

East Riding of Yorkshire Council

**Local Development Framework
Preferred Approach Core Strategy**

**Habitats Regulations Assessment:
Stage 1 - Screening**

May 2010

East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Preferred Approach Core Strategy

Habitats Regulations Assessment: Stage 1 - Screening

Record of Assessment of Likely Significant Effect on a European Site Required by Regulation 48 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)

May 2010

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1. Introduction and Background

1.1 Background to this Assessment

This Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been carried out by Atkins Limited (Atkins) on behalf of East Riding of Yorkshire Council for the *Preferred Approach Core Strategy*. This information has been gathered on behalf of the Competent Authority (in this case East Riding Council) to allow them to make a decision on whether there will be significant impacts on European sites as a result of the Core Strategy.

The *Preferred Approach Core Strategy* is hereafter referred to as 'the Plan'. The Plan covers the whole county of East Riding and is a high-level strategic document that considers development in the county between now and 2026.

The Plan consists of 13 Spatial Strategy policies. These policies can be split into the following two groups:

- Policies SS1 to SS7 dealing with strategic policies across the county;
- Policies SS8 to SS13, dealing with development within six defined sub-areas.

The Plan also has a total of 23 Development Policies. These policies can be split into the following four groups:

- A Healthy and Balanced Housing Market (HBHM1 to HBHM4);
- A Prosperous Economy (PE1 to PE5);
- A High Quality Environment (HQE1 to HQE8);
- A Strong and Healthy Community (SHC1 to SHC6). Background to Habitat Regulations Assessment.

In the UK, the European Habitats Directive (Directive 92/42/EEC) has been transposed into national legislation in the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 (the Habitat Regulations – as amended). Regulation 48 implements the requirements of Article 6.3 of the Directive for Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of a project or plan. Such an assessment is required where a plan or project under consideration is likely to have a significant effect on a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area (SPA). In such assessments, *Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation* (PPS9) states that consideration is also given to sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites), potential SPAs and candidate SACs. Hereafter, these sites are collectively referred to as 'international sites'

The stages of HRA are:

- **Stage 1 – Screening:** To test whether a plan or project either alone or in combination with other plans and projects is likely to have a significant effect on an international site;
- **Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment:** To determine whether, in view of an international site's conservation objectives, the plan (either alone or in combination with other projects and plans) would have an adverse effect (or risk of this) on the integrity of the site with respect to the site structure, function and conservation objectives. If adverse impacts are anticipated, potential mitigation measures to alleviate impacts should be proposed and assessed;

- **Stage 3 – Assessment of alternative solutions:** Where a plan is assessed as having an adverse impact (or risk of this) on the integrity of an international site, there should be an examination of alternatives (e.g. alternative locations and designs of development); and
- **Stage 4 – Assessment where no alternative solutions remain and where adverse impacts remain:** In exceptional circumstance (e.g. where there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest), compensatory measures to be put in place to offset negative impacts.

Stage 1 of the HRA process has been carried out in this report.

1.2 Outline of this Report

Following this introduction:

- Section 2 outlines the methodology used for this HRA;
- Section 3 outlines details of the Plan;
- Section 4 details the other plans and projects identified which may lead to in combination effects on the international sites;
- Section 5 details the results of the HRA for all of the international sites; and,
- Section 6 provides the conclusions of the HRA.

2. Methodology

2.1 The Plan

The first step of the HRA process is to gather all available information regarding the Plan. This information is required for the analysis of the Plan and its impact on the international sites. A summary of the Plan and its contents is given in Section 3 below.

2.2 Determination of the International Sites included in the HRA

The next step is to determine which international sites should be included in the HRA. An initial review of the Plan in light of the Habitats Regulations has been undertaken by Atkins as part of the HRA process. This initial review looked at the geographic extent or zone of influence of any impacts which could arise as a result of the Plan and considered which international sites should be included within the assessment.

As a starting point all sites within the East Riding of Yorkshire and up to 20 km from the county boundary were identified¹. Within this area there are 16 internationally important sites for nature conservation as listed below:

- **Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs SPA:** Located within the County near Bridlington;
- **Flamborough Head SAC:** Located within the County near Bridlington;
- **Hornsea Mere SPA:** Located within the County, near Hornsea;
- **Humber Estuary Ramsar site:** Located along the southern boundary of the County;
- **Humber Estuary SPA:** Located along the southern boundary of the County;
- **Humber Estuary SAC:** Located along the southern boundary of the County;
- **Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA:** A portion of this site is located within the County, in the south-western corner of region, near Goole;
- **Thorne Moor SAC:** A portion of this site is located within the County, in the south-western corner of region, near Goole;
- **Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar site:** Located along the western boundary of the County;
- **Lower Derwent Valley SPA:** Located along the western boundary of the County;
- **Lower Derwent Valley SAC:** Located along the western boundary of the County;
- **River Derwent SAC:** Located along the western boundary of the County;
- **Skipwith Common SAC:** Located approximately 2.8 km west of the County boundary near Selby;

¹ The Environment Agency Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) and Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) guidance notes that a proposal to construct a coal or oil fired power station should consider impacts on European sites up to 15 km away (Page 4 of the *Habitats Directive – Work Instruction: Appendix 7 Technical and Procedural Issues Specific to IPC and PPC* produced by the Environment Agency in July 2004). The most recent England Leisure Visits report states that people will travel up to 17.3 km to a countryside destination (*England Leisure Visits: Summary of the 2005 Leisure Visits Survey*, Natural England, 2005). As a precaution an additional margin is added to this distance to ensure that all sites that may be impacted by a new development are considered as part of the HRA process.

- **Strensall Common SAC:** Located approximately 6.5 km west of the County boundary near York;
- **Hatfield Moor SAC:** Located approximately 8.7 km south of the County boundary near Hatfield;
- **Eller's Wood and Sand Dale SAC:** Located approximately 18.5 km north of the County boundary.

Three of these international sites (Strensall Common SAC; Eller's Wood and Sand Dale SAC and Strensall Common SAC) have been eliminated from this HRA Screening for the reasons set out below.

The Plan contains 13 Spatial Strategy policies which outline future development within the county. The Plan therefore focuses on how much and what type of development will be appropriate in different areas of East Riding. Based on the potential developments outlined in the Plan it is anticipated that any adverse effects from development associated with the Plan are likely to include impacts such as noise, air quality and surface water quality and are therefore such impacts considered unlikely to extend far beyond the Plan boundary. Furthermore there are unlikely to be significant emissions to air or water which could be generated through developments such as large scale power stations and quarry operations as these types of development are not included in the Plan.

Eller's Wood and Sand Dale SAC is designated for its petrifying springs with tufa formation and Geyers whorl snail. The SAC is located approximately 18.5 km north of the County boundary and due to its distance from any proposed development arising from the Core Strategy it is not considered that any potential impacts such as a result of development within the East of Riding will have a likely pathway to the SAC. Therefore, Eller's Wood and Sand Dale SAC has not been considered further within this HRA screening.

Strensall Common SAC is designated for its northern Atlantic wet heaths and European dry heath and is located approximately 6.5 km west of the County boundary. Based on the Core Strategy this is at least 17 km from Pocklington (which is the closest potential site for economic and housing development as set out in Policy SS13 for the Vale of York Sub Area). Owing to the habitats present and the distance from any potential future development identified in the Plan it is not considered that any potential impacts as a result of development within the East of Riding will have a likely pathway to the SAC. Therefore, Strensall Common SAC has not been considered further within this HRA screening.

Hatfield Moor SAC is designated for its degraded raised bog that is still capable of natural regeneration. It is located approximately 8.7 km south of the County boundary and is at least 14.5 km south of Goole which is the closest potential site for economic and housing development as set out in Policy SS11 for Goole and Humberhead Levels Sub Area. Due to the distance from both the county boundary and the nearest proposed development area, and the likely developments, it is not anticipated that any potential impacts arising from development such as air and water quality will have a likely pathway to the SAC. Therefore, Hatfield Moor SAC has not been considered further within this HRA screening.

For the purposes of this report for those sites where more than one international designation the sites have been grouped together as given below²:

- Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs SPA and Flamborough Head SAC will be referred to as Flamborough Head international sites;

² For all future HRA work associated with lower tier DPDs the list of international sites for which the assessment is made will be reviewed for each development

- Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar will be referred to as the Humber Estuary international sites;
- Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA and Thorne Moor SAC will be referred to as the Thorne and Hatfield Moors international sites;
- Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar, SAC and SPA, and River Derwent SAC will be referred to as the River Derwent international sites;
- Hornsea Mere SPA;
- Skipwith Common SAC

Therefore this HRA is a record of the assessment of *'likely significant effects'* from the Plan on thirteen international sites.

2.3 Obtaining Information on International Sites with the Potential to be Affected

The Conservation Objectives and Favourable Conditions Tables for all international sites (where available) have been obtained from Natural England for the purpose of this assessment. Further details of these international sites is provided in Appendix A.

2.4 Obtaining Information on Other Projects and Plans

In accordance with the Habitat Regulations there is a need to consider the potential for likely significant effects of the Plan 'in combination' with other projects and plans.

Statutory bodies surrounding, or in close proximity to, the Humber Estuary international sites, the Thorne and Hatfield Moors international sites, River Derwent international sites, Skipwith Common SAC and Hornsea Mere SPA were contacted for details of any projects or plans that have been subject to HRA in order to determine if there is a cumulative impact on these international sites.

The following authorities and statutory bodies have been contacted for details of other plans and projects which have the potential for adverse effects upon the international sites.

- Yorkshire and The Humber Regional Government;
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council;
- Lincolnshire County Council;
- North Lincolnshire Unitary Authority;
- York Unitary Authority;
- Bassetlaw District Council;
- Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council;
- East Lindsey District Council;
- Hambleton District Council;
- Hull City Council;
- North East Lincolnshire Council;
- Ryedale District Council;
- Selby District Council;
- West Lindsey District Council;
- DEFRA;

- Department of Communities & Local Government; and,
- North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee (NESFC).

2.5 Assessing the Impacts of the Plan ‘Alone’ and ‘In Combination’

Following the gathering of information on the Plan and the international sites an assessment has been undertaken to predict the likely significant effects of the Plan on the international sites ‘alone’. In order to inform this process, all parts of the Plan were assessed to see if they could result in likely significant effects on the international sites. This HRA assesses each of the Spatial Strategy and Development Policies, as well as the objectives that support the policies.

Each of the Spatial Strategy policies (policies which may lead to development in settlements in the long term) and the Development Policies have been examined in detail to see if the proposals could have a significant effect on the integrity of the international sites. However, as the Plan is at a strategic level (i.e. the development that may arise in these settlements as a result these policies is unknown at this stage) the HRA has also been undertaken at a strategic level. A brief description of each of the policies, as well as the findings of this assessment are given in Tables B-1 and B2 in Appendix B. Section 5 of this report summarise the findings of the HRA in relation to the international sites.

The potential for likely significant effects of the Plan ‘in combination’ with other projects and plans for each international site has also been considered in this HRA. As part of this process all HRA’s that have been completed due to possible impacts on the international sites included in this HRA were reviewed in order to determine whether there is the potential for in combination effects (see Section 5).

The integrity of such a site is defined as ‘...the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.’ (Part I, Section B, Paragraph 20 of ODPM Circular 06/2005 accompanying Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation).

The assessment of effects is largely based on the conservation objectives of the sites. If any plan or project causes the cited interest features of a site to fall into unfavourable condition they can be considered to have had a significant adverse effect upon a site.

Plans or projects can adversely affect a site by:

- Causing delays in progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site;
- Interrupting progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site;
- Disrupting those factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site; and
- Interfering with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of the favourable condition of the site.

HRA is an iterative process. Where necessary, suggestions can be made of how to amend the Plan to avoid likely significant effects on a European site. This iterative approach has been adopted as part of this assessment and recommendations for the Preferred Approach Core Strategy have been submitted to the Council and included in the Plan.

3. Plan Details

3.1 Proposed Plan

The Preferred Approach Core Strategy is a crucial part of the of the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF). It sets out the Council's emerging approach for managing growth and development within the East Riding to 2026. In particular, it focuses on the spatial strategy and development management aspects and provides the strategic context that will guide the preparation of subsequent Development Plan Documents (DPDs) identified in the LDF and any subsequent planning applications.

None of the Spatial Strategy and Development Policies within the Plan are directly connected with, or necessary to the nature conservation management of any of the international sites.

3.2 Brief Description of Plan

The Plan looks at how much and what type of development will be appropriate in different parts of the East Riding. There are 13 Spatial Strategy policies set out in the Core Strategy. These focus on the key issues to be addressed to achieve the overall Vision for the county.

Due to the high strategic level of this document, the Spatial Strategy policies are mostly unspecific in outlining proposed development. More focused guidance on where development will be located will be contained in subsequent Development Plan Documents (DPDs). The Development Policies provides guidance on how the Council and developers will address important planning issues concerning housing, the economy, the environment and community facilities.

3.3 Provisions within the Plan that Protect the International sites

When planning applications are determined all of the relevant policies and supporting text in the Plan are taken into account and used as the basis for decision-making.

Within the Plan the following policies contain a number of provisions which seek to protect the international sites:

- **SS8 – Beverley and Goole Sub Area:** This policy states that it supports an integrated approach to habitats and species management, safeguarding and enhancing current nature conservation sites such as the Humber Estuary;
- **SS9 – Bridlington Coastal Sub Area:** This policy states that development that is likely to have a detrimental impact on nature conservation designations , especially those that would have an impact on the Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliff designated areas will be avoided;
- **SS10 - Driffield and Wolds Sub Area:** This policy states that development that is likely to have a detrimental impact on designated areas (which include internationally important sites) will be avoided;
- **SS11 - Goole and Humberhead Levels Sub Area:** This policy states that development must safeguard and enhance current nature conservation sites and that any development that is likely to impact nature conservation designations (especially the Humber Estuary) will be avoided;
- **SS12 - Holderness and Southern Coastal Sub Area:** This policy states that development must safeguard and enhance current nature conservation sites (particularly at the Humber

Estuary) and that any development that is likely to impact nature conservation designations (especially Hornsea Mere) will be avoided;

- **SS13 - Vale of York Sub Area:** This policy states that development must protect and enhance habitats (particularly in the Lower Derwent);
- **HQE2 – Promoting of High Quality Landscape:** this policy states that development should demonstrate an understanding of the intrinsic qualities of the landscape with particular reference to respecting and enhancing the area of Thorne and Hatfield Moors and the River Derwent corridor;
- **HQE4 - Biodiversity and Geodiversity:** This policy states that development must protect biodiversity sites of international importance. The supporting text states that sites designated for international importance will be conserved and protected under the relevant international legislation (the Habitats Regulations).

Text within Section 9 of the Plan entitled 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' sets out how the HRA process should be taken forward from the Core Strategy. The text clearly states that any proposed development that may have an adverse effect on internationally important sites will be subject to the Habitats Regulations Assessment process by the competent authority (see Inset 3.1 below).

Inset 3.1: Text relating to HRA in the Core Strategy

HRA Requirements Going Forward

In accordance with the Habitat Regulations, further consideration and assessment will need to be made for proposals that could have a likely significant effect on an international site. This will require a thorough ecological assessment of the potential effects upon the relevant international site(s) so as to allow the Council as the Competent Authority the ability to determine whether the development is likely to result in significant effects on the international site(s).

Any development that cannot demonstrate that it would not have a significant adverse effect upon the integrity of an international site, or that impacts can be adequately mitigated, will be refused. This is in accordance with the precautionary principle enshrined within the Habitats Regulations. Where there are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest and the authority is unable to conclude no adverse effect on the integrity of a site, the authority will notify the Secretary of State and allow them to call in the application for determination. In these situations compensatory measures to protect the international site must be put in place.

The Plan therefore ensures that the competent authority (in this case East Riding of Yorkshire Council in consultation with Natural England) will give consideration to international sites in order to inform development control decisions and lower tier allocation sites. The text states that where it cannot be demonstrated that a development proposal will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of a site of international importance for nature conservation, such development is not supported by the Plan and will not be permitted. However, where there are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest and the competent authority is unable to conclude no adverse effect on the integrity of an international site, the authority will notify the Secretary of State and allow them to call in the application for determination. In these situations compensatory measures to protect the European site must be implemented.

Therefore, any specific development proposals will need to be in line with the Core Strategy and will need to satisfy the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Natural England that there will either be no likely significant effects from the development on the international sites identified in this Screening report or that any significant effects can be effectively mitigated/compensated.

4. Other Projects and Plans

There are 36 HRAs that have been carried out due to the possibility of likely significant effects on the international sites included in this HRA Screening report.

The details of each HRA and a summary of their findings are given in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1 - HRAs carried out due to possible impacts on the International Sites included in this HRA Screening Report

Statutory Body	Title of HRA	Findings of HRA
Yorkshire and The Humber Regional Government	Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and The Humber (May 2008)	The document has a broad scope and the detailed implications of the Strategy could not be assessed. A number of potential impacts were identified that will be considered in more detail though the Local Development Framework process and individual planning applications.
Hull City Council & East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire Joint Minerals DPD	The Appropriate Assessment screening identified that Hornsea Mere SPA may be negatively affected by mineral extraction proposals. An Appropriate Assessment screening has been undertaken of any significant effects to Hornsea Mere arising from Environment Agency consents for water extraction. No adverse effects were found and no 'in combination' impacts are expected.
	Waste Recycling Group. Energy from Waste facility, Saltend.	The Appropriate Assessment screening identified construction phase disturbance as the only likely significant effect, and therefore no 'in combination' impacts are expected
Hull City Council	Hull Quay 2	The Appropriate Assessment screening identified construction phase disturbance as the only likely significant effect, and therefore no 'in combination' impacts are expected.
	City Centre Area Action Plan	The assessment identified policies within the CCAAP with potential for impacts upon the Humber Estuary International Sites. The assessment advised that the policies are modified to ensure that they do not result in an adverse effect upon the Humber Estuary International sites.
	Emerging Preferred Approach Core Strategy	The HRA predicts that with appropriate monitoring and management, no adverse effects would be expected as a result of the implementation of the Core Strategy on the Humber international sites.
	Holderness Road Area Action Plan	The screening report concludes that due to the distance (14 km) from Hornsea Mere SPA it is unlikely to have a significant effect on this SPA. The Humber Estuary SPA/SAC/Ramsar occurs 495 m from the AAP boundary and is likely to result in an increase in recreational pressure within its locality. However, the presence of industrial

Statutory Body	Title of HRA	Findings of HRA
	Newington & St Andrews Area Action Plan	<p>development along the land that borders the northern parts of the Humber Estuary is likely to preclude recreational pressure in this area. Indeed, the nearest area of the estuary which is suitable for recreational is the area around the town of Paull which lies 3 km from the AAP and already has facilities to manage recreational pressures. Overall it is therefore concluded that the policies within the Holderness Road Corridor Area Action Plan are unlikely to have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of the Humber Estuary SPA/SAC/Ramsar. This conclusion has been agreed by the local Natural England office and therefore no 'in combination' impacts are expected.</p> <p>The assessment identified that the Area Action Plan will not have a likely not likely to have a significant effect alone or in combination with other plans or projects on the Humber Estuary SPA/cSAC/Ramsar site and therefore no 'in combination' impacts are expected.</p>
Bassetlaw District Council	HRA screening of Bassetlaw Core Strategy	Currently being undertaken in conjunction with Doncaster MBC.
Lincolnshire County Council	No information received to date	
West Lindsey District Council	HRA of West Lindsey District Council Core Strategy	The assessment found there would be no Likely Significant Effects on the Humber Estuary International Sites, Hatfield and Thorne Moor SPA and SAC's.
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Sandtoft Mineral Extraction Appropriate Assessment	The Appropriate Assessment found that with suitable mitigation there would be no likely significant effects to European sites.
	Swinefleet Flood Defence Improvement Scheme Appropriate Assessment	The Appropriate Assessment found that with suitable mitigation there would be no likely significant effects to international sites.
North East Lincolnshire Council	Grimsby Town Football Club	Appropriate Assessment found Likely Significant Effects on the Humber SPA bird population. Therefore a mitigation plan was put in place and no likely significant effects remain.
	Vireol Bioethanol Plant	The Appropriate Assessment found that after mitigation there would be no likely significant effects to international sites and planning permission was granted.
	Abengoa Bioethanol Plant	The Appropriate Assessment found that after mitigation there would be no likely significant effects to international sites and planning permission was granted.
	North Moss Lane Industrial Estate	Application for a mixed industrial development (B1, B2 and B8). The Appropriate Assessment found that after mitigation there would be no likely significant effects to international sites and planning permission was granted.
	Magna Holdings,	Application for a mixed industrial development B1, B2 and

Statutory Body	Title of HRA	Findings of HRA
	Queen's Road, Business Park	B8 business park with ancillary A3 A4 and A5 use. The Appropriate Assessment found that after mitigation there would be no likely significant effects to the Humber Estuary international sites and planning permission was granted.
	Helius, Hobson Way, Biomass Power Station	Application for a Biomass electricity generating station. The Appropriate Assessment found that after mitigation there would be no likely significant effects to the Humber Estuary international sites and planning permission was granted
	Katoen natie industrial complex	The Appropriate Assessment found that after mitigation there would be no likely significant effects to the Humber Estuary international sites and planning permission was granted.
	Novartis Wind Farm-	Application by Novartis to erect wind turbines. Due to the likely significant effects to birds associated with the international sites the application was refused planning permission and the project will not be carried out.
	The River Humber (Upper Burcom Tidal Stream Generator) Order	The Appropriate Assessment found there would be some minor loss of marine habitat from within the Humber Estuary international sites but following mitigation it was concluded not to be significant.
Ryedale District Council	Conservation Area Assessment and Management Plan	The assessment concluded that there would be no likely significant effect on the River Derwent SAC.
Selby District Council	Selby Village Design Statement	The Appropriate Assessment concluded that there would be no likely significant effects on the River Derwent SAC, Lower Derwent Valley SPA/SAC, Hatfield and Thorne Moor SPA and SAC's and Skipwith Common SAC.
Hambleton District Council	Site Allocations DPD Development Policies DPD	The assessment concluded that there would be no likely significant effects on the Lower Derwent Valley SPA/SAC The assessment concluded that there would be no likely significant effects on the Lower Derwent Valley SPA/SAC.
East Lindsey District Council	East Lindsey LDF Appropriate Assessment Scoping Report, March 2008	It was determined that a number of the policies in the LDF were likely to have a significant effect on international designated site including the Humber Estuary SPA/SAC/Ramsar site. This has been taken forward to Stage 2: full Appropriate Assessment, as yet the outcome is not known.
	Environment Agency, Donna Nook Realignment AA	Still undergoing assessment
North	Fulseas Pumping Station	There are likely to be significantly effects on the Humber

Statutory Body	Title of HRA	Findings of HRA
Lincolnshire Unitary Authority	Able UK Area F 2008	Estuary international sites but these will be mitigated for by a precautionary method of working.
	Able UK 2002 URSA Glass wool Factory	As for Fulseas Pumping Station above.
	North Linsley Oil Refinery Car Park.	As for Fulseas Pumping Station above.
	Able UK 2006	The results of this HRA are the same as the above although mitigation is also required in relation to the Humber Estuary SAC.
	Able UK 2005	See above including effects relating to the SAC.
	Drax Heron Biomass Plant, Immingham	See above including effects relating to the SAC.
		The Appropriate Assessment concluded that there would be likely significant effects upon the Humber Estuary international sites. The application is still under consideration.
North Yorkshire County Council	No information received to date	
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council Local Development Framework	Appropriate Assessment noted the potential to affect the Humber Estuary international sites, River Derwent SPA and Thorne and Hatfield Moor SPA/SAC. However mitigation at DPD level will deal with these issues.
	Brier Hills Farm, Renewable Energy Generation Facility	Potential for significant effect upon Hatfield Moor SAC. The application is still under consideration.
York Unitary Authority	Core Strategy Preferred Options HRA	The Appropriate Assessment concluded that there would be no likely significant effects upon any of the international sites considered within this assessment.
DEFRA	Flamborough Management Plan 2001	Flamborough Head European Sites. Measures do not have adverse impact on these sites but a number of precautionary measures have been put in place.
North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee (NESFC)	NESFC licensing of demersal trawling in the area within and around the SAC.	The Appropriate Assessment of this fishing activity has recently been completed and the precautionary principle put in place as it could not be proven that the demersal trawling was not having a significant effect on the habitats within the Flamborough Head international sites. As mitigation the NESFC have put a Byelaw in place that limits trawling activity around the Flamborough Head area such that there will be no significant effects on the SAC or SPA from this activity.

5. HRA Results

<p>Site Designation Status</p>	<p>Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs SPA</p> <p>Flamborough Head SAC</p> <p>Hornsea Mere SPA:</p> <p>Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site</p> <p>Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA</p> <p>Thorne Moor SAC</p> <p>Lower Derwent Valley SAC, SPA and Ramsar site</p> <p>River Derwent SAC</p> <p>Skipwith Common SAC</p>
<p>Describe the individual elements of the Plan likely to give rise to impacts on the European Site</p>	<p>None of the 13 Spatial Strategy policies and 23 Development Policies within the Plan will lead to likely significant effects on the international sites.</p> <p>One of the 36 policies seeks solely to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity, and as such protect these international sites. This is Policy HQE4 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity. This policy states that development must protect biodiversity sites of international importance. The supporting text of this policy states that sites designated for international importance will be conserved and protected under the relevant international legislation (the Habitats Regulations).</p> <p>Ten of the 36 policies will not lead directly to development (e.g. they relate to design and other qualitative criteria or seek to protect the natural environment). There are Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SS1 - Promoting Sustainable Patterns of Development and Addressing Climate Change; • HBMH1 - Providing a Mix of Housing on New Housing Developments; • HBHM4 – Making The Most Efficient Use of Land; • PE5 - Sustainable Transport; • HQE1 - Integrated High Quality Design; • HQE2 - Promoting a High Quality Landscape; • HQE3 - Valuing our Heritage; • HQE6 - Managing Environmental Hazards; • HQE7 - Renewable Energy; and, • HQE8 – Promoting Sustainable Construction.

A total of 25 of the 36 policies will lead to development in the long term. These are Policies:

- SS2 – Locating Development;
- SS3 - Development in the Countryside and other Rural Settlements;
- SS4 - Managing the Distribution of Residential Development;
- SS5 - Managing the Distribution of Economic Development;
- SS6 - Supporting the Viability and Vitality of Centres;
- SS7 - Connecting People and Places;
- SS8 - Beverley and Central Sub Area;
- SS9 - Bridlington Coastal Sub Area;
- SS10 - Driffield and Wolds Sub Area;
- SS11 - Goole and Humberhead Levels Sub Area;
- SS12 - Holderness and Southern Coastal Sub Area;
- SS13 - Vale of York Sub Area;
- HBHM2 - Meeting the Need for Affordable Housing;
- HBHM3 - Providing for the Needs of Gypsies and Travellers;
- PE1 - Supporting the East Riding Economy
- PE2 - Encouraging Growth and Diversification of the Rural Economy;
- PE3 - Developing and Diversifying the Visitor Economy;
- PE4 - Supporting the Vitality and Viability of Town and District Centres and the retail economy;
- HQE5 - Strengthening Green Infrastructure;
- HQE9 – Providing for the Supply of Minerals; and,
- HQE10 – Sustainable Waste Management.
- SHC1 - Community Services and Facilities;
- SHC2 - Rural Community Facilities;
- SHC3 - Provision of Infrastructure and Facilities;
- SHC4 - Open Space for Leisure and Recreation.

There will be no likely significant effects due to the proposals for development outlined in the 25 policies listed above as these elements of the Plan are at a strategic level (e.g. the exact details of where the development sites will be located, their design and/or when (or if) these sites will be constructed upon are not known). Although outline areas for future development are discussed in the plan these do not provide specific development plots and therefore it is not possible to undertake an assessment of these potential developments with any level of certainty. Lower tier Development Plan Documents (DPDs) will arise from the policies within the Core Strategy: the East Riding of Yorkshire

	<p>Council's Allocations DPD. Other plans such as Supplementary Planning Documents and Area Action Plans may also arise from the Plan. The lower tier Plans will include specific details about the locations of future growth, including the exact location of allocations sites and their proposed land uses.</p> <p>The Plan seeks to protect international sites in line with Policy HQE5 and the Environment sections of Spatial Strategy policies SS8 to SS13 (all of these policies make specific reference to avoiding impacts on international sites) and Policy HQE2. Furthermore the Plan commits to an HRA being carried out on any future DPDs when they are produced (in accordance with the HRA text in Section 9 of the Plan). The Plan also commits to HRA being carried out for any planning applications that may have an effect on the international sites. As such the HRA of these documents/proposals will need to satisfy East Riding of Yorkshire Council (in consultation with Natural England) that there will either be no likely significant effects from any of the proposed allocations sites in these DPDs/proposed planning applications on the international sites identified above or that any significant effects can be effectively mitigated or compensated. If this cannot be proven the Council will not include the allocations sites which may lead to significant effects on the international site in the lower tier plan and/or will not grant planning permission to the planning application.</p> <p>The Initial AA Screening Results Tables in Appendix B give a full justification of the conclusions drawn for each of these policies.</p>
<p>Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Plan on the European Site by virtue of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size and scale; • Land take; • Resource requirements (i.e. water extraction etc); • Emissions (disposal to land, water or air); • Excavation requirements; • Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc.; and • Other. 	<p>The Plan seeks to protect international sites (in line with HQE4. Due to the high level strategic nature of the Plan only broad details of future development possibly arising from Policies are given. As such the Plan commits to HRAs being carried out of any future DPDs/planning applications when they are produced (in accordance with the HRA text in Section 9 of the Plan). Future allocations sites/planning applications will only be taken forward if it can be proven through HRA that there will either be no likely significant effects from any of the proposed allocations sites/proposed planning applications on the international sites or that any significant effects can be effectively mitigated or compensated.</p> <p>As such there are no likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Plan on the international sites.</p>
<p>Describe any likely changes to the European site arising as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of habitat area; • Disturbance to key species; • Habitat or species fragmentation; 	<p>Due to the reasons outlined above, there are no likely changes to the international sites as a result of the policies set out in the Plan.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in species density; • Changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality); and • Climate change 	
<p>Describe from the above those elements of the project, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is not known</p>	<p>This HRA has not identified any likely significant impacts as a result of the plan.</p> <p>A number of projects and plans have also undergone HRA/AA for potential impacts on the Humber Estuary International Sites, the Thorne and Hatfield Moors International sites, the River Derwent International Sites, Skipwith Common SAC and Hornsea Mere SPA.</p> <p>Due to the high level strategic nature of the Core Strategy only broad details of future development possibly arising from its policies are given. Therefore a detailed assessment of 'in combination' effects cannot be made at this stage. However, the Plan commits to conducting HRAs for any future DPDs when they are produced (in accordance with the HRA text in Section 9 of the Plan). Future allocations sites/planning applications will only be taken forward if it can be proven through HRA that there will either be no likely significant effects from any of the proposed allocations sites in these DPDs on the international sites (alone or in combination with other projects and plan).</p> <p>Therefore it can be concluded at this stage that there will not be any in combination effects with this Plan.</p>

6. Conclusions

Is the East Riding of Yorkshire Council Preferred Approach Core Strategy likely to have a significant effect 'alone or in combination' on the Humber Estuary International Sites, the Thorne and Hatfield Moors International sites, the River Derwent International Sites, Skipwith Common SAC or Hornsea Mere SPA?

Atkins has completed a Stage 1 (Screening) of the HRA process for the East Riding of Yorkshire Councils *Preferred Approach Core Strategy*.

HRA is required by Regulation 48 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) (the Habitat Regulations) for all plans and projects which may have adverse effects on European sites. A total of 13 international sites are considered in this HRA including; the Humber Estuary International Sites, the Thorne and Hatfield Moors International sites, the River Derwent International Sites, Skipwith Common SAC and Hornsea Mere SPA. This HRA has assessed whether the options for economic and residential development set out within the 13 Spatial Strategy policies and the 23 Development Policies are likely to lead to significant effects on these international and what these likely impacts are.

None of the 13 Spatial Strategy policies and 23 Development Policies within the Plan will lead to likely significant effects on the international sites. Of these policies HQE4 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity specifically seeks to protect international sites. The supporting text of this policy states that sites designated for international importance will be conserved and protected under the relevant international legislation (the Habitats Regulations).

A total of 25 of the 36 policies will lead to development in the long term.

However, this HRA has identified that there will be no likely significant effects 'alone' or 'in combination' on any of the international sites within this assessment. At this stage due to the high level strategic nature of the Plan only broad details of future development possibly arising from the policies are given. As such the Plan will commit to conducting HRAs for any future lower tier DPDs when they are produced and any planning applications which might have effects on international sites (in accordance with HRA text in Section 9 of the Plan). Future allocations sites/planning applications will only be taken forward if it can be proven through HRA that there will either be no likely significant effects from any of the proposed developments on the International sites and that no contravention of the environment sections of the Spatial Strategy Policies has occurred.

As such the Plan seeks to protect the international sites and none of the policies within the document will lead to likely significant effects on the Humber Estuary International Sites, the Thorne and Hatfield Moors International sites, the River Derwent International Sites, Skipwith Common SAC and Hornsea Mere SPA.

Furthermore, a number of projects and plans have also undergone HRA/AA for potential impacts on the international sites. However, the Core Strategy is of a high level strategic nature and provides only broad details of future development possibly arising from its policies are given. Therefore it can be concluded at this stage that there will not be any in combination effects with this Plan.

Name of assessor/originator:	Duncan Lang, Ecologist Catherine Sellars, Senior Ecologist	Date: 12/03/10
Name of checker:	Alex Watson, Principal Ecologist	Date: 12/03/10
Natural England comment on assessment:		
Name of NE Officer:		Date:

Appendix A

A.1 The International Sites

This appendix includes information about the following international sites, taken from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee website and information provided by Natural England (2009):

- Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar Site (Table B.1);
- Humber Estuary SAC (Table B.2);
- Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA (Table B.3);
- Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs SPA and Flamborough Head SAC (Table B.4);
- Lower Derwent Valley SPA, Ramsar site and SAC (Table B.5);
- River Derwent SAC (Table B.6);
- Skipwith Common SAC (Table B.7); and
- Hornsea Mere SPA (Table B.8).

The tables include information about their designation status, the location of each site, a brief description of each site and the Conservation Objectives for each site.

Table A.1: Information about the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar Site

Site Designation Status	Humber Estuary Special Protection Area and Ramsar site
Location of International Site	The site is located along the entire length of the River Humber estuary (located at the southern extent on the East Riding of Yorkshire boundary).
Brief Description of the International Site	<p>The site is a representative example of a near-natural estuary with the following component habitats: dune systems and humid dune slacks, estuarine waters, inter-tidal mud flats and sand flats, salt marshes and coastal brackish/saline lagoons.</p> <p>The site is designated for its internationally important assemblage of birds (include breeding and over-wintering birds). In the non-breeding season, the area regularly supports 153,934 individual water birds including dark-bellied brent goose, shelduck, wigeon, teal, mallard, pochard, scaup, goldeneye, oystercatcher, avocet, ringed plover, golden plover, grey plover, lapwing, knot, sanderling, dunlin, ruff, black-tailed godwit, bar-tailed godwit, whimbrel, curlew, redshank, greenshank and turnstone.</p> <p>The site supports a large number of Annex 1 birds and in the breeding season regularly supports 10.5% of the population of bittern, 8.6 % of avocet and 6.3 % of marsh harrier in Great Britain. Over winter the site regularly supports 12.3 % of the population of golden plover, 4.4% of the population of bar-tailed godwit and 4% of the population of bittern in Great Britain.</p>
Conservation Objectives of the International Site	<p>The conservation objectives for the SPA are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain, subject to natural change, the habitats for internationally important populations of the regularly occurring Annex I species in favourable condition, particularly the inter-tidal mudflats and sandflats, saltmarsh communities, tidal reedbed, coastal lagoons and unvegetated sand and shingle; • To maintain, subject to natural changes, the habitats for the internationally important populations of regularly occurring migratory bird species in favourable condition, particularly inter-tidal mudflats and sandflats, saltmarsh communities, tidal reedbeds and coastal lagoons; and • To maintain, subject to natural changes, the habitats for the internationally important assemblage of waterfowl in favourable condition, particularly inter-tidal mudflats and sandflats, saltmarsh communities, tidal reedbeds and coastal lagoons. <p>The conservation objectives for the Ramsar site are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain, subject to natural change, the wetland hosting an assemblage of threatened coastal and wetland invertebrates in

favourable condition, particularly the saltmarsh communities and the coastal lagoons;

- To maintain, subject to natural change, the wetland hosting a breeding colony of grey seals in favourable condition, particularly the inter-tidal mudflats and sandflats;
- To maintain, subject to natural change, the wetland regularly supporting 20,000 or more waterfowl in favourable condition, particularly the inter-tidal mudflats and sandflats, saltmarsh communities and tidal reedbeds; and
- To maintain, subject to natural change the wetland regularly supporting 1% or more of the individuals in a population of one species or sub-species of waterfowl in favourable condition, particularly the inter-tidal mudflats and sandflat, saltmarsh communities, tidal reedbeds and coastal lagoons.

Please note: the word 'maintain' used in the context above implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

Table A.2: Information about the Humber Estuary SAC

Site Designation Status	Humber Estuary Special Area of Conservation
Location of International Site	The site is located along the entire length of the River Humber estuary (located at the southern extent on the East Riding of Yorkshire boundary).
Brief Description of the International Site	<p>The Humber is the second largest coastal plain estuary in the UK. It is a muddy, macro-tidal estuary. Habitats within the estuary include two Annex I habitats: estuaries and mudflats and sand flats not covered by seawater at low tide.</p> <p>Other Annex I habitats present that are not a primary reason for the designation of the site are Atlantic salt meadows, coastal lagoons, embryonic shifting dunes, shifting dunes along the shoreline with marram grass (<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>) (white dunes), fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) and dunes with sea-buckthorn (<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>), samphire (<i>Salicornia</i>) and other annuals colonising mud and sand and sandbanks that are slightly covered by seawater all the time.</p> <p>Annex II species present include sea lamprey, river lamprey and grey seal but these are not the primary reason(s) for the designation of this site.</p>
Conservation Objectives of the International Site	<p>The conservation objectives for the site are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain, subject to natural change, the estuary in favourable condition, particularly the saltmarsh communities, the inter-tidal mudflat and sandflat communities and the sub-tidal sediment communities; • To maintain, subject to natural change, the coastal lagoons in favourable condition; • To maintain, subject to natural change, the Atlantic salt meadows in favourable condition, particularly the low to mid marsh communities, the mid to upper marsh communities and the transitional communities; • To maintain, subject to natural change, the samphire and other annuals colonising mud and sand in favourable condition, particularly the annual samphire saltmarsh community and the <i>Sueada martima</i> (sea-blite) saltmarsh community; • To maintain, subject to natural change, the mudflats and sandflats not covered by water at low tide in favourable condition, particularly the inter-tidal gravel and sand communities, the inter-tidal muddy sand communities, the inter-tidal mud communities and the eelgrass bed communities; • To maintain, subject to natural change, the sandbanks which are slightly

covered by water all the time in favourable condition, particularly the sub-tidal gravel and sands and the sub-tidal muddy sands;

- To maintain, subject to natural change, the habitats for river lamprey in favourable condition;
- To maintain, subject to natural change, the habitats for sea lamprey in favourable condition;

Please note: the word 'maintain' used in the context above implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

Table A.3: Information about the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and Thorne and the Hatfield Moors SPA

Site Designation Status	Thorne Moor Special Area of Conservation
Location of International Site	The site is located along the south-western edge of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council boundary. Most of the SAC is located within the Metropolitan Borough of Doncaster but small sections are located within the East Riding of Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire.
Brief Description of the International Site	<p>Thorne Moor SAC is the largest remaining area of raised bog in England. Despite extensive operations of peat excavation there are still large areas of Sphagnum bog as well as many heathland habitats. The degraded raised bog still capable of natural regeneration is the Annex I habitat that is the primary reason for the site's allocation as a SAC.</p> <p>The range of habitats present within the site are inland water bodies (standing water, running water); bogs, marshes, water fringed vegetation and fens; heath, scrub, maquis, garrigue and phygrana; broad-leaved deciduous woodland and other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites).</p>
Conservation Objectives of the International Site	The conservation objective for this site is to restore to favourable condition the area currently notified as degraded raised bog.
Site Designation Status	Hatfield Moor Special Area of Conservation
Location of International Site	The site is located approximately 8.7 km from the south-western edge of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council boundary. The SAC is located within the Metropolitan Borough of Doncaster.
Brief Description of the International Site	<p>Hatfield Moor SAC is a remnant of the original extensive bog and wetland once found in the Humberhead levels and is the second largest area of extant lowland bog England. The site is designated under the same Annex 1 habitat as the Thorne Moor SAC. Similarly to Thorne Moor SAC and the bog habitat for which this site is designated is still capable of natural regeneration.</p> <p>The range of habitats present within the site are inland water bodies (standing water, running water); bogs, marshes, water fringed vegetation and fens; heath, scrub, maquis, garrigue and phygrana; other arable land, broad-leaved deciduous woodland, coniferous woodland and other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites).</p>
Conservation Objectives of	The conservation objective for this site is to restore to favourable condition

the International Site	the area currently notified as degraded raised bog.
Site Designation Status	Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA
Location of International Site	The site is located along the south-western edge of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council boundary. Most of the SPA is located within the Metropolitan Borough of Doncaster but small sections are located within the East Riding of Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire.
Brief Description of the International Site	<p>The composite site of Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA qualifies for European protection due to the breeding population of nightjars that use the site for nesting and feeding. The 66 pairs of nightjar breeding on the Thorne and Hatfield Moors represent 1.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain.</p> <p>The European nightjar is a Species of European Concern, as the global population is concentrated in Europe, although it currently has an unfavourable conservation status within the continent. Nightjars are a ground nesting species, preferring well-drained, open ground with vegetation such as open young woodland or heather moors. It is thought that human disturbance has negative impacts on the success of breeding in this species (Murison 2002).</p>
Conservation Objectives of the International Site	<p>The conservation objectives for this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to restore to favourable condition the area currently notified as degraded raised bog; and • to maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of Annex 1 species of European importance (nightjar), with particular reference to degraded bog capable of natural regeneration as a precursor of active raised bog. <p>Please note: the word ‘maintain’ used in the context above implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.</p>

Table A.4: Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs SPA & Flamborough Head SAC

Site Designation Status	Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs Special Protection Area
Location of International Site	The Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs SPA is located in the East Riding of Yorkshire, near Bridlington.
Brief Description of the European Site	<p>Flamborough Head is located on the central Yorkshire coast of eastern England. The cliffs project into the North Sea, rising to 135 m at Bempton Cliffs and exposing a wide section of chalk strata. The site supports a seabird assemblage of international importance.</p> <p>The site supports large numbers of breeding seabirds including kittiwake and auks, as well as the only mainland breeding colony of gannet in the UK. The seabirds feed and raft in the waters around the cliffs, outside the SPA, as well as feeding more distantly in the North Sea. During the breeding season the site regularly supports 305,784 individual seabirds including puffin, razorbill, guillemot, herring gull, gannet and kittiwake (supporting at least 2.6% of the breeding eastern Atlantic population of this species).</p> <p>The inter-tidal chalk platforms are also used as roosting sites, particularly at low water and notably by young kittiwakes (Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) website: www.jncc.gov.uk/).</p>
Conservation Objectives of the European Site	<p>The conservation objectives for the European site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the migratory bird species of European importance (kittiwake) with particular reference to coastal cliffs and caves; and • to maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of seabirds that contribute to the breeding seabird assemblage of European importance with particular reference to coastal cliffs and caves. <p>Further details are available in the site citations (www.jncc.gov.uk, www.naturalengland.org.uk) and within the Natural England document <i>cSAC: Flamborough Head, SPA: Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs and Component SSSI: Flamborough Head</i> (v2 17/11/00). This is presented in Appendix 3.</p>
Site Designation Status	Flamborough Head Special Area of Conservation
Distance and direction from plan boundary to the European site	The Flamborough Head SAC is located in the East Riding of Yorkshire, near Bridlington.

	<p>The AAP covers the town centre of Bridlington and extends into the Harbour. The area the AAP covers is shown in Appendix 2. The eastern boundary of the AAP is located, at its closest point, approximately 480 m west of the European site.</p>
<p>Brief Description of the European Site</p>	<p>Flamborough Head is located on the central Yorkshire coast of eastern England. The site has been selected for the presence of species associated with chalk and for its location at the southern limit of the distribution of several northern species (JNCC website).</p> <p>Annex 1 habitats that are a primary reason for the selection of this site include reefs, vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coast and submerged or partially submerged sea caves.</p> <p>Vegetated Sea Cliffs</p> <p>Flamborough Head is an east coast representative of hard chalk cliffs (which occur more frequently on the south coast of England) and is important for the conservation of calcareous cliff vegetation. Maritime vegetation is local and occurs where topography increases salt spray deposition. Elsewhere the chalk substrate supports calcareous grassland communities and towards the eastern end of the site the chalk is masked by drift deposits, which support mesotrophic and acidic grassland communities.</p> <p>Reefs</p> <p>The site covers around 14% of the UK and 9% of European coastal chalk exposure, represents the most northern outcrop of chalk in the UK and includes bedrock and boulder reefs which extend further into deeper water than at other sub-tidal chalk sites in the UK, giving on the of the most extensive areas of sublittoral chalk in Europe. The site supports an unusual range of marine species and includes rich animal communities. The littoral and sublittoral reef habitats at Flamborough Head are considered to be the most diverse in the UK. The three main reef habitats at Flamborough Head are rocky shores, kelp habitats and sub-tidal faunal turf (animal dominated submerged rock).</p> <p>Submerged or Partially Submerged Sea Caves</p> <p>There are a larger and a wider range of cave habitats at Flamborough than at any other chalk site in Britain. There are more than 200 caves at the site, particularly around the headland and on the north-facing cliffs and they are important for the specialised cave algal communities they support.</p>
<p>Conservation Objectives of the European Site</p>	<p>The conservation objectives for the European site are to maintain in favourable condition the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts;

- submerged and partially submerged sea caves; and
- reefs.

Further details are available in the site citations (www.jncc.gov.uk, www.naturalengland.org.uk) and within the Natural England documents *cSAC: Flamborough Head*, *SPA: Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs and Component SSSI: Flamborough Head* (v2 17/11/00) and *Natural England's advice for Flamborough Head European Marine Site given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994* (issued 14th January 2000). These documents are presented in Appendix 3 and Appendix 4.

Documents that have been reviewed for additional information on these sites include:

- *Bempton Cliffs Management Plan April 2005 – March 2010* (produced by the RSPB); and
- *Flamborough Head Management Plan* (produced in 2007 by the Flamborough Head Project Officer).

Table A.5: Information about the Lower Derwent Valley SAC, SPA and Ramsar

Site Designation Status	Lower Derwent Valley Special Area of Conservation
Location of International Site	The site is located in the mid-west of the East Riding of Yorkshire.
Brief Description of the International Site	<p>The Lower Derwent Valley comprises a series of flood meadows, pastures and woodlands supporting a rich diversity of plant species and outstanding populations of breeding and wintering birds.</p> <p>The site has been declared an SAC as it contains a greater area of high-quality examples of lowland hay meadows than any other UK site and encompasses the majority of this habitat type occurring in the Vale of York. The abundance of the rare narrow-leaved water-dropwort <i>Oenanthe silaifolia</i> is a notable feature. Traditional management has ensured that ecological variation is well-developed, particularly in the transitions between this grassland type and other types of wet and dry grassland, swamp and fen vegetation.</p> <p>In addition the Annex I habitat alluvial forest with alder and ash and a population of otters, an Annex II species, occur within the SAC.</p>
Conservation Objectives of the International Site	The conservation objective for this site is to restore/maintain to favourable condition the habitats/ species for which the site is designated. This is achieved through management of the water quality/ levels/ flow and recreational pressure at and adjacent to the site.
Site Designation Status	Lower Derwent Valley Special Protection Area and Ramsar Site
Location of International Site	The site is located in the mid-west of the East Riding of Yorkshire.
Brief Description of the International Site	<p>The Lower Derwent Valley is part of a major floodplain system located in East and North Yorkshire in eastern England. The valley holds a series of neutral alluvial flood meadows, fens, swamps, valley mires, Alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> woodlands and other freshwater habitats lying adjacent to the River Derwent, Pocklington Canal and The Beck. The Lower Derwent Valley is one of the largest and most important examples of traditionally managed species-rich alluvial flood meadow habitat remaining in the UK. These grasslands, which were formerly widespread in the UK, are now very restricted in distribution due to agricultural intensification. The character and species composition of the grassland, fen and swamp communities is largely controlled by topography, differences in the extent of winter flooding and by the type of agricultural management. The site is of outstanding importance for a diverse range of waterbirds throughout the year. In winter the site supports large numbers of swans, ducks and waders, as well as Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>, whilst in summer the floodplain holds breeding</p>

	<p>waders, Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> and Spotted Crake <i>Porzana porzana</i>.</p> <p>The SPA also includes the subsumed SPA of Derwent Ings, a site that was subject to separate classification</p>
Conservation Objectives of the International Site	The conservation objective for this site is to restore/maintain to favourable condition the habitats/ species for which the site is designated. This is achieved through management of the water quality/ levels/ flow and recreational pressure at and adjacent to the site.

Table A.6: Information about the River Derwent SAC

Site Designation Status	River Derwent Special Area of Conservation
Location of International Site	The site is located along the western edge of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council boundary.
Brief Description of the International Site	<p>The River Derwent SAC is designated primarily for the populations of Annex II species, the river lamprey that it supports.</p> <p>Qualifying features that are not a primary reason for its designation include the presence of Annex II species sea lamprey, bullhead and otter, and the Annex I habitat water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitans and Callitriche-Batachion vegetation.</p>
Conservation Objectives of the International Site	The conservation objective for this site is to restore to favourable condition the habitats supporting the Annex II species river lamprey, and the habitats and species that are not the primary reason for its designation.

Table A.6: Information about the Skipwith SAC

Site Designation Status	Skipwith Common Special Area of Conservation
Location of International Site	The site is located 2.8 km west of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council western boundary.
Brief Description of the International Site	<p>Skipwith Common SAC is designated primarily for the Annex I habitats Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> and European dry heaths.</p> <p>The northern Atlantic wet heath at Skipwith Common is the most extensive of its type in the north of England. The (M16) <i>Erica tetralix</i> – <i>Sphagnum compactum</i> wet heath is dominated by cross-leaved heath <i>Erica tetralix</i> and purple moor-grass <i>Molinia caerulea</i>. There is a small population of marsh gentian <i>Gentiana pneumonanthe</i>. The wet heath is part of transitions from open water, fen, reed and swap to European dry heaths and other habitats. The site has great ornithological and entomological importance.</p> <p>Skipwith Common is one of the only two extensive areas of open heathland remaining in the Vale of York, the other being Strensall Common. The dry heath element is an example of (H9) <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> heath dominated by heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>. The area has entomological and ornithological importance, with nearly 80 species of birds recorded, including European nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>.</p>
Conservation Objectives of the International Site	The conservation objective for this site is to maintain/ restore to favourable condition the Annex I habitats.

Table A.7: Information about the Hornsea Mere SPA

Site Designation Status	Hornsea Mere Special Protection Area
Location of International Site	Hornsea Mere is on the east coast of Yorkshire, midway between Flamborough Head to the north and Spurn Head to the south.
Brief Description of the International Site	<p>Hornsea Mere is on the east coast of Yorkshire, midway between Flamborough Head to the north and Spurn Head to the south. It is the largest freshwater lake in Yorkshire. It is less than 1 km from the North Sea and covers an area of 141 hectares. The lake is of glacial origin, shallow (in general only 1 m to 2 m deep), enriched with nutrients and fringed with reedbeds, fen and carr.</p> <p>The mere supports breeding and wintering water birds, which feed on the open water and use the marginal vegetation for feeding and roosting. It is designated as a SPA because it regularly supports an internationally important wintering population of Gadwall, a dabbling duck. The site also supports nationally important wintering populations of a further four species, goldeneye, pochard, tufted duck and shoveler. Mute swans also visit the site in nationally important numbers to moult after breeding.</p>
Conservation Objectives of the International Site	The conservation objective for this site is to restore the habitat (standing water) to favourable condition to support the internationally important wintering populations of gadwall.

Appendix B

B.1 Initial HRA Screening Results Tables

B.2 HRA Results Tables

This appendix contains Tables C-1 and C-2 (see below) which summarises the features of each of the proposed policies within the Plan and whether each policy is considered to have a likely significant effect on the international sites.

The likely significant effects take into account the measures in the Plan which seek to protect the international sites.

Where possible, policies that have been found to have no likely significant effect on an international site have been categorised into four different types:

- **Policy Type 1:** Policies that will not themselves lead to development (e.g. because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development, or they are not a land use planning policy);
- **Policy Type 2:** Policies intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity;
- **Policy Type 3:** Policies intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on a European site; and
- **Policy Type 4:** Policies that positively steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.

This has been based on The Habitats Regulations Assessment of Regional Spatial Strategies and sub-Regional Strategies (Draft Guidance) produced by Natural England in March 2007.

Table B-1: HRA Results – Spatial Strategy Policies Screening Table

Spatial Strategy Policy	Policy Name	Proposed Policy Details	Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Justification of Finding
Supporting Sustainable Patterns of Development				
SS1	Promoting Sustainable Patterns of Development and Addressing Climate Change	This policy outlines the criteria by which development decisions will seek to promote sustainable patterns of development and reduce the level of greenhouse gas emissions (for example by promoting sustainable modes of transport, renewable energy and sustainable waste management). It also outlines how development decisions will seek to mitigate and adapt to the expected impacts of climate change.	No	<p>Type 1 Policy: This policy will not itself lead to development (because it relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and it is not a land use planning policy).</p> <p>Furthermore, Policy HQE7 - Renewable Energy seeks to protect the environment (see below) and as such there are no likely significant effects on international sites from this policy promoting renewable energy such as wind turbines.</p>
SS2	Locating Development	<p>This policy states that the majority of new development within East Riding will be focused in the defined Settlement Network which consists of the Major Haltemprice Settlements, Principal Towns, Local Service Centres, Rural Service Centres and supporting villages.</p> <p>The policy states that the Major Haltemprice Settlements and the Principle Towns will be the main focus of growth in the East Riding and that the local Service Centres and Rural Service Centres will provide for more limited development to sustain and meet the needs of rural areas.</p>	No	<p>This policy will lead to development in the long-term. However this policy does not outline any development proposals and the exact details of where development may be located, their design and/or when (or if) these sites will be constructed upon are not stated.</p> <p>The supporting text contained within the Plan states that any policies relating to development (e.g. from which development could arise) must comply with all policies within the Core Strategy. The Plan seeks to protect international sites through Policy HQE5 which states that any proposals for development must protect biodiversity sites of international importance. Furthermore the supporting text of Policy HQE5 states that sites designated for their international importance will be conserved and protected under the relevant international legislation (the Habitats Regulations).</p> <p>There is also a section of text relating to HRA (Habitats Regulations Assessment text in Section 9 of the Plan) which outlines the requirements of the HRA process. This text states that if a proposed development could have a likely significant effect on an internationally important site further consideration and assessment will need to be made for these</p>

Table B-1: HRA Results – Spatial Strategy Policies Screening Table

Spatial Strategy Policy	Policy Name	Proposed Policy Details	Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Justification of Finding
				<p>proposals at the development control stage (or as part of lower tier development plan documents, for example, the Allocations DPD). This will require developers to provide the Competent Authority (in this case East Riding of Yorkshire Council) with a thorough ecological assessment of the potential effects upon the relevant international site(s) so as to allow the Competent Authority the ability to determine whether the development is likely to result in significant adverse impacts on the site(s). If a development cannot demonstrate that it would not have a significant adverse effect upon an international site, or that impacts can be adequately mitigated, the Plan commits to this planning application being refused.</p> <p>As such should development arise from this policy, the need for HRA will be highlighted and will be undertaken at the development control stage and/or lower tier development plan stage. If it cannot be proven that there will no significant impacts on the international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate/compensate for these impacts, the Plan states that the development will not be granted planning permission/will not be included in the Allocations document.</p> <p>As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effects on the international sites.</p>
SS3	Development in the Countryside and other Rural Settlements	This policy states that outside the development limits of the settlements listed in Policy SS2, land will be classified as the Countryside and there will be strict control over new development. The policy outlines the types of development that will be encouraged in order to maintain the vibrancy of the countryside where they do not compromise the general approach set out in Policy SS2. This includes rural diversification proposals and agricultural, forestry and equine uses.	No	<p>This policy could lead to development. However this policy does not outline any development proposals and the exact details of where development may be located, their design and/or when (or if) these sites will be constructed upon are not known.</p> <p>The supporting text contained within the Plan states that any policies relating to development (e.g. from which development could arise) must comply with all policies within the Core Strategy. The Plan seeks to protect international sites (through Policy HQE5 and the HRA text in Section 9 of the Plan). Therefore, should development arise from this</p>

Table B-1: HRA Results – Spatial Strategy Policies Screening Table

Spatial Strategy Policy	Policy Name	Proposed Policy Details	Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Justification of Finding
Managing the Location of New Development				
SS4	Managing the Distribution of Residential Development	<p>This policy outlines the distribution of housing (in percentage terms) over the plan period as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major Haltemprice Settlements 15%; Principal Towns 45%; Local Service Centres 21%; and Rural Service Centres and the Countryside 19%. <p>This will be managed through the allocation of sites (in the Allocations DPD) and the determination of planning applications.</p>	No	<p>policy, the need for HRA will be highlighted and will be undertaken at the development control stage and /or lower tier development plan stage. If it cannot be proven that there will no significant impacts on the international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate/compensate for these impacts, the Plan states that the development will not be granted planning permission.</p> <p>As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effects on the international sites.</p> <p>This policy will lead to development in the long-term. However this policy does not outline any development proposals and the exact details of where development may be located, their design and/or when (or if) these sites will be constructed upon are not stated.</p> <p>The supporting text contained within the Plan states that any policies relating to development (e.g. from which development could arise) must comply with all policies within the Core Strategy. The Plan seeks to protect international sites (through Policy HQE5 and the HRA text in Section 9 of the Plan). Therefore, should development arise from this policy, the need for HRA will be highlighted and will be undertaken at the development control stage and /or lower tier development plan stage (e.g. as part of the Allocations DPD). If it cannot be proven that there will no significant impacts on the international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate/compensate for these impacts, the Plan states that the development will not be granted planning permission.</p> <p>As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effects on the international sites.</p>

Table B-1: HRA Results – Spatial Strategy Policies Screening Table

Spatial Strategy Policy	Policy Name	Proposed Policy Details	Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Justification of Finding
SS5	Managing the Distribution of Economic Development	<p>This policy states at least 190 hectares of employment land on a good range of sites will be allocated through the Allocations DPD.</p> <p>In addition, the policy states that a further 80 hectares of land at Hedon Haven will be allocated and reserved for economic uses that require access to the deep-water estuarial channel on the Humber Estuary.</p> <p>Furthermore, the policy states that development along the multi-modal corridor will focus on freight movements by means other than roads.</p>	No	<p>The Policy identifies that approximately 80 hectares of land will be allocated at Hedon Haven, an area of land close to a village approximately 1.5 km north of the Humber Estuary SPA/SAC/Ramsar site.</p> <p>However, although no specific site details are provided in the policy, this specifically relates to a parcel of land which lies adjacent to the River Humber, as allocated in the Holderness District Wide Local Plan, 1999 under policy HED4. However, within the Holderness District Wide Local Plan, policy ENV12 specifically states:</p> <p><i>'Development proposals (either individually or in combination with others) likely to adversely affect an existing or proposed Ramsar site, SPA or SAC will be subject to rigorous examination and will only be permitted if there are overriding reasons in the national interest and there is no alternative. Where sites host a priority habitat (as listed in the habitats directive) proposals must also be required for reasons of human health or safety. Before any development is allowed, the Council will require developers to demonstrate that adverse effects are minimised and that commensurate efforts to compensate for unavoidable damage are made.'</i></p> <p>This effectively states that in order for development to be allowed, there must be no alternative options and it must first have Stages 3 and 4 of the HRA process undertaken, the highest level of assessment possible. Therefore, in developing this specific parcel of land a full Appropriate Assessment (Stage 2 of the HRA process) will be undertaken to be followed by Stages 3 and 4 as necessary (as in accordance with the above named policy).</p> <p>The details of all allocation sites for the County will be provided in the Allocations DPD. This policy does not outline the exact details of where development may be located, their design and/or when (or if) these sites will be constructed upon are not stated. As such, at this stage it is not possible to undertake an assessment of likely significant effects of this</p>

Table B-1: HRA Results – Spatial Strategy Policies Screening Table

Spatial Strategy Policy	Policy Name	Proposed Policy Details	Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Justification of Finding
				<p>policy with any degree of confidence. For these reasons, the Plan commits to an HRA at the lower tier plan stage (e.g. the Site Allocations DPD). This is in accordance with the text in Section 9 of the Plan.</p> <p>The Allocations DPD will contain more specific details about the employment sites to be provided within the East Riding. The HRA of the DPD will have to prove that the proposed allocations sites will not have significant adverse effects on the international sites (or that significant impacts can be adequately mitigated or compensated for). If it cannot be proven that there will no significant adverse impacts on these international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate/compensate for these impacts the Council will not allow the development to be constructed and it will not be included in the lower tier plans. The Plan therefore seeks to protect the international sites and this policy will not lead to likely significant effects on the international sites.</p>
SS6	Supporting the Viability and Vitality of Centres	<p>This policy states that the future needs for retail and other town centre uses will be met through the allocation of sites in the Allocations DPD and the determination of planning applications. It also outlines the network and hierarchy of centres that will be used to address these retail and town centre needs.</p> <p>The supporting text outlines the retail requirements and recommendations for individual town centres in the County. However, no specific locations for development are provided.</p>	No	<p>This policy will to development in the long-term. However this policy does not outline any development proposals and the exact details of where development may be located, their design and/or when (or if) these sites will be constructed upon are not stated.</p> <p>The supporting text contained within the Plan states that any policies relating to development (e.g. from which development could arise) must comply with all policies within the Core Strategy. The Plan seeks to protect international sites (through Policy HQE5 and the HRA text in Section 9 of the Plan). Therefore, should development arise from this policy, the need for HRA will be highlighted and will be undertaken at the development control stage and the lower tier development plan stage (the Allocations DPD). If it cannot be proven that there will no significant impacts on the international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate/compensate for these impacts, the Plan states that the development will not be granted planning permission or be included in the Allocations DPD.</p>

Table B-1: HRA Results – Spatial Strategy Policies Screening Table

Spatial Strategy Policy	Policy Name	Proposed Policy Details	Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Justification of Finding
				As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effects on the international sites.
SS7	Strengthening the Strategic Transport Network	<p>This policy outlines how the Council will facilitate a number of transport schemes to 2026 and beyond through safeguarding land in the Allocations DPD. Schemes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Beverley Integrated Transport Plan; A164 Humber Bridge to Beverley corridor Improvements; A1079 improvements; Melton multi-modal freight terminal; Hull docks branch line extension to Hedon Haven Old Goole River Berth; North of Hull and East of Hull park and ride; Land required for the aspirational Hull/Beverley to York railway line. 	No	<p>This policy will lead to development in the long-term and in potentially sensitive locations near to the Humber Estuary. However this policy does not outline any specific details of the development proposals (e.g. exact details of where development will be located, their design and/or when (or if) these sites will be constructed upon). These details will be supplied in the Allocations DPD.</p> <p>The supporting text contained within the Plan states that any policies relating to development (e.g. from which development could arise) must comply with all policies within the Core Strategy. The Plan seeks to protect international sites (through Policy HQE5 and the HRA text in Section 9 of the Plan). Therefore, should development arise from this policy, the need for HRA will be highlighted and will be undertaken at the development control stage and the lower tier development plan stage (the Allocations DPD). If it cannot be proven that there will no significant impacts on the international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate/compensate for these impacts, the Plan states that the development will not be granted planning permission or be included in the Allocations DPD.</p> <p>As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effects on the international sites.</p>
SS8	Beverly and Central Sub Area	<p>This policy provides criteria for plans, strategies and development decisions in the Beverley and Central Sub Area. The policy is broken into five sub-categories: A - Strategy and Places, B – Economy, C – Housing, D – Environment and E – Movement and Accessibility. This</p>	No	<p>The Beverley and Central Sub Area is the largest of all the sub-areas within the County, it is also the most central. Due to its location and size the proposed development listed within the policy has the potential to affect the Humber Estuary International sites, which are located within the sub-area.</p> <p>Other European sites within the county and surrounding area only have</p>

Table B-1: HRA Results – Spatial Strategy Policies Screening Table

Spatial Strategy Policy	Policy Name	Proposed Policy Details	Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Justification of Finding
		<p>includes an outline of the distribution of housing in the sub area (in percentage terms only) and an outline of where the sub area’s key employment sites and overall transport infrastructure.</p> <p>This policy seeks to safeguard and enhance nature conservation sites such as the Humber Estuary.</p>		<p>the potential to be affected through indirect means from increases in traffic or increased recreational use of sites from a larger population within the Beverley and Central sub area. However, the affect on these international sites are unlikely to be significant due to distance between the sub area and these international sites.</p> <p>Particular reference is given in the policy to Melton Park (existing sites) as a strategic employment site and in the longer term providing support to developing land to the south of the railway once all land on the allocation site has been developed. However, the land within the existing Melton Park strategic employment site and to the south of the railway as yet do not have specific proposals (including locations and development type) from which an assessment can be made.</p> <p>Given the strategic nature of the Plan the exact location of these areas of housing, employment and infrastructure proposals are not known. The details of all development sites will be provided in lower tier plans (such as the Allocations DPD). As such, at this stage it is not possible to undertake an assessment of likely significant effects of this policy with any degree of confidence. For these reasons, the Plan commits to an HRA at the lower tier plan stage (e.g. the Allocations DPD). This is in accordance with the text in Section 9 of the Plan.</p> <p>The policy itself seeks to safeguard and enhance the Humber Estuary SPA/SAC and Ramsar site in the Environment section of the policy. Furthermore, the Plan seeks to protect international sites (through Policy HQE5 and the HRA text in Section 9 of the Plan). Therefore, should development arise from this policy, the need for HRA will be highlighted and will be undertaken at the development control stage and /or lower tier development plan stage (e.g. as part of the Allocations DPD). If it cannot be proven that there will no significant impacts on the international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate/compensate for these impacts, the Plan states that the development will not be granted planning permission.</p>

Table B-1: HRA Results – Spatial Strategy Policies Screening Table

Spatial Strategy Policy	Policy Name	Proposed Policy Details	Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Justification of Finding
				As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effects on the international sites.
SS9	Bridlington Coastal Sub Area	<p>This policy provides criteria for plans, strategies and development decisions in the Bridlington Coastal Sub Area. The policy is broken into five sub-categories: A - Strategy and Places, B – Economy, C – Housing, D – Environment and E – Movement and Accessibility. This includes an outline of the distribution of housing in the sub area (in percentage terms only) and an outline of where the sub area’s key employment sites and overall transport infrastructure.</p> <p>This policy states that development that is likely to have a detrimental impact on nature conservation designations , especially those that would have an impact on the Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliff designated areas will be avoided.</p>	No	<p>The Bridlington Coastal Sub Area is located in the north-east of the County. As such it has the potential to affect the Flamborough Head international sites. While the sub area is only approximately 5 km from Hornsea Mere SPA it is unlikely that any development within this sub area will have any significant impact on this international site or any of those within the wider county due to the distance of these sites from the sub-area</p> <p>The majority of the provisions set out in this policy relate to Bridlington which already has a completed AAP. As such all development listed within this policy which relate to Bridlington and have the potential to affect the Flamborough Head European sites have already been assessed at the lower tier AAP level. These include the proposed marina development. Therefore no assessment of provisions relating to Bridlington will be required as part of this Core Strategy.</p> <p>Given the strategic nature of the Plan the exact location of any areas of housing, employment and infrastructure proposals are not known. The details of all development sites will be provided in lower tier plans (such as the Allocations DPD). As such, at this stage it is not possible to undertake an assessment of likely significant effects of this policy with any degree of confidence. For these reasons, the Plan commits to an HRA at the lower tier plan stage (e.g. the Allocations DPD). This is in accordance with the text in Section 9 of the Plan.</p> <p>The policy itself seeks to avoid development that will have a significant effect on nature conservation designations (e.g. the Flamborough Head International site) through the Environment section of the policy. Furthermore, the Plan seeks to protect international sites (through Policy</p>

Table B-1: HRA Results – Spatial Strategy Policies Screening Table

Spatial Strategy Policy	Policy Name	Proposed Policy Details	Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Justification of Finding
SS10	Driffield and Wolds Sub Area	<p>This policy provides criteria for plans, strategies and development decisions in the Driffield and Wolds Sub Area. The policy is broken into five sub-categories: A - Strategy and Places, B – Economy, C – Housing, D – Environment and E – Movement and Accessibility. This includes an outline of the distribution of housing in the sub area (in percentage terms only) and an outline of where the sub area’s key employment sites and overall transport infrastructure.</p> <p>This policy states that development that is likely to have a detrimental impact on designated areas (which include internationally important sites) will be avoided.</p>	No	<p>HQE5 and the HRA text in Section 9 of the Plan). Therefore, should development arise from this policy, the need for HRA will be highlighted and will be undertaken at the development control stage and /or lower tier development plan stage (e.g. as part of the Allocations DPD). If it cannot be proven that there will no significant impacts on the international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate/compensate for these impacts, the Plan states that the development will not be granted planning permission.</p> <p>As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effects on the international sites.</p> <p>The Driffield and Wolds Sub Area is located centrally but to the north of the County. There are no international sites located within this sub area although the Flamborough Head European Sites at Bridlington are located approximately 15 km from the sub-area. In addition, Hornsea Mere is also located within 15 km of the sub-area.</p> <p>Given the strategic nature of the Plan the exact location of any areas of housing, employment and infrastructure proposals are not known. The details of all development sites will be provided in lower tier plans (such as the Allocations DPD). As such, at this stage it is not possible to undertake an assessment of likely significant effects of this policy with any degree of confidence. For these reasons, the Plan commits to an HRA at the lower tier plan stage (e.g. the Allocations DPD). This is in accordance with the text in Section 9 of the Plan.</p> <p>The policy itself seeks to avoid development that will have a significant effect on nature conservation designations through the commitment to avoid development which will have a detrimental impact on designated areas in the Environment section of the policy. Furthermore, the Plan seeks to protect international sites (through Policy HQE5 and the HRA text in Section 9 of the Plan). Therefore, should development arise from this policy, the need for HRA will be highlighted and will be undertaken at</p>

Table B-1: HRA Results – Spatial Strategy Policies Screening Table

Spatial Strategy Policy	Policy Name	Proposed Policy Details	Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Justification of Finding
SS11	Goole and Humberhead Levels Sub Area	<p>This policy provides criteria for plans, strategies and development decisions in the Goole and Humberhead Levels Sub Area. The policy is broken into five sub-categories: A - Strategy and Places, B – Economy, C – Housing, D – Environment and E – Movement and Accessibility. This includes an outline of the distribution of housing in the sub area (in percentage terms only) and an outline of where the sub area’s key employment sites and overall transport infrastructure.</p> <p>This policy states that development must safeguard and enhance current nature conservation sites and that any development that is likely to impact nature conservation designations (especially the Humber Estuary) will be avoided.</p>	No	<p>the development control stage and /or lower tier development plan stage (e.g. as part of the Allocations DPD). If it cannot be proven that there will no significant impacts on the international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate/compensate for these impacts, the Plan states that the development will not be granted planning permission.</p> <p>As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effects on the international sites.</p> <p>The Goole and Humberhead Levels Sub- Area is located to the south-west of the county. Due to its location of this sub area this policy has the potential to affect the Humber Estuary international sites, the Thorne and Hatfield Moors international sites and the River Derwent international sites, which are located within the sub-area.</p> <p>Given the strategic nature of the Plan the exact location of any areas of housing, employment and infrastructure proposals are not known. The details of all development sites will be provided in lower tier plans (such as the Allocations DPD). As such, at this stage it is not possible to undertake an assessment of likely significant effects of this policy with any degree of confidence. For these reasons, the Plan commits to an HRA at the lower tier plan stage (e.g. the Allocations DPD). This is in accordance with the text in Section 9 of the Plan.</p> <p>The policy itself seeks to avoid development that will have a significant effect on nature conservation designations (e.g. the Humber Estuary and other international sites) through the Environment section of the policy. Furthermore, the Plan seeks to protect international sites (through Policy HQE5 and the HRA text in Section 9 of the Plan). Therefore, should development arise from this policy, the need for HRA will be highlighted and will be undertaken at the development control stage and /or lower tier development plan stage (e.g. as part of the Allocations DPD). If it cannot be proven that there will no significant impacts on the international sites</p>

Table B-1: HRA Results – Spatial Strategy Policies Screening Table

Spatial Strategy Policy	Policy Name	Proposed Policy Details	Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Justification of Finding
				<p>and/or it is not possible to mitigate/compensate for these impacts, the Plan states that the development will not be granted planning permission.</p> <p>As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effects on the international sites.</p>
SS12	Holderness and Southern Coastal Sub Area	This policy provides criteria for plans, strategies and development decisions in the Holderness and Southern Coastal Sub Area. The policy is broken into five sub-categories: A - Strategy and Places, B – Economy, C – Housing, D – Environment and E – Movement and Accessibility. This includes an outline of the distribution of housing in the sub area (in percentage terms only) and	No	<p>The Holderness and Southern Coastal Sub Area is located to the south-east of the County. Hornsea Mere SPA is located within this sub area as are the Humber Estuary international sites. The Flamborough Head international sites at Bridlington are located approximately 15 km north of the sub area boundary and are the closest of the other European sites within the wider area.</p> <p>Given the strategic nature of the Plan the exact location of any areas of housing, employment and infrastructure proposals are not known. The</p>

Table B-1: HRA Results – Spatial Strategy Policies Screening Table

Spatial Strategy Policy	Policy Name	Proposed Policy Details	Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Justification of Finding
		<p>an outline of where the sub area’s key employment sites and overall transport infrastructure.</p> <p>This policy states that development must safeguard and enhance current nature conservation sites (particularly at the Humber Estuary) and that any development that is likely to impact nature conservation designations (especially Hornsea Mere) will be avoided.</p>		<p>details of all development sites will be provided in lower tier plans (such as the Allocations DPD). As such, at this stage it is not possible to undertake an assessment of likely significant effects of this policy with any degree of confidence. For these reasons, the Plan commits to an HRA at the lower tier plan stage (e.g. the Allocations DPD). This is in accordance with the text in Section 9 of the Plan.</p> <p>The policy itself seeks to avoid development that will have a significant effect on nature conservation designations (e.g. the Humber Estuary and Hornsea Mere) through the Environment section of the policy. Furthermore, the Plan seeks to protect international sites (through Policy HQE5 and the HRA text in Section 9 of the Plan). Therefore, should development arise from this policy, the need for HRA will be highlighted and will be undertaken at the development control stage and /or lower tier development plan stage (e.g. as part of the Allocations DPD). If it cannot be proven that there will no significant impacts on the international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate/compensate for these impacts, the Plan states that the development will not be granted planning permission.</p> <p>As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effects on the international sites.</p>
SS13	Vale of York Sub Area	<p>This policy provides criteria for plans, strategies and development decisions in the Vale of York Sub Area. The policy is broken into five sub-categories: A - Strategy and Places, B – Economy, C – Housing, D – Environment and E – Movement and Accessibility. This includes an outline of the distribution of housing in the sub area (in percentage terms only) and an outline of where the sub area’s key employment sites and overall transport infrastructure.</p>	No	<p>The Vale of York sub-area is located to the west of the county. The River Derwent international sites are located within this sub area. Skipworth Common is located approximately 2.7 km west and the Humber Estuary international sites are located within 12.2 km. These are the two closest international sites to the sub area.</p> <p>Given the strategic nature of the Plan the exact location of any areas of housing, employment and infrastructure proposals are not known. The details of all development sites will be provided in lower tier plans (such as the Allocations DPD). As such, at this stage it is not possible to undertake an assessment of likely significant effects of this policy with</p>

Table B-1: HRA Results – Spatial Strategy Policies Screening Table

Spatial Strategy Policy	Policy Name	Proposed Policy Details	Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Justification of Finding
		<p>This policy states that development must protect and enhance habitats (particularly in the Lower Derwent).</p>		<p>any degree of confidence. For these reasons, the Plan commits to an HRA at the lower tier plan stage (e.g. the Allocations DPD). This is in accordance with the text in Section 9 of the Plan.</p> <p>The policy itself seeks protect the environment (particularly the Lower Derwent Valley). Furthermore, the Plan seeks to protect international sites (through Policy HQE5 and the HRA text in Section 9 of the Plan). Therefore, should development arise from this policy, the need for HRA will be highlighted and will be undertaken at the development control stage and /or lower tier development plan stage (e.g. as part of the Allocations DPD). If it cannot be proven that there will no significant impacts on the international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate/compensate for these impacts, the Plan states that the development will not be granted planning permission.</p> <p>As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effects on the international sites.</p>

Table B-2: HRA Results – Development Management Policies Screening Table

Development Management Policy	Policy Name	Proposed Policy Details	Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Justification of Finding
A Healthy and Balanced Housing Market				
HBHM1	Providing a Mix of Housing on New Housing Developments	This policy outlines how a mix of housing will be achieved as part of any new residential developments.	No	Policy Type 1: This policy will not itself lead to development but rather outlines how development that is to be provided should contribute to the overall housing mix in the County.
HBHM2	Meeting the Need for Affordable Housing	This policy outlines how the Council will meet the requirements for affordable housing in the County. This includes the Council supporting Rural Exception Sites (through the allocation of sites in the Allocation DPD) and the criteria Rural Exception Sites will have to meet in order to be supported by the Council.	No	<p>This policy could lead to development. However as this policy does not outline any development proposals (as this will be done in the Allocations DPD) the exact details of where development may be located, their design and/or when (or if) these sites will be constructed upon are not known.</p> <p>The supporting text contained within the Plan states that any policies relating to development (e.g. from which development could arise) must comply with all policies within the Core Strategy. The Plan seeks to protect international sites (through Policy HQE5 and the HRA text in chapter 1 of the Plan). Therefore, should development arise from this policy, the need for HRA will be highlighted and will be undertaken at the development control stage and /or lower tier development plan stage. If it cannot be proven that there will no significant impacts on the international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate/compensate for these impacts, the Plan states that the development will not be granted planning permission.</p> <p>As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effects on</p>

Table B-2: HRA Results – Development Management Policies Screening Table

Development Management Policy	Policy Name	Proposed Policy Details	Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Justification of Finding
				the international sites.
HBHM3	Providing for the Needs of Gypsies and Travellers	<p>This policy states that the Council will provide sufficient land for 32 new permanent pitches and 5 new transit pitches to 2018 (either on new sites or extensions to existing sites). These will be allocated in the Allocations DPD.</p> <p>The policy also outlines the criteria potential sites will have to meet when considering allocation in the Allocations DPD.</p>	No	As for Policy HBHM2.
HBHM4	Making the Most Efficient Use of Land	This policy outlines the targets developers will have to meet for new residential developments in order to make the most effective use of land. This includes at least 35% of new dwellings to be built on previously developed land and a minimum density of 30dph for most housing developments.	No	Policy Type 1: This policy will not itself lead to development but rather outlines the criteria developers will have to meet when planning housing density at any new residential development sites.
A Prosperous Economy				
PE1	Supporting the East Riding Economy	This policy outline how the Council intends to strengthen and grow the East Riding economy. It includes giving support to proposals that meet the economic objectives of the Core Strategy. It also outlines the criteria proposals have to meet (e.g. contributing towards the modernisation and diversification of the local economy).	No	<p>This policy could lead to development. However as this policy does not outline any development proposals, the exact details of where development may be located, their design and/or when (or if) these sites will be constructed upon are not known.</p> <p>The supporting text contained within the Plan states that any policies relating to development (e.g. from which development could arise) must comply with all policies within the Core Strategy. The Plan seeks to</p>

Table B-2: HRA Results – Development Management Policies Screening Table

Development Management Policy	Policy Name	Proposed Policy Details	Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Justification of Finding
		<p>Existing employment sites that are of strategic importance (as outlined in Policies SS8, SS9 and SS11) will be safeguarded in the Allocations DPD from non-employment uses.</p>		<p>protect international sites (through Policy HQE5 and the HRA text in chapter 1 of the Plan). Therefore, should development arise from this policy, the need for HRA will be highlighted and will be undertaken at the development control stage and /or lower tier development plan stage. If it cannot be proven that there will be no significant impacts on the international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate/compensate for these impacts, the Plan states that the development will not be granted planning permission.</p> <p>As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effects on the international sites.</p>
PE2	Encouraging Growth and Diversification of the Rural Economy	<p>This policy states that proposals on non-allocated sites will be supported if they contribute towards the development and diversification of the rural economy. This policy also outlines the criteria that these proposals have to meet (e.g. part of a farm diversification scheme).</p>	No	As for Policy PE1.
PE3	Developing and Diversifying the Visitor Economy	<p>This policy states that tourism developments that will strengthen and broaden the tourism offer of towns, coastal and rural areas will be encouraged. The policy also outlines the criteria the Council will use to determine applications for tourism developments in rural areas.</p> <p>This policy also states that a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will be prepared on tourism accommodation and facilities.</p>	No	<p>This policy could lead to increased tourism in sensitive locations such as the international sites. However as this policy does not outline any development proposals, the exact details of where development may be located, their design and/or when (or if) these sites will be constructed upon are not known.</p> <p>The supporting text contained within the Plan states that any policies relating to development (e.g. from which development could arise) must comply with all policies within the Core Strategy. The Plan seeks to protect international sites (through Policy HQE5 and the HRA text in chapter 1 of the Plan). Therefore, should development arise from this policy, the need for HRA will be highlighted and will be undertaken at the development control stage and /or lower tier development plan stage. If it</p>

Table B-2: HRA Results – Development Management Policies Screening Table

Development Management Policy	Policy Name	Proposed Policy Details	Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Justification of Finding
				<p>cannot be proven that there will no significant impacts on the international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate/compensate for these impacts, the Plan states that the development will not be granted planning permission.</p> <p>As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effects on the international sites.</p>
PE4	Supporting the Vitality and Viability of Town and District Centres and the Retail Economy	This policy outlines the Councils approach on how development for retail and other town centre uses will be determined. It also provides the criteria that developments will have to meet in order to be granted planning permission.	No	As for Policy PE1.
PE5	Sustainable Transport	<p>This policy outlines hoe the Council are to work to increase overall accessibility and reduce congestion in the County by ensuring new development is accessible by sustainable modes of transport and by promoting the use of public transport, cycling and walking over the use of the private car. It also provides the criteria by which this aim will be met.</p> <p>Criteria for the provision of parking spaces are also outlined in this policy.</p>	No	Policy Type 1: This policy will not itself lead to development but rather outlines the criteria to promote sustainable transport measures in the County.
A High Quality Environment				

Table B-2: HRA Results – Development Management Policies Screening Table

Development Management Policy	Policy Name	Proposed Policy Details	Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Justification of Finding
HQE1	Integrated High Quality Design	This policy outlines the criteria by which developments must contribute value and caring for the diverse character of the area.	No	Policy Type 1: This policy will not itself lead to development but rather outlines the qualitative criteria required for development to ensure a high quality and integrated design.
HQE2	Promoting a High Quality Landscape	This policy states that development should not cause harm of landscape settings and should seek to make the most of the opportunity to restore and enhance landscape characteristics and features. The policy sets out criteria that development have to meet including maintaining or expanding the character and management of woodland and retention of existing wetland and water features.	No	Policy Type 3: This policy is intended to conserve the natural environment (the landscape) within the County.
HQE3	Valuing Our Heritage	This policy outlines how the built heritage in the County will be protected and sets out criteria to ensure this occurs. The criteria includes the protection of international and national designations in the County.	No	Policy Type 3: This policy is intended to conserve the built and historic environment.
HQE4	Biodiversity and Geodiversity	<p>This policy states that development must protect biodiversity sites of international importance. The supporting text states that sites designated for international importance will be conserved and protected under the relevant international legislation (the Habitats Regulations).</p> <p>The policy also outlines how other important biodiversity features within the County will be protected and, where</p>	No	Policy Type 2: This policy intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity and internationally important sites.

Table B-2: HRA Results – Development Management Policies Screening Table

Development Management Policy	Policy Name	Proposed Policy Details	Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Justification of Finding
		relevant, enhanced.		
HQE5	Strengthening Green Infrastructure	This policy outlines how green infrastructure within the County will be strengthened and provides criteria for how this should be achieved. The policy states that development proposals will maintain and capitalise on opportunities to enhance, create and strengthen links between green infrastructure assets. The supporting text of the policy identifies the green infrastructure assets of the County and this includes the internationally important sites for nature conservation.	No	<p>This policy could lead to increased recreation use in sensitive locations such as the international sites (potentially leading to a degradation in habitats and increased levels of disturbance to bird and animal species). However, this policy does not outline any specific green infrastructure proposals and as such the exact details of where green infrastructure may be located, its route and design are currently not known.</p> <p>The Plan seeks to protect international sites (through Policy HQE5 and the HRA text in chapter 1 of the Plan). Therefore, should green infrastructure development arise from this policy, the need for HRA will be highlighted and will be undertaken at the development control stage and/or lower tier development plan stage. If it cannot be proven that there will no significant impacts on the international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate/compensate for these impacts, the Plan states that the development will not be granted planning permission.</p> <p>As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effects on the international sites.</p>
HQE6	Managing Environmental Hazard	This policy outlines how environmental hazards (including flood risk, coastal change, contaminated land and radiation) will be managed to ensure that development does not result in unacceptable exposure to its users.	No	Policy Type 1: This policy will not itself lead to development but rather outlines the qualitative criteria required to ensure that environmental hazards are considered and managed appropriately..
HQE7	Renewable Energy	This policy supports the development of renewable energy within the County. However, it states that proposals should take into account impacts of a proposal	No	Policy Type 2: This policy intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity and internationally important sites.

Table B-2: HRA Results – Development Management Policies Screening Table

Development Management Policy	Policy Name	Proposed Policy Details	Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Justification of Finding
		<p>on the biodiversity and nature on an area and where a risk is foreseen that a precautionary approach will be taken (e.g. the developer will provide evidence to show that any significant effect will not occur or can be mitigated).</p> <p>The supporting text of the policy states that developments will be decided on a case by case basis and will be supported providing there is no evidence to suggest the development is likely to cause adverse environmental, social or economic impacts that outweigh the benefits of renewable energy created by the development.</p>		
HQE8	Promoting Sustainable Construction	This policy outlines the criteria that new development must meet to ensure sustainable construction is achieved. This includes criteria such as development through planning, design, layout, construction and usage, seek to reduce carbon emissions.	No	Policy Type 1: This policy will not itself lead to development but rather outlines the qualitative criteria required to ensure that sustainable construction is achieved for any future developments..
HQE9	Providing for the Supply of Minerals	<p>This policy states that sustainable mineral management in the County will be achieved and outlines a series of criteria to ensure this aim is met.</p> <p>The policy also states that a Minerals Development Plan Document (DPD), a lower tier plan, will be produced and will outline any safeguarded areas for sand and gravel, crushed rock, limestone, industrial chalk, clay and silica</p>	No	As for Policy SHC1

Table B-2: HRA Results – Development Management Policies Screening Table

Development Management Policy	Policy Name	Proposed Policy Details	Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Justification of Finding
		sand.		
HQE10	Sustainable Waste Management	This policy outlines the criteria to be employed to ensure the sustainable management of waste in the County. This includes the provision of appropriate waste facilities in suitable locations (to be determined in the Joint Waste DPD, a lower tier plan).	No	As for Policy SHC1.
A Strong and Healthy Community				
SHC1	Community Services and Facilities	This policy outlines when proposals for new or enhanced community services and facilities will be supported and how existing community facilities will be retained unless certain criteria (which are specified within the policy) are met.	No	<p>This policy could lead to development. However as this policy does not outline any development proposals, the exact details of where development may be located, their design and/or when (or if) these sites will be constructed upon are not known.</p> <p>The supporting text contained within the Plan states that any policies relating to development (e.g. from which development could arise) must comply with all policies within the Core Strategy. The Plan seeks to protect international sites (through Policy HQE5 and the HRA text in chapter 1 of the Plan). Therefore, should development arise from this policy, the need for HRA will be highlighted and will be undertaken at the development control stage and /or lower tier development plan stage. If it cannot be proven that there will no significant impacts on the international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate/compensate for these impacts, the Plan states that the development will not be granted planning permission.</p> <p>As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effects on the international sites.</p>

Table B-2: HRA Results – Development Management Policies Screening Table

Development Management Policy	Policy Name	Proposed Policy Details	Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Justification of Finding
SHC2	Rural Community Facilities	This policy sets out the criteria that must be met by proposals that will lead to the loss of rural facilities such as post offices, pubs, shops, schools, children’s nurseries, petrol stations, GP surgeries and community buildings.	No	As for Policy SHC1.
SHC3	Provision of Infrastructure and Facilities	This policy outlines how the Council will work to ensure that all new development is adequately serviced by infrastructure and facilities. It states that developer contributions will be imposed on new developments in order to meet the need for additional infrastructure capacity and community facilities it generates and to mitigate its impact on the environment and the community.	No	As for Policy SHC1.
SHC4	Open Space for Leisure and Recreation	This policy outlines how the Council seek to provide, maintain and enhance open space and also outlines the criteria that needs to be met should any development proposals require the loss of open space (e.g. it would not result in a significant detrimental impact on wildlife and biodiversity).	No	As for Policy SHC1. Furthermore, this policy seeks to protect the natural environment.

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