

REMOTER RURAL



INTRODUCTION

- 12.1 The Remote Rural sub area comprises the Region's two main upland areas, separated by the Vales and Tees Links sub area. The sub area boundary is based on areas where safeguarding important environmental designations underpins all policy approaches. The western part includes the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the Nidderdale AONB and parts of the Forest of Bowland, AONB and North Pennines. Other designations, including Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and National Nature Reserves mean that a significant proportion of the western 'Dales' area is covered by statutory landscape designations. The exception is towards the south of the area where the service centres of Settle and Bentham and surrounding areas mainly lie outside of statutory designations and beyond the Leeds City Region area. These settlements are in part influenced by larger centres in the North West region, notably Kendal and Lancaster, but they also act as service centres for the wider western 'Remoter Rural' sub area. Away from the main settlements on the main corridors of the A65 and rail routes, there are five smaller Local Service Centres within the Dales area – Sedburgh, Hawes, Leyburn, Pateley Bridge and Grassington.



- 12.2 The eastern part includes all the extent of the North Yorks Moors National Park (except those areas within the Coastal sub area) and most of the Howardian Hills AONB. Numerous environmental designations seek to protect the high value landscape and biodiversity of the eastern area. Scattered population depends on local services provided in the Local Service Centres of Helmsley, Kirkbymoorside and Pickering which are on the edge of the sub area and on Principal and Local Service Centres in nearby sub areas. Much of the area has strong connections to the Tees Valley City Region.

SETTLEMENTS, THE ECONOMY AND HOUSING

- 12.3 The reason for identifying these Remoter Rural sub areas is mainly related to their upland character and environmental quality. The sub area has an importance well beyond its share of the Region 's population and levels of local economic activity by both measures less than 2% of the whole Region. The sub area 's upland protected landscapes and settlements are of national, and even international importance, and to a very significant degree represent a major part of the Region 's identity.
- 12.4 Small market towns, villages and farms are an integral part of the landscape and character of the Remoter Rural sub areas. They are an enduring attraction for visitors and, for many people as places to aspire to live and work in.
- 12.5 There continues to be pressures on the very limited housing stock with concentrations of high levels of second home ownership in parts of the sub area and significant affordable housing issues – particularly in areas closest to the surrounding City Regions. The Plan does not include housing rates for the parts of the sub area located within either the North York Moors or Yorkshire Dales National Parks. Within the areas designated as AONB within the sub area, development will by necessity be restrained in order to conserve and protect character and amenity of these designations. Consequently, within these designated areas, new development should be limited and restricted to the Local Service Centres of Sedburgh, Hawes, Leyburn, Pateley Bridge and Grassington. Elsewhere, development should be focussed on the Local Service Centres of Settle, and in the western areas and at Bentham, Helmsley, Kirkbymoorside and Pickering in the eastern area. In these centres, development must contribute to sustaining their roles and should address affordable local housing needs or provide opportunities to promote economic diversification which uses the sub area 's built and natural assets in a sustainable way.
- 12.6 The sub area has a strong environmental, cultural and heritage base which underpins the vital tourism sector. Tourism activity is very diverse being based upon the sub area 's outstanding natural cultural assets and heritage and historical centres. Sustainable tourism development using unique natural and built assets is likely to be of increasing significance to local economies. Diversification and fostering small scale enterprise that both meets local job needs and respects the sub area 's natural and built assets needs to continue.

Fig. 12.1 | ENVIRONMENT MAP



SETTLEMENTS

○ Local Service Centre

ENVIRONMENT

- Countryside Character Areas
- ==== Important Environmental Designation
- Main Areas of Environmental Designation
- High Flood Risk Area

ENVIRONMENT

12.7 The Remoter Rural sub area includes most of the Region’s upland landscapes. As well as the designated areas of National Parks and AONBs, there are numerous designation areas of special conservation, special protection areas and national nature reserves. There are nationally significant areas of Ancient Woodland and important populations of Ancient and Veteran Trees. The sub area includes the World Heritage site at Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal. There is a need to safeguard and enhance a number of prehistoric and historic industrial landscapes.



- 12.8 Forestry plays an important role in the sub area, particularly in Ryedale and Scarborough Districts, where tree cover is almost twice the national average. Significant parts of the Region suffer from fluvial flood risk which emanates from upland areas. It is important that these upland areas hold as much water as is practically possible in line with the Environment Agency's catchment flood management plans. Tree planting and other measures in appropriate locations can mitigate downstream flooding problems.
- 12.9 In terms of energy, landscape designations reduce the capacity for wind farms in the sub area – however there may be scope for increases in biomass production and for further exploiting the sub area's potential for hydropower.

TRANSPORT

- 12.10 In terms of road links, in the western part of the sub area, key strategic road routes are the A65 and A66, linking the sub area with Cumbria and the Leeds City Region and Vales and Tees sub area. The North York Moors adjoins important links, the A171, between the Whitby area and the Tees Valley City Region and A170 between Scarborough and the Vale and Tees Links sub area. Outside these road corridors, the sub area is characterised by lower capacity road links and generally poor public transport provision. In terms of rail corridors, the western Yorkshire Dales Remoter Rural sub area includes:

- The Leeds-Settle-Carlisle line which connects the Leeds City Region to Cumbria and has wide ranging cultural and historic significance
- The Leeds-Lancashire-Morecambe line which connects to the North West

- 12.11 The North York Moors part of the sub area includes part of the Whitby to Middlesbrough rail line which is important for local access and for tourism. The sub area includes other private rail lines which meet significant tourism and local access needs in the Yorkshire Dales. The character of these remote upland areas suggests that, with the exception of works to the A66, new infrastructure which increases general road capacity should not be pursued. There is likely to be scope to increase public transport for residents and visitors, and for new cycling and walking facilities, without compromising the sub areas' unique character and tranquillity.

OUTCOMES BY 2021

- The sub area's outstanding environmental and built assets have been safeguarded and enhanced through a conservation-led approach
- There has been diversification of the local economy from an agricultural base to one based on predominantly small scale local enterprises and housing provision has been limited, primarily focused on meeting local affordable needs
- To safeguard the quality of this sub area, facilitate complimentary economic diversification and enable accessibility to opportunities and facilities, there has been an emphasis on establishing links and networks both within this sub area and to adjoining sub areas. This has enhanced the long-term sustainability of communities and the sub areas as a whole

Fig.12.2 | **CONTEXT DIAGRAM**

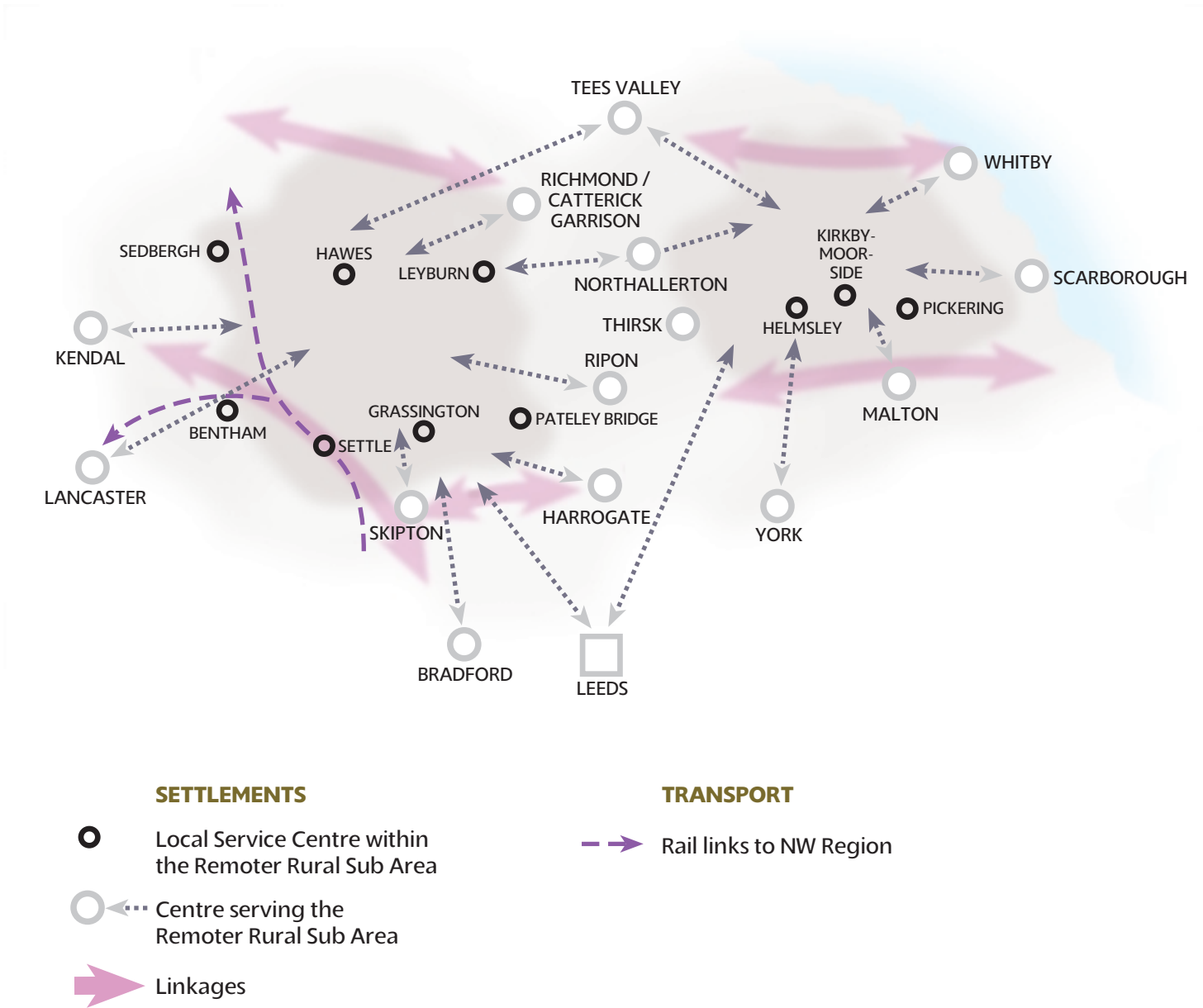


Table 12.1 | **POLICY AND INDICATOR LINKS**

KEY POLICY LINKS

YH7, E7, H1, H3, EV1, ENV8, ENV9, ENV10, T3, T8


POLICY REMOTER RURAL SUB AREA POLICY
RR1

All plans, strategies, investment decisions and programmes for the Remoter Rural sub area will, where relevant, seek to:

- A** ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF PLACES
- Maintain the role of Local Service Centres which serve the needs of the Remoter Rural sub area
- B** ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- Foster economic diversification which does not damage the sub area's built and natural features
 - Encourage creative, diverse and low impact enterprises which provide employment opportunities and contribute to meeting local needs
- C** ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
- Protect the unique character, heritage and biodiversity of the Remoter Rural sub area's upland natural environment, including the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks, the Howardian Hills, Nidderdale and Forest of Bowland AONBs
 - Safeguard the sub area's unique built environment – both settlements and upland farming features
 - Encourage appropriate planting and management measures in the sub area to ameliorate downstream flood risk, and provide biomass for renewable energy
- D** TRANSPORT CONNECTIONS
- Encourage innovative public transport initiatives – both road and rail and new cycling and walking facilities for residents and visitors to improve access to service centres and to more distant larger centres
- E** STRATEGIC PATTERNS OF DEVELOPMENT
- Increase restraint on new market housing to safeguard local character and support regeneration elsewhere
 - Provide very small scale development, mainly in Local Service Centres in or adjacent to the sub area to address local affordable housing needs, provide some new job opportunities and assist in promoting long term economic and social sustainability
- F** REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT PRIORITIES
- Manage and improve the sub area's natural environment to safeguard its iconic regional, national and international status
- G** JOINED UP WORKING
- Collaborate to safeguard the sub area's built and natural environment.
 - Local Housing Authorities, District and National Park Planning Authorities working together to address affordable housing needs