

Habitats Regulations Assessment:
Screening Report

**Joint Minerals Development Plan
Document (DPD)**

East Riding of Yorkshire Council and
Kingston upon Hull Council

April 2010

East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council

Joint Minerals DPD Consultation Document

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

Record of Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on European Sites Required the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010

April 2010

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Contents

Section	Page
1. Introduction and Background	1
1.1 Background to this Review	1
1.2 Background to Habitats Regulations Assessment	1
1.3 Spatial Scope of the Screening Assessment	2
1.4 The Internationally Important Sites	2
1.5 Outline of this Review Report	4
2. Plan Details	5
2.1 Proposed Plan	5
2.2 Brief Description of Plan	5
2.3 Provisions within the Plan that protect International Sites	5
3. Methodology	7
3.1 The Plan and its Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites	7
4. Other Projects and Plans	9
5. Screening Assessment Criteria: Humber Estuary International Sites	10
6. Screening Assessment Criteria: Thorne and Hatfield Moors International Sites	13
7. Screening Assessment Criteria: River Derwent and Lower Derwent Valley International Sites	15
8. Screening Assessment Criteria: Skipwith Common SAC	17
9. Screening Assessment Criteria: Hornsea Mere SPA	19
10. In Combination Impacts	22
11. Conclusions	24
 Appendices	
Appendix A	26
A.1 The Internationally Important Sites	27
Appendix B	39
B.1 Initial HRA Screening Results Table	40

1. Introduction and Background

1.1 Background to this Review

This screening assessment has been carried out by Atkins Limited (Atkins) on behalf of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council for the Joint Mineral Development Plan Document (DPD). The DPD is referred to as 'the Plan' for the purpose of this report.

The Plan covers the administrative areas of the East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston upon Hull, and is a strategic level document containing core policies, development control policies and the locations and broad details of proposed mineral extraction in candidate preferred areas of working for sand and gravel.

Within the Plan, potential future sites of mineral extraction are also identified where information about mineral deposits is less certain. These areas are referred to as candidate areas of search, for working sand and gravel, crushed rock and clay.

Safeguarding areas are identified. These are areas where mineral extraction and associated activities are not currently planned. However, should any development be proposed in the future, the mining interests will be taken into account in these areas as part of the development control process.

Reserves of oil, gas and coal (including coal bed methane) are also identified in the Plan.

1.2 Background to Habitats Regulations Assessment

A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the Habitats Regulations) for all plans and projects which may have adverse effects on European sites. European sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA). HRA is also required, as a matter of UK Government policy for potential SPAs (pSPA), candidate SACs (cSAC) and listed Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) for the purposes of considering plans and projects, which may affect them (Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation, ODPM, August 2005). Hereafter all of the above designated nature conservation sites are referred to as 'international sites'.

Local development plans include general policies or proposals, in the Joint Minerals DPD these include the core policies, development control policies, safeguarding areas and to an extent the candidate areas of search. These policies often do not relate to specific development proposals but provide an overall strategy for development which is desirable within the boundary of the Plan. If the policies/proposals do not relate to a specific development proposal then it can be difficult to assess their impacts on an international site. For instance an area of search may identify a wide area that may provide opportunities for mineral extraction in the future but does not include specific extraction proposals identifying which parts of the area of search may be mined in the future. It is not considered possible to conclude whether some of the broad policies and the candidate areas of search will have a likely significant effect on an international site without knowledge of design and location of any extraction/ development proposal that may be put forward at a later date.

The local development plan can also be written in such a way that international sites are considered. For instance, the Plan can state that any proposed developments under the Plan must have regard to and consider any adverse effects upon international sites. When a local authority considers a development proposal they must have regard to the whole plan including the introductory text and supporting text to the policies/proposals. Therefore the Plan may include text which states that consideration of international sites must be given in the development control process. This should ensure that developments are not permitted which could have significant adverse impacts on international sites. In these cases, further information will be required at the more detailed development control stage for certain projects/ proposals to allow the competent authority (in this case East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council) to assess whether they are likely to have a significant impact on the international sites, and thus, determine whether a full Habitats Regulations Assessment is needed.

1.3 Spatial Scope of the Screening Assessment

An initial review of the Plan in light of the Habitats Regulations has been undertaken by Atkins as part of the HRA screening 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 therefore which international sites should be included within the assessment. International sites located over 20 km from the East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston upon Hull City Council boundaries are not considered likely to be affected by the Plan and have not been considered further.

The Plan contains the locations of proposed or potential extraction sites (hereafter referred to as 'candidate preferred areas of working' and 'candidate areas of search' respectively) for sand and gravel, crushed rock and clay. Mineral development is regulated by the Mineral Planning Authority and all new extraction sites are assessed for environment impacts. There is a suite of standard and effective mitigation measures for regulating the impacts that extend beyond the site in the air and water, such as the generation of dust, noise, vibration, traffic, lighting, changes to surface and ground water hydrology and water pollution¹. It is not within the scope of the Plan to define all the potential mitigation measures that may be required in each of the candidate preferred areas of working to avoid and effectively mitigate off-site impacts. However it is recognised that these impacts can be mitigated and that off-site impacts are not expected to impact beyond 5 km of any mineral development site, unless there is hydrological connectivity to an International Site. This view was also shared by the Natural England officers for the international sites included in this report. Further detailed analysis of potential impacts of mineral extraction within the candidate preferred areas of working on the international sites is given in Sections 5 to 9.

1.4 The Internationally Important Sites

There are fifteen internationally important sites for nature conservation, which have been designated as Ramsar sites, Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and/ or Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) that fall within East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston upon Hull City and up to 20 km from their boundaries. Strensall Common SAC, Skipwith Common SAC and Hatfield Moor SAC are international sites that fall outside of the East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston upon Hull City boundaries: :

- Humber Estuary Ramsar site;

¹ http://www.bgs.ac.uk/Planning4Minerals/WaterResource_2.htm, <http://www.goodquarry.com/> and <http://www.afterminerals.com/>

- Humber Estuary SPA;
- Humber Estuary SAC;
- Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA;
- Thorne Moor SAC;
- Hatfield Moor SAC;
- Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs SPA;
- Flamborough Head SAC;
- Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar site;
- Lower Derwent Valley SPA;
- Lower Derwent Valley SAC;
- River Derwent SAC;
- Strensall Common SAC;
- Skipwith Common SAC; and
- Hornsea Mere SPA.

Strensall Common SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC, Flamborough Head SAC and Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs SPA have been eliminated from the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening for the reasons set out below.

Strensall Common is located approximately 6.5 km north-west of the East Riding of Yorkshire border and is at least 18 km from the nearest candidate area of search (AOS5) for crushed rock. The site has been eliminated from the HRA screening because of the nature of the proposals in the Plan and the distance from any future mining development. As such that it is considered unlikely that there will be any adverse effects on the integrity of Strensall Common. This view is shared by Natural England officer Emma Leighton (pers. comm. 2009).

Hatfield Moor SAC is located 8.7 km south of the East Riding of Yorkshire border and is at least 15 km from the nearest candidate area of search (AOS8) for sand and gravel. The site has been eliminated from the HRA screening given the distance from any future mining development and because it is considered unlikely that adverse impacts to the integrity of the SAC will arise as a result of the Plan. This view is shared by Natural England officer Tim Kohler (pers. comm. 2009).

In addition Flamborough Head SAC and Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs SPA are located over 8.8 km from the nearest candidate area of search (AOS2) for sand and gravel and as such it is considered very unlikely to be affected by the Plan. This opinion is shared by the Natural England officer for this site (Robbie Fisher) who agreed that there is no hydrological continuity between potential mineral extraction sites and that the birds for which it is designated do not use inland sites and would not be affected by off-site disturbances at such a distance (pers. comm. 2009).

This screening report is a record of the assessment of 'likely significant effects' from the Plan on the other eleven internationally important sites for nature conservation, which have been designated as Ramsar sites, Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and/ or Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).

For the purpose of this report all designations relating to the Humber Estuary are referred to as the Humber Estuary International Sites. Designations relating to Thorne and Hatfield Moors will be referred to as the Thorne and Hatfield Moors International Sites. Designations relating to the Lower Derwent Valley and River Derwent sites will be referred to as the Derwent International

Sites. Further details of the international sites including the location, designation details and conservation objectives are provided in Appendix A.

1.5 Outline of this Review Report

Following this introduction:

- Section 2 of this report sets out the details of the Plan and provisions within the document to protect the international sites;
- Section 3 outlines the methodology used for this HRA screening;
- Section 4 details the organisations contacted for details on other plans and projects which have the potential for adverse effects upon the international sites;
- Section 5 details the results of the HRA screening for the Humber Estuary International Sites;
- Section 6 details the results of the HRA screening for the Thorne and Hatfield Moors International Sites;
- Section 7 details the results of the HRA screening for the Derwent International Sites;
- Section 8 details the results of the HRA screening for Skipwith Common SAC;
- Section 9 details the results of the HRA screening for Hornsea Mere SPA; and
- Section 10 provides the conclusions of the HRA screening.

2. Plan Details

2.1 Proposed Plan

The East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull Council Joint Minerals DPD (the Plan) is a policy document with some site specific proposals. It is based on the framework set by the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Spatial Strategy.

The Plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the Humber Estuary International Sites, the Thorne and Hatfield Moors International Sites, the Derwent International Sites, Skipwith Common SAC or Hornsea Mere SPA and as such is subject to screening for likely significant effects to the international sites.

2.2 Brief Description of Plan

The Plan includes three 'candidate preferred areas of working' of mineral extraction for sand and gravel, and clay. There are eight 'candidate areas of search' for extraction of sand and gravel and crushed rock. The exact locations of potential sites for mineral extraction within 'areas of search' are not known at this stage, but within these areas minerals are likely to occur and development is expected if environmentally acceptable proposals are brought forward. The Plan identifies 'safeguarding areas' in two of the 17 core policies; there are 11 development control policies for the areas of East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston upon Hull. Each of the proposed sites and policies has been screened in Appendix B (Table B-1) for likely significant effects on the international sites.

2.3 Provisions within the Plan that protect International Sites

When planning applications are determined by East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council all of the relevant policies and supporting text in the Plan are taken into account and used as the basis for decision-making.

Text present within the section of the Plan entitled 'Habitats Regulations Assessment', Chapter 1, clearly states that any proposed development that may have an adverse effect on internationally important sites will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) by the competent authority.

The Plan therefore ensures that the competent authority (in this case East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council in consultation with Natural England) will give consideration to international sites in order to inform development control decisions. 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 to 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 international site must be implemented.

Therefore, any extraction/mineral development proposals will need to be in line with the Joint Minerals DPD and will need to satisfy both Councils and Natural England that there will either be

no likely significant effects from the development on the international sites or that any significant effects can be effectively mitigated/compensated.

3. Methodology

3.1 The Plan and its Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites

Sections 5 to 9 of this report assess whether there are any likely significant effects of the Plan on the integrity of the Humber Estuary International Sites, Thorne and Hatfield Moors International Sites, River Derwent International Sites, Skipwith Common SAC and Hornsea Mere SPA, in accordance with the draft guidance written by Tyldesley and Associates for Natural England².

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). Areas that have been identified as being used by species that the site has been designated for, but are situated outside of the SPA, pSPA and/or Ramsar site boundary will also be taken into account with respect to each of the policies/proposals outlined in the Plan. In particular, certain bird species for which Humber Estuary SPA/Ramsar sites have been classified require areas up to 7 km from the designated site for feeding to maintain their populations at a favourable conservation status (pers. comm. Tim Page, Natural England, 2009).

The assessment of integrity is largely based on the conservation objectives of the site. The conservation objectives and favourable condition assessment tables for each of the international sites were reviewed as part of this assessment. 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 the integrity of the site.

Plans or projects can adversely affect the integrity of 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.

Each of the candidate preferred areas of working, candidate areas of search and policies within the Plan have been examined to see if the proposals will have a significant effect on the integrity of the international sites. A brief description of each of the sites/policies and the findings of this assessment are given in Table B.1 in Appendix B.

Sections 5 to 9 detail the findings of the Habitats Regulations Assessment screening in relation to the screening assessment criteria and conservation objectives for each of the international sites in turn. The Plan has a broad scope and the detailed implications with respect to future water

² Draft guidance: The Habitats Regulations Assessment of Regional Spatial Strategies and Sub-regional Strategies, David Tyldesley and Associates for Natural England, March 2007. This guidance was updated in 2009; this updated guidance will be taken into account for the final version of this HRA screening report, which will be amended prior to the submission of the final Plan.

abstraction and discharges could not be assessed at this stage. Water abstractions and discharges are subject to a licensing regime operated by the Environment Agency. Any new abstractions/ discharges will be licensed and subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment carried out by the Environment Agency.

At the time of completing this second draft report (the first draft was completed in March 2009) the impact to international sites of the candidate areas of search are difficult to assess as they may not lead to development in some places. For this reason the Plan commits to further HRA assessment at the development control stage. However this conclusion will be amended after the consultation period, in light of further liaison with Natural England, and as part of the HRA screening of the final Plan. It is likely that at this later date it will be concluded either that a full assessment of these sites will be undertaken or that mitigation to avoid hypothetical impacts will be committed to in greater detail should development arise in these areas.

The Plan is at a strategic level (i.e. the development that may arise in the areas of search and safeguarding areas is unknown at this stage) and as such the Habitats Regulations Assessment screening has also been carried out at a strategic level. Any specific development proposals will need to be in line with the text within the 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' section of the Plan and will need to satisfy East Riding of Yorkshire Council and/ or Kingston upon Hull City Council in consultation with Natural England that there will either be no likely significant effects from the development on the international sites or that any significant effects can be effectively mitigated or compensated.

It is the competent authority, through the development control process, who should undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment. However, developers who propose developments under the Plan need to provide sufficient information to the competent authority in order for a decision to be made on whether the proposals will have a likely significant effect upon an international site.

4. Other Projects and Plans

The following organisations were contacted in January and February 2009 for details of other plans and projects which have the potential for adverse effects upon the 11 international sites³ to enable an analysis of 'in combination impacts' (see Chapter 10):

- Bassetlaw District Council;
- Doncaster Metropolitan Council;
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council;
- Nottinghamshire County Council;
- York Unitary Authority;
- Ryedale District Council;
- Selby District Council;
- Scarborough Borough Council;
- Hambleton District Council;
- North Lincolnshire Unitary Authority;
- North Yorkshire County Council;
- East Lindsey District Council;
- Kingston upon Hull City Council;
- Lincolnshire County Council;
- West Lindsey District Council;
- North East Lincolnshire Council;
- Natural England;
- RSPB; and
- Environment Agency.

The consultation with these organisations identified over thirty other projects or plans that have been subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment as they were considered to have the potential to cause significant effect on the eleven international sites under consideration in this Habitats Regulations Assessment screening report. Of the Habitats Regulations Assessment screenings already undertaken, all likely significant effects are taken into account and mitigated for within the projects or plans, or they have resulted in planning permission not being granted for the development. Therefore the focus of this analysis of 'in combination' impacts is to list the Habitats Regulations Assessment screenings that identify the same impacts to the same international sites that have been identified in this Habitats Regulations Assessment screening report. For these are the sites/ policies where impacts arising from separate plans may cumulatively lead to significant effects to international sites (see Chapter 10 for the in combination impacts analysis)

³ Prior to the submission of the final Plan and final HRA screening report the other projects and plans will be updated to ensure that any additional HRA work is captured in the updated HRA screening of this Plan.

5. Screening Assessment Criteria: Humber Estuary International Sites

<p>Site Designation Status</p>	<p>Humber Estuary SAC</p> <p>Humber Estuary SPA</p> <p>Humber Estuary Ramsar site</p>
<p>Describe the individual elements of the Plan likely to give rise to impacts on the International Site</p>	<p>None of the candidate preferred areas of working or policies are considered to have the potential to lead to significant effects on the Humber Estuary International Sites given the long distances to the estuary and the strategic nature of the Plan. Candidate preferred areas of working PA02 and PA03 in the Plan were subject to separate assessment as part of successful planning applications.</p> <p>The following candidate areas of search have the potential to have significant effects on the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar site: AOS3, AOS4, AOS6 and AOS7.</p> <p>Please note: This Plan is at a strategic level. As such it is not known if there will be any development arising in relation to the policies, which do not prescribe development. The exact locations of potential sites for mineral extraction within candidate areas of search are not known at this stage, but within these areas minerals are likely to occur and development is expected if environmentally acceptable proposals are brought forward. At this stage it is not known when or where any future mineral development may take place or what the development would be (i.e. size of development).</p> <p>The Plan seeks to protect international sites and any specific development proposals will need to be in line with the text within the Habitats Regulations Assessment section of the Plan. As such developers will need to satisfy East Riding of Yorkshire Council and/or Kingston upon Hull City Council in consultation with Natural England that there will either be no likely significant effects from the development on the international sites or that any significant effects can be effectively mitigated or compensated, by undertaking an Habitats Regulations Assessment of the specific development proposal. If this cannot be proven the development will not be granted permission.</p>
<p>Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Plan on the International Site by virtue of:</p>	<p>Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar Site: AOS3, AOS4, AOS6 and AOS7</p> <p>These candidate areas of search and policies may relate to future development that is proposed within 7 km of the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar site which may result in the loss of areas agricultural land or</p>

- 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.

grassland, habitats that birds from the SPA and Ramsar site will potentially use. Mineral development within these candidate areas of search is likely to result in direct loss of this habitat. Loss of habitats being used by internationally important populations of birds has the potential to cause significant effects on the SPA and Ramsar site.

However, the Plan (in Chapter 1) commits to an Habitats Regulations Assessment being carried out at the development control stage for proposals relating to AOS3, AOS4, AOS6, AOS7 and the broad policies. This will require a developer having to provide evidence to the Competent Authority (in this case East Riding of Yorkshire Council and/or Kingston upon Hull City Council) to prove that the development of this site will not have significant adverse effects on the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar site (or that significant impacts can be adequately mitigated or compensated for). If it cannot be proven that there will no significant adverse impacts on the international site and/or it is not possible to mitigate/compensate for these impacts the development will not be allowed to undertaken. 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 international site must be implemented.

As such the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council Joint Mineral DPD seeks to protect the integrity of the Humber Estuary International Sites and no likely significant effects on these international sites are anticipated as a result of any of the proposals or policies within it.

Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:

- Reduction of habitat area;
- Disturbance to key species;
- Habitat or species fragmentation;
- Reduction in species density;
- Changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality); and
- Climate change

Likely changes to the Ramsar site and SPA include:

- Disturbance to the internationally important populations of birds using the international site (through increased during construction and operation of an extraction site): This may reduce the suitability of the SPA/Ramsar site to support these species thus having an impact on the integrity of the sites; and/or
- Displacement of birds from key foraging or high tide roost sites: This may cause the birds to be forced to move to other areas of habitat including those that are less suitable (i.e. areas where disturbance is greater meaning that birds are not able to rest or forage adequately, thus having a negative impact on their migration and breeding ability).

However, given the strategic nature of the Plan the exact details of the mineral extraction site within candidate areas of search are not yet known. Furthermore it is not known when these areas would be developed for mining. It is therefore not possible at this time to determine whether or not these candidate areas of search will or will not have significant effect on the integrity of the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar site. This conclusion will be reassessed and updated prior to the submission of the final Plan. As

described above, in order to address this uncertainty, and to be in accordance with the precautionary principle enshrined within the Habitats Regulations, the Plan commits to an Habitats Regulations Assessment being carried out at the development control stage for AOS3, AOS4, AOS6, AOS7 and the broad policies. If it cannot be proven that there will no significant adverse impacts on the international site and/or it is not possible to mitigate/compensate for these impacts the development will not be allowed to be undertaken. As such the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council Joint Mineral DPD seeks to protect the integrity of the Humber Estuary International Sites and no likely significant effects on these international sites are anticipated as a result of any of the proposals or policies within it.

6. Screening Assessment Criteria: Thorne and Hatfield Moors International Sites

Site Designation Status

Thorne Moor SAC

Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA

Describe the individual elements of the Plan likely to give rise to impacts on the International Site

None of the candidate preferred areas of working, candidate areas of search or policies are considered to have the potential to lead to significant effects on the Thorne and Hatfield Moors International Sites given the long distances to the sites and the strategic nature of the Plan.

Please note: This Plan is at a strategic level. As such it is not known if there will be any development arising in relation to the policies, which do not prescribe development. At this stage it is not known when or where any future mineral development may take place or what the development would be (i.e. size of development).

The Plan seeks to protect international sites and any specific development proposals will need to be in line with the text within the Habitats Regulations Assessment section of the Plan. As such developers will need to satisfy East Riding of Yorkshire Council and/or Kingston upon Hull City Council in consultation with Natural England that there will either be no likely significant effects from the development on the international sites or that any significant effects can be effectively mitigated or compensated, by undertaking an Habitats Regulations Assessment of the specific development proposal. If this cannot be proven the development will not be granted permission.

There is an existing permission for the extraction of peat and coal within Goole Moor (which is located within the Thorne and Hatfield Moors International Sites). It is understood that at present there is no mining within the designated site, but if it was to take place in the future, despite the existing planning permission, a Habitats Regulations Assessment would be necessary to prove there would be no likely significant effects to International Sites.

There is currently no coal working in the Joint Area, but permission for deep mining associated with the Selby Coalfield in North Yorkshire extends right up to the East Riding of Yorkshire boundary along the River Derwent, and workable seams are known to continue under the river. The permission for deep mining also extends over the area extending from Goole Moor in the south-east to Goole in the north and Rawcliffe and Cowick in the west. If coal mining was to take place in the future (see policy EM1) a Habitats Regulations Assessment would be necessary to prove there would be no

likely significant effects to the Thorne and Hatfield Moors International Sites.

Where there are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest for a development 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 international site must be implemented.

As such the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council Joint Mineral DPD seeks to protect the integrity of the Humber Estuary International Sites and no likely significant effects on these international sites are anticipated as a result of any of the proposals or policies within it.

Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Plan on the International Site

For the reasons outlined above there are no likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts associated with any of the candidate preferred areas of working, candidate areas of search, safeguarding areas or the policies to the Thorne and Hatfield Moors International sites.

Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of reduction of habitat area, disturbance to key species, habitat or species fragmentation, reduction in species density, changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality) and climate change

For the reasons outlined above there are no likely changes to the Thorne and Hatfield Moors International sites as a result of the identified candidate preferred areas of working, candidate areas of search, safeguarding areas or policies set out in the Plan.

7. Screening Assessment Criteria: River Derwent and Lower Derwent Valley International Sites

Site Designation Status

River Derwent SAC

Lower Derwent Valley SAC, SPA and Ramsar site

Describe the individual elements of the Plan likely to give rise to impacts on the International Site

None of the candidate preferred areas of working, candidate areas of search or policies are considered to have the potential to lead to significant effects on the Derwent International Sites given the long distances to the sites and the strategic nature of the Plan.

Please note: This Plan is at a strategic level. As such it is not known if there will be any development arising in relation to the policies, which do not prescribe development. At this stage it is not known when or where any future mineral development may take place or what the development would be (i.e. size of development).

The Plan seeks to protect international sites and any specific development proposals will need to be in line with the text within the Habitats Regulations Assessment section of the Plan. As such developers will need to satisfy East Riding of Yorkshire Council and/or Kingston upon Hull City Council in consultation with Natural England that there will either be no likely significant effects from the development on the international sites or that any significant effects can be effectively mitigated or compensated, by undertaking a Habitats Regulations Assessment of the specific development proposal. If this cannot be proven the development will not be granted permission.

There is currently no coal working in the Joint Area, but permission for deep mining associated with the Selby Coalfield in North Yorkshire extends right up to the East Riding of Yorkshire boundary along the River Derwent, and workable seams are known to continue under the river. The permission for deep mining also extends over the area extending from Goole Moor in the south-east to Goole in the north and Rawcliffe and Cowick in the west. If coal mining (and any associated utilisation of coal bed methane for energy) was to take place in the future (see policy EM1) a Habitats Regulations Assessment would be necessary to prove there would be no likely significant effects to the Derwent International Sites.

Where there are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest for a development 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 international site must be implemented.

Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Plan on the International Site

For the reasons outlined above there are no likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts associated with any of the candidate preferred areas of working, candidate areas of search, safeguarding areas or the policies to the Derwent International Sites.

Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of reduction of habitat area, disturbance to key species, habitat or species fragmentation, reduction in species density, changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality) and climate change

For the reasons outlined above there are no likely changes to the Derwent International sites as a result of the identified candidate preferred areas of working, candidate areas of search, safeguarding areas or policies set out in the Plan.

8. Screening Assessment Criteria: Skipwith Common SAC

Site Designation Status	Skipwith Common SAC
Describe the individual elements of the Plan likely to give rise to impacts on the International Site	<p data-bbox="523 604 1431 683">Skipwith Common SAC is located 3 km west of the East Riding of Yorkshire boundary.</p> <p data-bbox="523 712 1431 857">None of the candidate preferred areas of working, candidate areas of search or policies are considered to have the potential to lead to significant effects on Skipwith Common SAC given the long distances to the sites and the strategic nature of the Plan.</p> <p data-bbox="523 891 1431 1070">Please note: This Plan is at a strategic level. As such it is not known if there will be any development arising in relation to the policies, which do not prescribe development. At this stage it is not known when or where any future mineral development may take place or what the development would be (i.e. size of development).</p> <p data-bbox="523 1104 1431 1473">The Plan seeks to protect international sites and any specific development proposals will need to be in line with the text within the Habitats Regulations Assessment section of the Plan. As such developers will need to satisfy East Riding of Yorkshire Council and/or Kingston upon Hull City Council in consultation with Natural England that there will either be no likely significant effects from the development on the international sites or that any significant effects can be effectively mitigated or compensated, by undertaking a Habitats Regulations Assessment of the specific development proposal. If this cannot be proven the development will not be granted permission.</p> <p data-bbox="523 1507 1431 1832">There is currently no coal working in the Joint Area, but permission for deep mining associated with the Selby Coalfield in North Yorkshire extends right up to the East Riding of Yorkshire boundary along the River Derwent, and workable seams are known to continue under the river. The permission for deep mining also extends over the area extending from Goole Moor in the south-east to Goole in the north and Rawcliffe and Cowick in the west. If coal mining was to take place in the future (see policy EM1) a Habitats Regulations Assessment would be necessary to prove there would be no likely significant effects to Skipwith Common SAC.</p> <p data-bbox="523 1865 1431 2049">Where there are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest for a development 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</p>

international site must be implemented.

Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Plan on the International Site

For the reasons outlined above there are no likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts associated with any of the candidate preferred areas of working, candidate areas of search, safeguarding areas or the policies to Skipwith Common SAC.

Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of reduction of habitat area, disturbance to key species, habitat or species fragmentation, reduction in species density, changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality) and climate change

For the reasons outlined above there are no likely changes to Skipwith Common SAC as a result of the identified candidate preferred areas of working, candidate areas of search, safeguarding areas or policies set out in the Plan.

9. Screening Assessment Criteria: Hornsea Mere SPA

Site Designation Status

Hornsea Mere SPA

Describe the individual elements of the Plan likely to give rise to impacts on the International Site

None of the candidate preferred areas of working or policies are considered to have the potential to lead to significant effects on Hornsea Mere SPA given the long distances to the sites and/ or lack of hydrological connectivity and the strategic nature of the Plan.

The following candidate area of search has the potential to have significant effects on Hornsea Mere SPA: AOS1.

Please note: This Plan is at a strategic level. As such it is not known if there will be any development arising in relation to the policies, which do not prescribe development. The exact locations of potential sites for mineral extraction within candidate areas of search are not known at this stage, but within these areas minerals are likely to occur and development is expected if environmentally acceptable proposals are brought forward. At this stage it is not known when or where any future mineral development may take place or what the development would be (i.e. size of development).

The Plan seeks to protect international sites and any specific development proposals will need to be in line with the text within the Habitats Regulations Assessment section of the Plan. As such developers will need to satisfy East Riding of Yorkshire Council and/or Kingston upon Hull City Council in consultation with Natural England that there will either be no likely significant effects from the development on the international sites or that any significant effects can be effectively mitigated or compensated, by undertaking a Habitats Regulations Assessment of the specific development proposal. The Environment Agency supports the need for a Habitats Regulations Assessment of any development proposals within 5 km of Hornsea Mere SPA. If it cannot be proven there are no significant effects the development will not be granted permission.

Where there are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest for a development 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 international site must be implemented.

Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Plan on the International Site

The allocation of a candidate area of search does not lead directly to development, and there are no details in the Plan regarding possible development within the area in the future. However, at some point in the lifetime of the Plan an area of mineral development may be proposed in AOS1. Given the proximity of AOS1 to Hornsea Mere (200 m at its closest point, though much of the area of search includes land up to 9 km to the west of Hornsea Mere) a full Habitats Regulations Assessment may need to be undertaken for any proposed mineral extraction within 5 km of Hornsea Mere. Mineral development within 5 km of Hornsea Mere SPA is considered likely to result in significant adverse impacts to the international site as a result of changes to water quality or quantity (there is likely to be hydrological connectivity within this distance) or disturbance of the birds for which the site is designated.

However, the Plan (in Chapter 1) commits to a Habitats Regulations Assessment being carried out at the development control stage for proposals relating to AOS1. As such the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council Joint Mineral DPD seeks to protect the integrity of the Hornsea Mere SPA and no likely significant effects on these international sites are anticipated as a result of any of the proposals or policies within it.

Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of reduction of habitat area, disturbance to key species, habitat or species fragmentation, reduction in species density, changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality) and climate change

Due to the reasons outlined above, there are no likely changes to Hornsea Mere as a result of the identified candidate preferred areas of working, safeguarding areas or the policies set out in the Plan.

Likely changes to the SPA as a result of mineral extraction taking place within certain areas of the AOS1 candidate area of search include:

- Disturbance to the internationally important populations of birds using the international site (through increased during construction and operation of an extraction site): This may reduce the suitability of the SPA to support these species thus having an impact on the integrity of the sites; and/or
- Changes in the hydrology of the site (such as water level or water quality) leading to a reduction or deterioration in the habitats that support the birds for which the site is designated.

However, given the strategic nature of the Plan the exact details of the mineral extraction site within candidate areas of search are not yet known. Furthermore it is not known when these areas would be developed for mining. It is therefore not possible at this time to determine whether or not these candidate areas of search will or will not have significant effect on the integrity of Hornsea Mere SPA. As described above, in order to address this uncertainty, and to be in accordance with the precautionary principle enshrined within the Habitats Regulations, the Plan commits to a Habitats Regulations Assessment being carried out at the development control stage for AOS1. If it cannot be proven that there will no significant adverse impacts on the international site and/or it is not possible to mitigate/compensate for these impacts the development will not be allowed

to be undertaken. As such the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council Joint Mineral DPD seeks to protect the integrity of the Humber Estuary International Sites and no likely significant effects on these international sites are anticipated as a result of any of the proposals or policies within it.

10. In Combination Impacts

This Habitats Regulations Assessment screening report has identified potential impacts, arising from potential future mineral extraction within 'areas of search'. Key potential impacts to the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar Site due to the indirect habitat loss on land in proximity of the international sites were identified and may lead to the displacement of birds for which the sites are designated (see below). Possible impacts have been identified with respect of changes in the water quality/ quantity of Hornsea Mere SPA as well as disturbance of the birds for which it is designated (see below).

The Joint Minerals Plan is written at a strategic level, and additional impacts to other international sites are considered unlikely to arise as a result of the policies within it, at a later date, to Derwent International Sites, Thorne and Hatfield International Sites and Skipwith Common SAC. As any impacts to these sites from future mineral development are not yet known it is not possible to consider 'in combination' impacts in this assessment.

Humber Estuary International Sites

Natural England have identified that land within 7 km of the Humber Estuary may support estuary birds and as such this land contributes to the integrity of the Humber Estuary International Sites. Loss of habitats in these areas may lead to displacement of estuary birds from these off-site areas. This impact is identified as the most important potential impact of the Plan (see Sections 5 to 9) and in particular extraction within candidate areas of search AOS3, AOS4, AOS6 and AOS7 may lead to significant effects on the Humber Estuary International Sites. It is not considered likely that within the Plan there will be 'in combination' impacts arising from mineral extraction within these candidate areas of search as the majority are over 6 km from the Humber Estuary International Sites and as such fewer estuary birds may be present or displaced. Within these areas sites are unlikely to be mined at the same time, further reducing any potential for 'in combination' impacts within the Plan.

Other Habitats Regulations Assessments that have identified land take within 7 km of the Humber Estuary include:

- Humber Quays Phase 2- the Habitats Regulations Assessment screening identified construction phase disturbance as the only likely significant effect, and therefore no 'in combination' impacts are expected
- Energy from Waste facility, Saltend- the Habitats Regulations Assessment screening identified construction phase disturbance as the only likely significant effect, and therefore no 'in combination' impacts are expected
- North Yorkshire Core Waste Strategy- the Habitats Regulations Assessment screening identified one waste site that may lead to significant effects on the Humber Estuary but it is located 12 km from the Humber Estuary International Sites and will not lead to displacement of estuary birds. The potential impact related to air emissions and further work was recommended to model potential air emissions to quantify any adverse impacts to the Humber Estuary International Sites. No 'in combination' impacts are expected.
- Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire Joint Waste DPD- the Habitats Regulations Assessment screening identified the requirement for a full Habitats Regulations Assessment to be undertaken for waste sites in Hull/ near the Humber given the proximity to the Humber Estuary International Sites and potential impacts to water quality, land take, disturbance (noise and predation). It is possible that 'in combination' impacts will arise from the minerals and the waste DPDs in East Riding of Yorkshire and Hull. At this time full Habitats

Regulations Assessments are required for waste proposals in the vicinity of the Humber, and therefore as part of the assessments 'in combination' impacts will be assessment in light of more details plans for development. There is potential for 'in combination' impacts but none are definite at this time.

- The Environment Agency's Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy will seek to replace lost habitats in the vicinity of the Humber Estuary as sea levels rise, in response to climate change and new sea defences. The strategy seeks to ensure no net loss of habitat and therefore no 'in combination' impacts are expected.

Habitats Regulations Assessments relating to indirect habitat loss impacts on the southern bank of the Humber Estuary will tie in with a strategic bird plan being developed by RSPB. The document will co-ordinate mitigation in relation to land take on the south bank of the Humber Estuary and therefore Habitats Regulations Assessments relating to development on the south of the Humber are not considered in this 'in combination' analysis.

No likely significant 'in combination' impacts to the Humber Estuary, or other international sites, are expected to arise from other projects/ plans and the Plan.

Hornsea Mere SPA

Hornsea Mere SPA may be negatively affected by mineral extraction proposals within the eastern end of the candidate area of search (AOS1). A Habitats Regulations Assessment screening has been undertaken of any significant effects to Hornsea Mere arising from Environment Agency consents for water extraction. No likely significant 'in combination' impacts to Hornsea Mere are expected to arise from other projects/ plans and the Plan.

11. Conclusions

Is the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council Joint Mineral DPD likely to have a significant effect ‘alone or in combination’ on Humber Estuary International Sites, the Thorne and Hatfield Moors International sites, the Derwent International Sites, Skipwith Common SAC or Hornsea Mere SPA?

The candidate preferred areas of working identified in the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council Joint Mineral DPD are not considered likely to lead to significant effects to any of the international sites.

There is the potential for significant effects to:

- the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar site as a result of four of the seven candidate areas of search in the Plan (AOS3, AOS4, AOS6 and AOS7);
- Hornsea Mere SPA as a result of one candidate area of search (AOS1).

At this stage there is insufficient information is available about the design and operation of these potential mineral extraction sites to be able to assess with certainty whether the operation in these areas will have likely significant effects on the international sites. This is due to the strategic nature of the Plan (i.e. the exact details of the developments to be put in place at each area of search are not yet known and it is not known when, if ever, these sites would be utilised). However, in order to address this uncertainty, and to be in accordance with the precautionary principle enshrined within the Habitats Regulations, the Plan (in Chapter 1) commits to a Habitats Regulations Assessment being carried out at the development control stage for the following areas of search: AOS1, AOS3, AOS4, AOS6 and AOS7.

At the time of completing this second draft report (the first draft was completed in March 2009) the impact to international sites of the candidate areas of search are difficult to assess as they may not lead to development in some places. For this reason the Plan commits to further HRA assessment at the development control stage. However this conclusion will be amended after the consultation period, in light of further liaison with Natural England, and as part of the HRA screening of the final Plan. It is likely that at this later date it will be concluded either that a full assessment of these sites will be undertaken or that mitigation to avoid hypothetical impacts will be committed to in greater detail should development arise in these areas.

As such developers will need to satisfy East Riding of Yorkshire Council and/or Kingston upon Hull City Council in consultation with Natural England that there will either be no likely significant effects from the development on the international sites or that any significant effects can be effectively mitigated or compensated. If this cannot be proven the development will not be granted permission. Where there are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest for a development 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 international site must be implemented.

It is considered unlikely that there is potential for ‘in combination’ impacts as no other current plans or projects that are likely to lead to significant effects on the Humber Estuary International Sites, or Hornsea Mere or the other international sites have been identified; or where impacts have been identified they have been/ will be adequately assessed and mitigated.

Name of assessor/originator:	Veronica Lawrie CEnv MIEEM, Ecologist, Atkins	Date: 19/4/10
Name of reviewer:	John Box CEnv FIEEM, Associate, Atkins	Date: 19/4/10
Natural England comment on assessment:		
Name of NE Officer: Sheena Horner		Date:

Appendix A

The Internationally Important Sites

A.1 The Internationally Important 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 A.1);
- Humber Estuary SAC (Table A.2);
- Thorne Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA (Table A.3);
- Lower Derwent Valley SPA, Ramsar site and SAC (Table A.4);
- River Derwent SAC (Table A.5);
- Skipwith Common SAC (Table A.6); and
- Hornsea Mere SPA (Table A.7).

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 and Kingston upon Hull City Council boundaries).
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 and Kingston upon Hull City Council boundaries).
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 spp.</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>Suaeda maritima</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 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	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 sixty-six 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.

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

Table A.4: 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 waders, Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i> and Spotted Crake <i>Porzana porzana</i>.</p>

The SPA also includes the subsumed SPA of Derwent Ings, a site that was subject to separate classification

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.5: 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 Common SAC

Site Designation Status	Skipwith Common Special Area of Conservation
Location of International Site	The site is located 3 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
Initial HRA Screening Results Table

B.1 Initial HRA Screening Results Table

This appendix contains Table B-1 which lists the proposed extraction sites and policies within the Plan and whether each 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.

Table B-1: Initial HRA Screening Results – Areas, Core Policies and Development Control Policies

Key:

- No likely significant effect
- The Plan has been amended to protect international sites should development take place
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Site Reference	Location	Proposed Use	Proposed Allocations Details	Potential for Individual Sites to have Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Locations of International Site(s) (distance to nearest point)	Justification of finding
Candidate Preferred Areas of Working						
PA01	Willowcroft Farm	Sand and gravel extraction	18 ha Extension to existing site, utilise existing access onto A165	No	Hornsea Mere is 5 km to the east The Humber Estuary is over 15 km south All other international sites are over 20 km	<p>With the exception of Hornsea Mere which is discussed below, the distances of all international sites to PA01 are great enough for there to be no likely significant effects on the sites. Development sites over 5 km from international sites are unlikely to result in impacts to water quality or quantity, or noise/ air pollution. There will be no increase in recreational pressure as a result of mineral development. Land take is considered to be an issue for the Humber Estuary international sites for development within 7 km of it.</p> <p>The extraction of sand and gravel within this candidate preferred area may lead to potential negative effects is to Hornsea Mere SPA as a result of changes to water quality and quantity (Denise Coverdale, Natural England, concurs with this view, pers. comm. 2009). Therefore the hydrological connectivity of the site to Hornsea Mere SPA was investigated.</p> <p>Sarah Scott, Senior Technical Specialist (Hydrogeology) of the Environment Agency says "the sites all fall outside the surface water catchment for Hornsea Mere, the divide between surface flow to Hornsea and flow west wards is to the eastern edge of Seaton Village. For this reason and also given the distance between the sites and the Mere...it is unlikely that extraction of minerals from the sites would impact Hornsea Mere. Each site would still need to be assessed to determine impact to any water features in the vicinity and from October this year any dewatering activity will require an abstraction licence prior to commencement" (pers. comm. Feb 2009).</p> <p>It is not anticipated that there will be any significant adverse impacts to the integrity of international sites as a result of mineral development within this candidate preferred area, with mitigation in place</p>
PA02	Dryham Lane	Sand and gravel extraction	77 ha Western extension to Dryham Lane, access to the site will be gained from Crosslands Lane which leads to Newport Road (B1230)	No	Humber Estuary International Sites are 6.5 km to the south The Derwent International Sites are over 16 km to the west All other international sites are approximately 20 km or further	Planning permission has been granted for the extraction of sand and gravel. All environmental impacts will have been considered prior to this assessment and as such this site will not be considered further within this Habitats Regulations Assessment screening report.
PA03	Land south of existing extraction area in Broom Fleet	Clay and sand extraction	83 ha Extension to existing site, existing access from Tongue Lane	No	Humber Estuary International Sites are within 1.6 km, to the south Thorne and Hatfield Moor International Sites are over 15 km to the south Derwent International Sites are over 17 km to the north west All other international sites are over 20 km	Planning permission has been granted for the extraction of clay and sand. All environmental impacts will have been considered prior to this assessment and as such this site will not be considered further within this Habitats Regulations Assessment screening report.

Table B-1: Initial HRA Screening Results – Areas, Core Policies and Development Control Policies

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Site Reference	Location	Proposed Use	Proposed Allocations Details	Potential for Individual Sites to have Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Locations of International Site(s) (distance to nearest point)	Justification of finding
Candidate Areas of Search						
AOS1	Leven and Brandesburton	Sand and gravel extraction	None available at this time	Yes Hornsea Mere SPA	Hornsea Mere is within 200 m east of the most easterly point Humber Estuary International Sites are approximately 15 km to the south All other international sites are over 20 km	<p>With the exception of Hornsea Mere which is discussed above (PAO1) and below (AOS1), the distances of all international sites to AOS1 are great enough for there to be no likely significant effects on the sites. Development sites over 5 km from international sites are unlikely to result in impacts to water quality or quantity, or noise/ air pollution. There will be no increase in recreational pressure as a result of mineral development. Land take is considered to be an issue for the Humber Estuary international sites for development within 7 km of it.</p> <p>The allocation of a candidate area of search does not lead directly to development. However, at some point in the lifetime of the Plan an area of mineral development may be proposed here. Given the proximity to Hornsea Mere (200 m at its closest point, though much of the area of search includes land up to 9 km to the west of Hornsea Mere) a full Habitats Regulations Assessment may need to be undertaken. Mineral development within 5 km of Hornsea Mere is considered likely to result in significant adverse impacts to the international site.</p> <p>At the time of completing this second draft report (the first draft was completed in March 2009) the impact to international sites of the candidate areas of search are difficult to assess as they may not lead to development in some places. For this reason the Plan commits to further HRA assessment at the development control stage. However this conclusion will be amended after the consultation period, in light of further liaison with Natural England, and as part of the HRA screening of the final Plan. It is likely that at this later date it will be concluded either that a full assessment of these sites will be undertaken or that mitigation to avoid hypothetical impacts will be committed to in greater detail should development arise in these areas.</p>
AOS2	Gransmoor and Lissett	Sand and gravel extraction	None available at this time	No	Hornsea Mere is 12 km to the south All other international sites are over 20 km	<p>The distances of all international sites to AOS2 are great enough for there to be no likely significant effects on the sites. Development sites over 5 km from international sites are unlikely to result in impacts to water quality or quantity, or noise/ air pollution. There will be no increase in recreational pressure as a result of mineral development. Land take is considered to be an issue for the Humber Estuary international sites for development within 7 km of it.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that there will be any significant adverse impacts to the integrity of international sites as a result of mineral development within this area of search, with mitigation in place, given the distances to the nearest international sites.</p>
AOS3	North Cave	Sand and gravel extraction	49 ha New site, access via Common Lane onto B1230 which gives good access to M62.A63	Yes: Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar site	Humber Estuary International Sites are 4.2 – 6.5 km to the south The Derwent International Sites are over 18 km to the west The Thorne and Hatfield Moors International Sites are over 19 km to the south All other international sites are over 20 km	<p>With the exception of the Humber Estuary which is discussed below, the distances of all international sites from AOS3 are great enough for there to be no likely significant effects on the sites. Development sites over 5 km from international sites are unlikely to result in impacts to water quality or quantity, or noise/ air pollution. There will be no increase in recreational pressure as a result of mineral development.</p> <p>Given the distance to the Humber Estuary is within 7 km (Natural England have confirmed that birds from the Humber Estuary International Sites will travel up to 7 km for foraging and for high tide roost sites) RSPB and Natural England were consulted for records of birds using the area. The RSPB have no data relating to the sites. In their opinion there is potential for the estuary birds to use the habitats present for feeding, such as wintering golden plover and pink footed geese (Nicola Melville, pers. comm. 2009).</p> <p>As a candidate area of search is only a proposed site for future mineral extraction, it is not known where within the area might be quarried or when this may occur. Until it is known what the plans are for these areas it is not possible to assess the likely significant effects of those plans to the integrity of the Humber Estuary International Sites. However, if mineral development takes place within AOS3 in the future there may be significant adverse impacts to the integrity of the Humber Estuary International Sites and a full Habitats Regulations assessment may need to be undertaken (Chapter 1 in the Plan).</p> <p>At the time of completing this second draft report (the first draft was completed in March 2009) the impact to international sites of the candidate areas of search are difficult to assess as they may not lead to development in some places. For this reason the Plan commits to further HRA assessment at the development control stage. However this conclusion will be amended after the consultation period, in light of further liaison with Natural England, and as part of the HRA screening of the final Plan. It is likely that at this later date it will be concluded either that a full assessment of these sites will be undertaken or that</p>

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Site Reference	Location	Proposed Use	Proposed Allocations Details	Potential for Individual Sites to have Likely Significant Effects on the International Sites?	Locations of International Site(s) (distance to nearest point)	Justification of finding
						mitigation to avoid hypothetical impacts will be committed to in greater detail should development arise in these areas.
AOS4	Preston Road, Sproatley	Sand and gravel extraction	14 ha Existing site access from the B1240	Yes Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar	Humber Estuary International Sites are 6.5 km to the south Hornsea Mere is 13 km to the north All other international sites are over 20 km	<p>With the exception of the Humber Estuary International Sites which are discussed below, the distances of all international sites to AOS4 are great enough for there to be no likely significant effects on the sites. Development sites over 5 km from international sites are unlikely to result in impacts to water quality or quantity, or noise/ air pollution. There will be no increase in recreational pressure as a result of mineral development.</p> <p>Given the distance to the Humber Estuary is within 7 km (Natural England have confirmed that birds from the Humber Estuary International Sites will travel up to 7 km for foraging and for high tide roost sites) RSPB and Natural England were consulted for records of birds using the area. The RSPB have no comments on this 'area of search' and do not have records or concerns that it is an important area for birds associated with the Humber Estuary (Nicola Melville, pers. comm. 2009).</p> <p>It is not anticipated that there will be any significant adverse impacts to the integrity of international sites as a result of mineral development within this candidate area of search, with mitigation in place. As a candidate area of search is only a proposed site for future mineral extraction, it is not known where within the area might be quarried or when this may occur. Until it is known what the plans are for these areas it is not possible to assess the likely significant effects of those plans to the integrity of the Humber Estuary International Sites. However, if mineral development takes place within AOS4 in the future up-to-date information on how birds are using the site will need to be gathered to determine whether there may be significant adverse impacts to the integrity of the Humber Estuary International Sites and whether a full Habitats Regulations assessment will need to be undertaken.</p> <p>At the time of completing this second draft report (the first draft was completed in March 2009) the impact to international sites of the candidate areas of search are difficult to assess as they may not lead to development in some places. For this reason the Plan commits to further HRA assessment at the development control stage. However this conclusion will be amended after the consultation period, in light of further liaison with Natural England, and as part of the HRA screening of the final Plan. It is likely that at this later date it will be concluded either that a full assessment of these sites will be undertaken or that mitigation to avoid hypothetical impacts will be committed to in greater detail should development arise in these areas.</p>
AOS5	Greenwick Quarry, Huggate	Chalk extraction	2.5 ha Extension area to existing quarry. Accessed via existing operations	No	Derwent International Sites are over 14 km to the south All other international sites are over 20 km	<p>The distances of all international sites to AOS5 are great enough for there to be no likely significant effects on the sites. Development sites over 5 km from Derwent International Sites (there is no hydrological connection shown on the Ordnance Survey map) and from other international sites are unlikely to result in impacts to water quality or quantity, or noise/ air pollution. There will be no increase in recreational pressure as a result of mineral development. Land take is considered to be an issue for the Humber Estuary international sites for development within 7 km of it.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that there will be any significant adverse impacts to the integrity of international sites as a result of mineral development within this area of search, with mitigation in place, given the distances to the nearest international sites.</p>
AOS6	Riplingham and Swinescalf, South Cave	Chalk extraction	2.5 ha Extension to existing quarry. Access is via a long access track from Brick Dyke Lane	Yes Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar	Humber Estuary International Sites are over 5.8 km to the south All other international sites are over 20 km away	<p>With the exception of the Humber Estuary International Sites which are discussed below, the distances of all international sites to AOS6 are great enough for there to be no likely significant effects on the sites. Development sites over 5 km from international sites are unlikely to result in impacts to water quality or quantity, or noise/ air pollution. There will be no increase in recreational pressure as a result of mineral development.</p> <p>Given the distance to the Humber Estuary is within 7 km (Natural England have confirmed that birds from the Humber Estuary International Sites will travel up to 7 km for foraging and for high tide roost sites), RSPB and Natural England were consulted for records of birds using the area. The RSPB have no comments on this 'candidate area of search' and do not have records or concerns that it is an important area for birds associated with the Humber Estuary (Nicola Melville, pers. comm. 2009).</p> <p>It is not anticipated that there will be any significant adverse impacts to the integrity of international sites as a result of mineral development within this candidate area of search with mitigation in place. As a candidate area of search is only a proposed site for future mineral extraction, it is not known where within the area might be quarried or when this may occur. Until it is known what the plans are for these areas it is not possible to assess the likely significant effects of those plans to the integrity of the Humber Estuary International Sites. However, if mineral development takes place within AOS6 in the future up-to-date information on how birds are using the site will need to be gathered to determine whether there may be significant adverse impacts to the integrity of the Humber Estuary International Sites and whether a full Habitats Regulations assessment will</p>

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						<p>need to be undertaken.</p> <p>At the time of completing this second draft report (the first draft was completed in March 2009) the impact to international sites of the candidate areas of search are difficult to assess as they may not lead to development in some places. For this reason the Plan commits to further HRA assessment at the development control stage. However this conclusion will be amended after the consultation period, in light of further liaison with Natural England, and as part of the HRA screening of the final Plan. It is likely that at this later date it will be concluded either that a full assessment of these sites will be undertaken or that mitigation to avoid hypothetical impacts will be committed to in greater detail should development arise in these areas.</p>
AOS7	Castle Farm and Drewton Farm, North Cave	Oolitic limestone extraction	100 ha New site, which sits either side of the B1230	Yes Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar	Humber Estuary International Sites are 6.3 km to the south All other international sites are over 20 km away	<p>With the exception of the Humber Estuary International Sites which are discussed below, the distances of all international sites to AOS7 are great enough for there to be no likely significant effects on the sites. Development sites over 5 km from international sites are unlikely to result in impacts to water quality or quantity, or noise/ air pollution. There will be no increase in recreational pressure as a result of mineral development.</p> <p>Given the distance to the Humber Estuary is within 7 km (Natural England have confirmed that birds from the Humber Estuary International Sites will travel up to 7 km for foraging and for high tide roost sites), RSPB and Natural England were consulted for records of birds using the area. The RSPB have no comments on this 'candidate area of search' and do not have records or concerns that it is an important area for birds associated with the Humber Estuary (Nicola Melville, pers. comm. 2009).</p> <p>It is not anticipated that there will be any significant adverse impacts to the integrity of international sites as a result of mineral development within this candidate area of search, with mitigation in place. As a candidate area of search is only a proposed site for future mineral extraction, it is not known where within the area might be quarried or when this may occur. Until it is known what the plans are for these areas it is not possible to assess the likely significant effects of those plans to the integrity of the Humber Estuary International Sites. However, if mineral development takes place within AOS7 in the future up-to-date information on how birds are using the site will need to be gathered to determine whether there may be significant adverse impacts to the integrity of the Humber Estuary International Sites and whether a full Habitats Regulations assessment will need to be undertaken.</p> <p>At the time of completing this second draft report (the first draft was completed in March 2009) the impact to international sites of the candidate areas of search are difficult to assess as they may not lead to development in some places. For this reason the Plan commits to further HRA assessment at the development control stage. However this conclusion will be amended after the consultation period, in light of further liaison with Natural England, and as part of the HRA screening of the final Plan. It is likely that at this later date it will be concluded either that a full assessment of these sites will be undertaken or that mitigation to avoid hypothetical impacts will be committed to in greater detail should development arise in these areas.</p>
AOS8	Land at Pollington	Sand and gravel extraction	14 ha Excavation within existing quarry, the adequacy of existing access will be considered at the time of development	No	Thorne and Hatfield Moors International Sites are over 10 km to the east and south The Humber Estuary International Sites are over 14 km to the east Derwent International Sites are over 16 km to the north All other international sites are over 20 km	<p>The distances of all international sites to AOS8 are great enough for there to be no likely significant effects on the sites. Development sites over 5 km from international sites are unlikely to result in impacts to water quality or quantity, or noise/ air pollution. There will be no increase in recreational pressure as a result of mineral development. Land take is considered to be an issue for the Humber Estuary international sites for development within 7 km of it.</p> <p>The hydrological connectivity of the development site to the nearest international site (Thorne and Hatfield Moors) is not expected (after a brief consultation of geological maps and the Ordnance Survey map) but further investigation would be required to establish this. The results of this further investigation may affect the methodology of mineral extraction to ensure impacts to international sites are avoided or mitigated. Any water impacts would be controlled by the Environment Agency and as part of the Development Control stage.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that there will be any significant adverse impacts to the integrity of international sites as a result of mineral development within this area of search, with mitigation in place, given the distances to the nearest international sites.</p>

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COR ERY and core minerals objective	Vision for sustainable minerals development within East Riding of Yorkshire	No	The policy is at a strategic level. It does not detail development proposals and does not lead directly to development. The development control policy DC6 seeks to protect the natural environment and more specifically it commits to protect international sites and refuse any development proposal that would not satisfy the Habitats Regulations. As such there are no likely significant effects anticipated on the internationally sites as a result of this policy.
COR HULL and core minerals objective	Vision for sustainable minerals development within Kingston upon Hull	No	The policy is at a strategic level. It does not detail development proposals and does not lead directly to development. The development control policy DC6 seeks to protect the natural environment and more specifically it commits to protect international sites and refuse any development proposal that would not satisfy the Habitats Regulations. As such there are no likely significant effects anticipated on the internationally sites as a result of this policy.
AGG1	Preferred areas for sand and gravel	No	The policy is at a strategic level. It does not detail development proposals and does not lead directly to development. The development control policy DC6 seeks to protect the natural environment and more specifically it commits to protect international sites and refuse any development proposal that would not satisfy the Habitats Regulations. As such there are no likely significant effects anticipated on the internationally sites as a result of this policy.
AGG2	Areas of search for sand and gravel	No	The policy is at a strategic level. It does not detail development proposals and does not lead directly to development. The development control policy DC6 seeks to protect the natural environment and more specifically it commits to protect international sites and refuse any development proposal that would not satisfy the Habitats Regulations. As such there are no likely significant effects anticipated on the internationally sites as a result of this policy.
AGG3	Areas of search for crushed rock	No	The policy is at a strategic level. It does not detail development proposals and does not lead directly to development. The development control policy DC6 seeks to protect the natural environment and more specifically it commits to protect international sites and refuse any development proposal that would not satisfy the Habitats Regulations. As such there are no likely significant effects anticipated on the internationally sites as a result of this policy.
AGG4	Borrow pits	No	The policy is at a strategic level. It does not detail development proposals and does not lead directly to development. The development control policy DC6 seeks to protect the natural environment and more specifically it commits to protect international sites and refuse any development proposal that would not satisfy the Habitats Regulations. As such there are no likely significant effects anticipated on the internationally sites as a result of this policy. If borrow pits are located within 7 km of Humber there may be adverse impacts to the integrity of this international site, due to lost foraging opportunities or roosting sites for estuary birds. Therefore Habitats Regulations Assessments may need to be undertaken on borrow pits that are proposed in the future in proximity to international sites.
AGG5	Recycling and secondary aggregates	No	The policy is at a strategic level. It does not detail development proposals and does not lead directly to development. The development control policy DC6 seeks to protect the natural environment and more specifically it commits to protect international sites and refuse any development proposal that would not satisfy the Habitats Regulations. As such there are no likely significant effects anticipated on the internationally sites as a result of this policy.
AGG6	Safeguarding of wharves	No	The policy is at a strategic level. It does not detail development proposals and does not lead directly to development. It is concerned with the definition of safeguarding areas, which does not mean that development will occur within the safeguarding area. The development control policy DC6 seeks to protect the natural environment and more specifically it commits to protect international sites and refuse any development proposal that would not satisfy the Habitats Regulations. As such there are no likely significant effects anticipated on the internationally sites as a result of this policy.
AGG7	Marine aggregates development	No	The policy is at a strategic level. It does not detail development proposals and does not lead directly to development. The policy includes wording that seeks to protect the natural environment, (in particular the Humber Estuary SSSI and International Sites), and as such will not have any negative impacts to international sites. The development control policy DC6 seeks to protect the natural environment and more specifically it commits to protect international sites and refuse any development proposal that would not satisfy the Habitats Regulations. As such there are no likely significant effects anticipated on the internationally sites as a result of this policy.
AGG8	Safeguarding of rail depot	No	The policy is at a strategic level. The policy does not lead to development and will not have a negative impact on international sites. It is concerned with the definition of safeguarding areas, which does not mean that development will occur within the safeguarding area. The development control policy DC6 seeks to protect the natural environment and more specifically it commits to protect international sites and refuse any development proposal that would not satisfy the Habitats Regulations. As such there are no likely significant effects anticipated on the internationally sites as a result of this policy.
NAM1	Areas of search for industrial chalk	No	The policy is at a strategic level. It does not detail development proposals and does not lead directly to development. The development control policy DC6 seeks to protect the natural environment and more specifically it commits to protect international sites and refuse any development proposal that would not satisfy the Habitats Regulations. As such there are no likely significant effects anticipated on the internationally sites as a result of this policy.
NAM2	Peat working	No	The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural environment as will not lead to any negative impact to international sites.
EM1	Deep coal mining, including utilisation of	No	The policy is at a strategic level. It does not detail development proposals and does not lead directly to development. The policy includes wording that seeks to take impacts

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	coal bed methane reserves for energy production		to biodiversity into account and thereby seeks to protect the natural environment. The development control policy DC6 seeks to protect the natural environment and more specifically it commits to protect international sites and refuse any development proposal that would not satisfy the Habitats Regulations. As such there are no likely significant effects anticipated on the internationally sites as a result of this policy.
EM2	Exploration boreholes	No	The policy is at a strategic level. It does not detail development proposals and does not lead directly to development. The policy includes wording that seeks to take impacts to biodiversity into account and thereby seeks to protect the natural environment. The development control policy DC6 seeks to protect the natural environment and more specifically it commits to protect international sites and refuse any development proposal that would not satisfy the Habitats Regulations. As such there are no likely significant effects anticipated on the internationally sites as a result of this policy.
EM3	Appraisal boreholes	No	The policy is at a strategic level. It does not detail development proposals and does not lead directly to development. The policy includes wording that seeks to take impacts to biodiversity into account and thereby seeks to protect the natural environment. The development control policy DC6 seeks to protect the natural environment and more specifically it commits to protect international sites and refuse any development proposal that would not satisfy the Habitats Regulations. As such there are no likely significant effects anticipated on the internationally sites as a result of this policy.
EM4	Oil and gas production and distribution	No	The policy is at a strategic level. It does not detail development proposals and does not lead directly to development. The policy includes wording that seeks to take impacts to biodiversity into account and thereby seeks to protect the natural environment. The development control policy DC6 seeks to protect the natural environment and more specifically it commits to protect international sites and refuse any development proposal that would not satisfy the Habitats Regulations. As such there are no likely significant effects anticipated on the internationally sites as a result of this policy.
EM5	Underground storage of gas and related surface development	No	The policy is at a strategic level. It does not detail development proposals and does not lead directly to development. The policy includes wording that seeks to take impacts to biodiversity into account and thereby seeks to protect the natural environment. The development control policy DC6 seeks to protect the natural environment and more specifically it commits to protect international sites and refuse any development proposal that would not satisfy the Habitats Regulations. As such there are no likely significant effects anticipated on the internationally sites as a result of this policy.
DC1	Impacts of mineral development	No	The policy is at a strategic level. It does not detail development proposals and does not lead directly to development. The policy includes wording that seeks to take impacts to biodiversity into account and thereby seeks to protect the natural environment. The development control policy DC6 seeks to protect the natural environment and more specifically it commits to protect international sites and refuse any development proposal that would not satisfy the Habitats Regulations. As such there are no likely significant effects anticipated on the internationally sites as a result of this policy.
DC2	Protecting residential amenity and other residential uses	No	The policy does not lead to development and will not have any negative effect on international sites.
DC3	Restoration and aftercare	No	The policy does not lead to development but rather relates to the restoration of mineral sites after development, in the context of the wider landscape. It also looks to ensure biodiversity gains as a result of site restoration. The policy will not have any negative impacts to international sites.
DC4	Best and most versatile agricultural land	No	This policy is at a strategic level. It does not lead to development directly but rather seeks to ensure that development on best and most versatile agricultural land is controlled. The development control policy DC6 seeks to protect the natural environment and more specifically it commits to protect international sites and refuse any development proposal that would not satisfy the Habitats Regulations. As such there are no likely significant effects anticipated on the internationally sites as a result of this policy.
DC5	Public rights of way	No	The policy does not lead to development and will not have any adverse impacts to international sites. The development control policy DC6 seeks to protect the natural environment and more specifically it commits to protect international sites and refuse any development proposal that would not satisfy the Habitats Regulations. As such there are no likely significant effects anticipated on the internationally sites as a result of this policy.
DC6	Sites with national designations	No	The policy seeks to steer mineral development away from international sites unless there are over-riding reasons for the development. As such the policy seeks to protect the international sites unless it is absolutely unavoidable for development to take place that may impact these sites. The Plan states that it will not support any proposals that would lead to significant effects to international sites and therefore there are provisions to ensure the policy will not have any negative effect on international sites.
DC7	Impact on landscape and townscape	No	The policy does not lead to development, as it relates to design, and as such will not result in any negative effects on international sites.
DC8	Water resources	No	The policy does not lead to development, it relates to design, and as such will not result in any negative effects on international sites.
DC9	Flooding	No	The policy does not lead to development, it relates to design, and as such will not result in any negative effects on international sites.
DC10	Transportation	No	The policy does not lead to development and it seeks to protect the natural environment by taking into account and minimising impacts to the environment (which

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			encompasses international sites). As part of any proposed mineral development the impacts of increased road transportation will be taken into account. Indeed, the Plan states that it will not support any proposals that would lead to significant effects to international sites, therefore the policy will not have any negative effect on international sites.
DC11	Planning obligations	No	The policy does not lead to development and it seeks to protect the natural environment by restoring all mineral sites adequately, therefore the policy will not have any negative effect on international sites.

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