennines Dale Meadows SAC is 2.3km from the southern plan boundary. This is within the zone of influence for recreational disturbance (including trampling) at upland sites.

The Northumberland Local Plan: Publication Draft Plan (Regulation19) Habitats Regulations Assessment (NCC, 2018) considers additional housing numbers in the context of the Local Plan, and concludes that the available evidence does not support a credible risk of a likely significant effect from recreational disturbance on the North Pennines SPA/SAC or the North Pennines Dales Meadows SAC due to the small scale nature of the developments, and the absence of evidence of recreational pressure affecting those sites.

All Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are underpinned by one or more Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

Natural England's Site of Special Impact Risk Zone mapping tool[12] does not include residential developments of less than 10 houses in the plan boundary (outside of the designated sites themselves, and a narrow buffer to the Hexhamshire Moors SSSI at Nubbock Fell) in its criteria of projects likely to

[12] Magic Map Application (defra.gov.uk)

have impacts on SSSIs, and therefore impacts on the SPAs and SACs are also unlikely.

A narrow SSSI IRZ buffer to Nubbock Fell (Hexhamshire Moors) within the plan boundary includes a requirement to consult Natural England on any applications for any size of development, and although the Neighbourhood Plan may support small scale tourism development proposed Policy H10: Biodiversity within the plan provides a protection policy relating to all new development within the plan area, along with the protections afforded in the development management process.

Therefore the policy does not have a credible risk of likely significant effects on the site and is screened out.

5.5.18 Policy H18: Agriculture

This policy supports farm diversification including tourism development within the plan boundary, which is likely to be small in scale, but may be located close to European Sites.

Tyne and Allen River Gravels SAC is complex, in that maintenance of the Calaminarian grassland plant communities that form the interest features of these sites is dependent on the ongoing deposition of heavy metals such a lead and zinc, which are washed out of historic mine workings upstream of these sites. The policy does not include any activities which may impact on the interest features of the SAC, or environmental mechanisms which may cause indirect effects on those interest features. Therefore this policy does not have a credible risk of a likely significant effect on the site, and all policies are screened out.

The Roman Wall Loughs SAC interest features are natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hyrdrocharition type vegetation, naturally nutrient-rich lakes which are often dominated by pondweed. Sedimentation, nutrient enrichment and invasive species are the main threats to the integrity of the site. Recreational pressure is not identified as being a significant threat to the site. The policy does not have a credible risk of likely significant effects on the site, and is screened out.

The North Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation and North Pennine Moors Special Protection Area lie just under 1km south of the Neighbourhood Plan boundary at its nearest point. The first unit of the North Pennines Dale Meadows SAC is 2.3km from the southern plan boundary. This is within the zone of influence for recreational disturbance (including trampling) at upland sites.

The Northumberland Local Plan: Publication Draft Plan (Regulation19) Habitats Regulations Assessment (NCC, 2018) considers additional housing numbers in the context of the Local Plan, and concludes that the available evidence does not support a credible risk of a likely significant effect from recreational disturbance on the North Pennines SPA/SAC or the North

Pennines Dales Meadows SAC due to the small scale nature of the developments, and the absence of evidence of recreational pressure affecting those sites.

All Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are underpinned by one or more Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

Natural England's Site of Special Impact Risk Zone mapping tool[13] does not include residential developments of less than 10 houses in the plan boundary (outside of the designated sites themselves, and a narrow buffer to the Hexhamshire Moors SSSI at Nubbock Fell) in its criteria of projects likely to have impacts on SSSIs, and therefore impacts on the SPAs and SACs are also unlikely.

A narrow SSSI IRZ buffer to Nubbock Fell (Hexhamshire Moors) within the plan boundary includes a requirement to consult Natural England on any applications for any size of development, and although the Neighbourhood Plan may support small scale tourism development proposed Policy H10: Biodiversity within the plan provides a protection policy relating to all new development within the plan area, along with the protections afforded in the development management process.

Therefore the policy does not have a credible risk of likely significant effects on the site and is screened out.

5.5.19 Policy H19: Sustainable transport and new development

This policy concerns sustainable transport and is not considered to have a credible risk of a significant effect on European sites.

5.5.20 Policy H20 (Walking and cycling network)

This policy concerns sustainable transport and is not considered to have a credible risk of a significant effect on European sites.

5.6 Screening of Policies to Assess Likely Significant Effect.

5.6.1 The policies within the Haydon Bridge Neighbourhood Development Plan Submission Draft November 2021 potentially support small numbers of new housing or tourism units where this meets a defined local need, and in accordance with certain design parameters.

5.6.2 Given the nature and scale of the developments which would be supported, the existing evidence regarding the conservation objectives and status of those sites, and the nature of the European sites within 10km of the plan boundary, it is considered that there is no credible risk of likely significant effects on European Sites within 10km of the plan boundary.

[13] Magic Map Application (defra.gov.uk)

6. Stage 1 D Identification of other plans and projects relevant to the assessment, to identify any likely in-combination effects.

6.1 The policies alone are not considered to have a credible risk of a likely significant effect on the Border Mires, Kielder-Butterburn SAC, Tyne and Allen River Gravels SAC, Roman Wall Loughs SAC, North Pennines Dale Meadows SAC, or North Pennines Moors SAC/SPA.

6.2 In combination effects are considered to have been assessed via the *Northumberland Local Plan: Publication Draft Plan (Regulation19) December 2018 Habitats Regulations Assessment* which has screened out any likely significant effect on those sites. Impacts on that SACs (and the North Pennines Moors SAC/SPA in particular) are considered to be related to land use which largely falls outside of the remit of the Local Plan.

7. Conclusion.

7.1 This is a record of the determination as to whether the Haydon Bridge Neighbourhood Development Plan Submission Draft November 2021 is likely to have a significant effect on any European sites, as required under Regulation 106 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 as amended.

7.2 In accordance with Regulation 106 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 as amended, Northumberland County Council concludes that the Haydon Bridge Neighbourhood Development Plan Submission Draft Plan November 2021 will not have a likely significant effect on European Sites within 10km of the plan boundary, either alone or in combination.

7.3 However, it should be noted that this is an iterative process, and any significant subsequent changes to the Plan will need to be subject to further Habitats Regulations Assessment which will include further consultation with Natural England.

ADF
07/12/2021

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APPENDIX 1 Natural England Response to Consultation

Date: 23 June 2021
Our ref: 356792
Your ref: Haydon Neighbourhood Plan - HRA

Planning Services
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County Hall
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Northumberland
NE61 2EF

BY EMAIL ONLY

Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
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T 0300 060 3900

Dear Sir/Madam

Haydon Neighbourhood Plan - HRA report May 2021

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 14 June 2019

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England is a statutory consultee in neighbourhood planning and must be consulted on draft neighbourhood development plans by the Parish/Town Councils or Neighbourhood Forums where they consider our interests would be affected by the proposals made.

Natural England agrees with your Authority's HRA conclusions, that the proposals and policies within the Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Plan will have no likely significant effects on any European site either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk .

Yours sincerely

Cameron Chandler
Northumbria Area Team