

# Habitats Regulations Assessment

## Redcar and Cleveland Draft Local Plan

On behalf of **Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council**



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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Peter Brett Associates was appointed by Redcar and Cleveland District Council (RCBC) to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of their draft Local Plan. This Local Plan will replace the existing Local Development Framework.
- 1.1.2 The Local Plan Scoping Report was published for consultation in July 2015. This document sets out the issues that will be addressed by the Local Plan, including housing, employment and retail development whilst recognising the need to protect certain heritage assets and natural environments. It is understood that the draft Local Plan will be published for consultation in late-spring 2016.
- 1.1.3 This report builds upon previous HRA's that have been prepared in relation to previous draft Local Plan versions<sup>1</sup>. The purpose of this report is to identify whether the proposed policies set out within the current version of the draft Local Plan (May 2016), alone or in combination with other plans and projects, could lead to a Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on any Natura 2000 Site(s).
- 1.1.4 The draft Local Plan policies have been subject to a screening exercise to determine whether they could result in Likely Significant Effects (hereafter referred to as 'LSE') to any European Site. Should the potential for LSE be identified, it is then necessary to proceed to the next stage of Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), whereby an 'Appropriate Assessment' is completed. This exercise determines the potential for a plan or project to lead to adverse effects on the integrity on any Natura 2000 sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. More information is provided in section 3, 'Methodology'.

## 1.2 Statutory Requirements

- 1.2.1 In October 2005 (Case C-6/04), the European Court of Justice ruled that Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (known as the 'Habitats Directive') applied to land use plans in England. This ruling was made with specific reference to the definition of the term 'plans or projects' as referenced within Article 6(3) of the Directive).
- 1.2.2 Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans or projects affecting Natura 2000 sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment:
- 1.2.3 *"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public."*
- 1.2.4 Article 6(4) goes on to discuss alternative solutions, the test of "imperative reasons of overriding public interest" (IROPI) and compensatory measures:
- 1.2.5 *"If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons*

<sup>1</sup> BSG Ecology (25<sup>th</sup> July 2014). Redcar and Cleveland Publication Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment.

*of overriding public interest, including those of social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.”*

- 1.2.6 In its ruling the European Court of Justice concluded that land use plans must also be subject to an ‘Appropriate Assessment’, as required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. The purpose of the ‘Appropriate Assessment’ is the same for all plans or projects, i.e. to demonstrate that their implementation would not lead to adverse effects to the integrity of a Natura 2000 site.
- 1.2.7 In the UK, the Habitats Directive is transposed into law through the Habitats Regulations. Part 6 of the Habitats Regulations covers the assessment of plans and projects and it sets out the requirement that the authority preparing a land-use plan must assess the potential effects of the plan upon Natura 2000 sites prior to the plan being published.
- 1.2.8 The term ‘Habitats Regulations Assessment’ is used to cover the whole process of assessing the effects of a land use plan on Natura 2000 sites and Ramsar sites. An Appropriate Assessment is only one stage within the whole process of HRA (see methodology section for further details).
- 1.2.9 The Natura 2000 site network comprises sites of nature conservation value that benefit from statutory protection at the European level. These sites include: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) [designated under the EC Habitats Directive]; Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and potential Special Protection Areas (pSPAs) [classified under the EC Birds Directive 1979, 79/409/EEC]. The Government also expects candidate SACs (cSACs), potential SPAs (pSPAs), and Ramsar sites [designated under the Ramsar Convention 1976] to be included within the HRA process. For the purposes of this report Natura 2000 sites are considered to include SACs, cSACs, SPAs, pSPAs and Ramsar sites.

### **1.3 Aims of the Screening Report**

- 1.3.1 The aims of this Screening Report are to:
- Identify those European Sites that fall within the potential zone of influence (Zoi) of the draft Local Plan, by way of consideration of their qualifying interests, conservation objectives and favourable (or otherwise) conservation status;
  - Identify any policies or proposals that are likely to have significant effects on the identified Natura 2000 sites;
  - Identify ways in which policies or proposals can be modified to mitigate impacts on Natura 2000 sites to an acceptable level; and
  - Advise of any further work necessary to inform a Stage 2 assessment (Appropriate Assessment) if required.

### **1.4 Report Structure**

- 1.4.1 Section 1 of this report provides background to HRA in the context of the Local Plan and sets out the aims of this Screening Report. The remainder of the report is structured into the following sections:
- 1.4.2 Section 2 describes the methodology that has been adopted during the screening for LSE;

- 1.4.3 Section 3 identifies those Natura 2000 Sites considered to be within the potential zone of influence of the Local Plan, and that hence may potentially be subject to LSE as a result of the plans and policies contained within it;
- 1.4.4 Section 4 sets out the results of the Screening Exercise (Stage 1) of the Local Plan including consideration of potential in-combination effects with other plans and projects;
- 1.4.5 Section 5 summarises the results of Sections 5 to 7 and identifies those elements of the Local Plan where the potential for LSE cannot be ruled out, and hence there is a requirement to complete Appropriate Assessment to consider possible adverse effects to the integrity of Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.4.6 Appendix A provides background information on the Natura 2000 Sites considered during this assessment.
- 1.4.7 Appendix B includes the screening matrices that have been used to assess whether the allocations and policies within the draft Local Plan could result in Likely Significant Effects to Natura 2000 Sites.

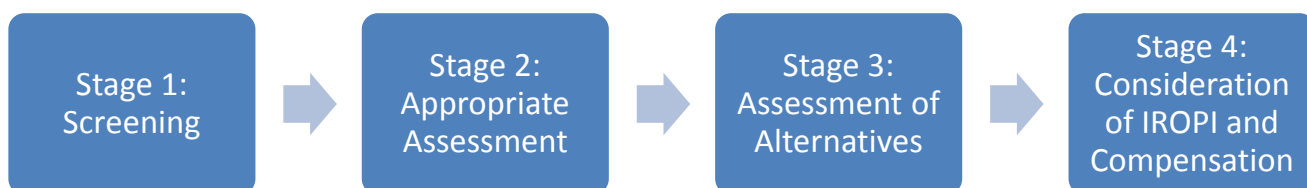


## 2 Methodology

### 2.1 Overview to the HRA process

- 2.1.1 The European Commission has developed guidance in relation to Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive<sup>2</sup>, and this recommends a four stage approach to addressing the requirements of these Articles. The four stages can be summarised as follows:
- 2.1.2 Stage 1 – Screening: This stage identifies the likely effects of a plan or project on a Natura 2000 site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Specifically this stage considers whether any such effects could be significant, and hence lead to LSE.
- 2.1.3 Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment: If it is considered that a plan or project could lead to LSE on a Natura 2000 Site, the requirements of Stage 2 are triggered. This stage considers whether the plan or project could adversely affect the integrity of one or more Natura 2000 site(s), either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The assessment should consider the implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives and its conservation status. If the potential for adverse effects on site integrity are identified, this assessment should also consider measures to control the identified impacts so as to avoid adverse effects on site integrity.
- 2.1.4 Stage 3 – Assessment of alternative solutions: If adverse impacts are predicted and it is not possible to fully mitigate those impacts, this stage examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the plan or project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site.
- 2.1.5 Stage 4 – Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain: This stage assesses compensatory measures where it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI).
- 2.1.6 Figure 1, below, illustrates the four stage approach to HRA

Figure 1: Stages in HRA



- 2.1.7 Within these various stages the Habitats Directive promotes the adoption of a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. Consequently the first step is to ensure that the plan and the policies presented within it avoid negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites. If potential negative impacts are identified and avoidance is not feasible, then mitigation measures need to be applied such that no adverse effects on European sites remain.

<sup>2</sup> European Commission (2001). Assessment of plans and projects significantly effecting Natura 2000 site. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Published November 2001.

- 2.1.8 If impacts cannot be fully mitigated then the policy should be rejected, or taken forward to the final stage, i.e. assessment of compensatory measures where it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI). Best practice guidance<sup>3</sup> indicates that stages 3 and 4 should be avoided as there will almost always be an alternative and IROPI is extremely difficult to justify in the majority of cases.
- 2.1.9 This report covers stage 1 of the process, namely screening for LSE, with consideration given in the concluding sections to Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment. Subsequent parts of this Section of the report provide further details of the screening methodology followed.
- 2.1.10 The methodologies used in this report have been informed by a range of guidance. In particular, the methodological approaches recommended in the Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook<sup>3</sup> have been used to inform the approaches taken in this assessment. The Handbook is recognised as providing authoritative guidance on the application of the Habitats Regulations within the UK (including its territorial waters), providing advice on all aspects of completing HRA for plans and projects.

## 2.2 Identifying potentially relevant Natura 2000 Sites

- 2.2.1 The first stage in the screening assessment was to identify Natura 2000 Sites that could potentially be affected by the policies and allocations within the draft Local Plan.
- 2.2.2 Whilst the Redcar and Cleveland Local Plan can only directly determine planning strategy or development within the boundary of the local authority, there may be trans-boundary effects as a result of its implementation. In consideration of this, a 15km buffer area has been used around the authority boundary, to identify those Natura 2000 Sites that could conceivably be affected by the Local Plan. It is considered that beyond 15 km, any potential effects arising from the policies and allocations proposed within the draft Local Plan would be so minimal as to have an imperceptible effect on Natura 2000 sites beyond this distance from the plan area.
- 2.2.3 The use of a 15 km buffer during screening for LSE was also accepted by Natural England (NE) when they were consulted during the production of a previous draft of the Local Plan<sup>4</sup>. Following identification of all Natura 2000 Sites within 15 km of the Plan Area, an initial 'coarse screening exercise' was carried out to determine whether for each of the European Sites, there were any conceivable pathways by which the policies and allocations within the draft Local Plan could lead to LSE to the Natura 2000 Sites identified, either alone or in combination with other plans and policies.
- 2.2.4 Where no conceivable pathways were identified, the relevant Natura 2000 Sites were scoped out from further assessment. Those Natura 2000 Sites that could potentially be affected by the policies and allocations included within the draft Local Plan were then subject to screening for LSE.

## 2.3 Screening for Likely Significant Effects

- 2.3.1 Following the steps described in Section 3.2, those Natura 2000 Sites considered subject to potential LSE were taken forward for assessment during the screening exercise. The screening exercise assessed the potential of each element of the draft Local Plan to lead to LSE on the relevant Natura 2000 Sites. The screening exercise was carried out in order to screen out those elements of the draft Local Plan that would not lead to LSE, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

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<sup>3</sup> Tyldesley, D., Chapman, C., and Machin, G. *The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook*. DTA Publications Ltd. Accessed from [www.dtapublications.co.uk](http://www.dtapublications.co.uk) on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Letter from Kate Wheeler of Natural England to Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013 (letter reference 101078).

- 2.3.2 The screening exercise also allowed identification of those plans or projects that could lead to LSE on one or more Natura 2000 sites, thus undermining the conservation objectives for those sites. This exercise was also used to identify potential measures that might allow the potential for LSE to be avoided or otherwise ameliorated.
- 2.3.3 The first step in the screening exercise considered the potential for policies and allocations included within the draft Local Plan to lead to LSE in their own right, i.e. without consideration of the potential for in-combination effects with other plans or projects. When assessing the potential for LSE, regard was had to the factors as set out in Table 2, below:

Table 1 Factors considered during assessment of potential LSE arising from draft local plan

| Local Plan Aspects   | Natura 2000 Site Aspects  |
|--|---|
| Nature of proposals contained within the Local Plan  | Qualifying features, conservation objectives, conservations status and site condition |
| Expected outcomes of implementation of Local Plan policies and allocations   | Information on baseline conditions at the relevant Natura 2000 site(s).               |
| Combined aspects   |   |
| Use information gathered in relation to Local Plan and Natura 2000 Site aspects to identify potential changes to qualifying features of Natura 2000 Sites arising from the draft Local Plan. |   |
| Consideration of any mitigation measures already incorporated into the draft Local Plan.   |   |
| Determine the likelihood of the identified effects to Natura 2000 sites being realised, in light of incorporated mitigation measures.  |   |
| Assess the potential effects of the aspects of the draft Local Plan being considered in terms of their potential to lead to Likely Significant Effects.                                      |   |

- 2.3.4 The results of the screening exercise of the draft Local Plan were recorded by use of a screening matrix provided in **Appendix B**. The matrix identifies each element of the draft Local Plan subject to assessment and identifies the findings of the screening exercise for each element. In accordance with the recommended approach in the Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook, a series of 'screening categories' have been used in the screening matrix to identify the conclusions of the screening exercise. Additional explanatory text is provided in **Appendix B** and the body of the report where relevant to the assessment.
- 2.3.5 Further to the assessment of the policies and allocations contained within the draft Local Plan, an in-combination assessment was carried out with other plans and projects. Those elements of the draft Local Plan that could only have at most a 'non-significant' effect in their own right, but which could potentially lead to LSE in combination with other plans or projects, were included in the in-combination assessment.
- 2.3.6 Other plans and projects potentially requiring in-combination assessment were identified via the following information sources:
- Review of the Redcar and Cleveland Planning Portal<sup>5</sup>, in order to gather information on potentially relevant planning applications and other local planning policy;

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/rcbcweb.nsf/web+full+list/c7a111acc498dfcf80257a1600476faf>

- Consultation with Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC);
- Consultation with Natural England;
- A review of adjoining Local Authorities planning portal websites (Hartlepool Borough Council, Middlesbrough Council, Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council; Scarborough Borough Council and Hambleton District Council);
- A review of the National Infrastructure Planning Website for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects located within 15 km of the RCBC administrative boundary.

2.3.7 A high-level review of the identified plans and projects was undertaken to determine which could interact with the draft Local Plan to result in LSE on the Natura 2000 Sites under consideration.

## 3 Natura 2000 Sites Considered

### 3.1 Natura 2000 Sites within 15 km of the Plan area

3.1.1 The following Natura 2000 sites have been identified within the Local Plan area and a 15km buffer around it:

- Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA;
- Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Ramsar;
- North York Moors SPA;
- North York Moors SAC;
- Northumbria Coast SPA;
- Northumbria Coast Ramsar; and
- Arnecliffe and Park Hole Woods SAC.

3.1.2 The Northumbria Coast SPA and Ramsar sites are located approximately 11km to the north of the plan area. Whilst this site falls outside the Local Plan area but within the 15 km buffer area, it is physically separated from Redcar and Cleveland by the Tees Estuary. Although hydrologically connected along the coastline, given the distance between the SPA and the Local Plan area, hydrological effects (i.e. changes in water quantity or quality) that could result in LSE to the Northumbria Coast SPA and Ramsar sites are considered highly unlikely to arise from any aspects of the Local Plan.

3.1.3 Furthermore, the Northumbria Coast SPA and Ramsar sites have similar sensitivities to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar sites, which are located within the Redcar and Cleveland administrative area. As such, demonstrating the absence of LSE and/or a lack of adverse effects on the integrity of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site would also demonstrate that any adverse effects to the integrity of the Northumbria Coast SPA and Ramsar sites are highly unlikely. This site will not therefore be considered further in this assessment.

3.1.4 Arnecliffe and Park Hole Woods SAC is located approximately 11km to the south-east of the plan area. It is a relatively small area of woodland that is accessible by designated rights of way only. Significant areas of the North York Moors are located between Arnecliffe and Park Hole Woods SAC and the area covered by the Local Plan. As the SAC has similar generic sensitivities to some habitats of the North York Moors SAC (which is closer to the plan area and more likely to experience impacts arising from the implementation of the plan policies), it is considered highly unlikely that any of the proposals in the Local Plan could result in LSE to this site. This site will not therefore be considered further in this assessment.

3.1.5 Figure 2 indicates the location and extent of the European sites under discussion in this document.

### **Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA**

#### ***Reasons for designation***

3.1.6 The following information has been obtained from the SPA and Ramsar site data sheets. The Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast is a wetland of international importance comprising intertidal

sand and mudflats, rocky shore, sand dunes, saltmarsh and freshwater marsh. The habitats present are used by birds for breeding, feeding and roosting: large numbers of waterfowl feed and roost within the site during the winter and during passage periods.

3.1.7 This site qualifies as a SPA under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

3.1.8 During the breeding season;

- little tern *Sterna albifrons*, 40 pairs representing at least 1.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (4 year mean 1995-1998)

3.1.9 On passage;

- sandwich tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 1,900 individuals representing at least 6.8% of the population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1988-1992)

3.1.10 This site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

3.1.11 Over winter;

- knot *Calidris canutus*, 5,509 individuals representing at least 1.6% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 – 1995/6); and
- redshank *Tringa totanus*, 1,648 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic – wintering population (5 year peak mean 1987-1991).

3.1.12 The site is also a wetland of international importance and meets the assemblage qualification. The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl. Over winter, the area regularly supports 21,312 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2 – 1995/6) including: sanderling *Calidris alba*, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, redshank *Tringa totanus*, knot *Calidris canutus*.

3.1.13 The Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast qualifies as a Ramsar site under Ramsar selection criteria 5 and 6.

3.1.14 Ramsar criterion 5: Assemblages of international importance:

- The site supports 9528 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003).

3.1.15 Ramsar criterion 6: species/populations occurring at levels of international importance:

- common redshank, *Tringa totanus*, 883 individuals, representing an average of 0.7% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3), red knot, *Calidris canutus islandica*, W & Southern Africa (wintering), 2579 individuals, representing an average of 0.9% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

3.1.16 Key sub-features for the SPA and Ramsar are described as follows:

- Sand and shingle: nesting area for little tern (colonies at e.g. Seaton Dunes, South Gare and Coatham Sands).

- Intertidal sand and mudflat: roosting and loafing sites for sandwich tern during the post-breeding period (July and August) prior to autumn migration and little tern in summer (May to August) (North Gare Sands, Seal Sands, Bran Sands and Coatham Sands).
- Shallow coastal waters: the main feeding areas for little tern and sandwich tern, both of which species feed almost exclusively on fish.
- Rocky shores: vital food resource for the wintering knot population; also used by a small proportion of the autumn redshank population. Rocky shores at higher tidal levels are also used as high water roosting sites (South Gare, Hartlepool Headland / North Sands, Seaton Snook and Coatham and Redcar Rocks).
- Intertidal sandflat and mudflat: these support high densities of invertebrates which are important as food for knot and redshank. (Redshank primarily at Seal Sands, North Tees mudflat and Greatham Creek; knot primarily at Seal Sands and Hartlepool North Sands. Knot also roost at higher tidal levels at North Gare Sands, Bran Sands and Hartlepool North Sands).
- Saltmarsh: roosting for redshank (the margins of Greatham Creek and part of Seal Sands).
- Grazing marsh: A small proportion of the redshank population utilise grazing marsh habitats outside the European Marine Site.
- The large areas of intertidal mudflats and sandflats at Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast support dense populations of marine invertebrate species, which in turn support dense populations of water birds.

#### *Conservation Objectives*

- 3.1.17 The Favourable Condition Tables for Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA / Ramsar are provided in **Appendix A**. Natural England's conservation objectives at a site level focus on maintaining the condition of the habitats used by the qualifying species. Habitat condition is delivered through appropriate site management including the avoidance of damaging activities and disturbance to the species for which the site was designated.
- 3.1.18 Objectives at a broad level consist of maintaining favourable conservation status (a habitat or species is defined as being at favourable conservation status when its natural range and the area it covers within that range are stable or increasing and the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future).
- 3.1.19 The following SSSIs form part of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA: Durham Coast, Seal Sands, Seaton Dunes and Common, Tees and Hartlepool Foreshore and Wetlands, Cowpen Marsh, South Gare and Coatham Sands and Redcar Rocks.
- 3.1.20 The conservation objectives for the European features of interest within the SSSIs are as follows:
- 3.1.21 Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;
- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;
  - The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;



- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;
- The population of each of the qualifying features; and
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

**Potentially damaging operations**

3.1.22 Natural England has prepared a list of potentially damaging operations for each component SSSI within the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA / Ramsar site. Examination of these lists reveals that potentially damaging operations, i.e. those with the potential to cause deterioration or disturbance of the sites qualifying interests, can broadly be categorised as shown in Table 2 (see **Appendix A** for a full list).

Table 2: Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast constituent SSSI: Potentially damaging operations

| Potentially Damaging Operation                           | Potential Impact Mechanisms Arising From the Local Plan   |
|--|---|
| Direct habitat loss or disturbance                       | None of the proposed Local Plan policies will result in direct habitat loss within the SPA / Ramsar site.   |
| Changes in habitat management                            | None of the proposed Local Plan policies will result in changes in land management within the SPA / Ramsar site.  |
| Application of materials, chemicals or other substances  | Increased local population could result in greater incidences of fly tipping etc. Some development types could result in pollutants being released, such as dust and vehicle emissions. |
| Introduction of non-indigenous species                   | Increased housing could result in greater risk of non-native species being introduced to the wild, particularly plants.   |
| Killing, injuring, taking or removal of wild animals     | Increased local population will result in an increase in dog and cat numbers, which may result in predation impacts on birds.   |
| Site drainage  | None of the proposed Local Plan policies will result in significant changes in drainage within the SPA / Ramsar site, which is tidally influenced.                                      |
| Alterations of ground and/or surface water levels        | Development in close proximity to the SPA / Ramsar site could potentially result in changes in ground and surface water levels.   |
| Changes in fishing practice                              | None of the proposed Local Plan policies will result in changes in fishing practice in the vicinity of the SPA / Ramsar site.   |
| Land reclamation   | None of the proposed Local Plan policies promote land reclamation in the vicinity of the SPA / Ramsar site.   |
| Construction of sea defences                             | None of the proposed Local Plan policies promote the construction of sea defences in the vicinity of the SPA / Ramsar site.   |
| Mineral extraction                                       | Mineral extraction is covered by a separate plan.   |
| Recreation and other activities resulting in disturbance | Increased local population could result in greater incidences of recreational disturbance.  |



### SSSI Condition Assessment

- 3.1.23 Natural England undertakes condition assessments of the SSSI network across the UK, in order to monitor the condition of these designations and the network of Natura 2000 Sites that they underpin. These condition assessments are made publicly available by Natural England<sup>6</sup>, and provide a record for how the status of SSSI has changed since they were designated, with multiple condition assessments available for the majority of sites.
- 3.1.24 Examination of the condition assessments for the component SSSIs of Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA / Ramsar indicates that many sections are not currently in favourable condition (see Table 3). The main reason for this is the reported decline in the populations of certain species, although it is not clear what the reasons for the decline are. Unfavourable condition has been attributed to anthropogenic activity in some areas.

Table 3: Summary of SSSI condition assessments for component SSSI within the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar Site

| Component SSSI                             | Condition Assessment  | Condition Assessment comments  |
|--|---|--|
| Tees and Hartlepool Foreshore and Wetlands | 72.6% favourable<br>0.05% unfavourable recovering<br>27.35% unfavourable declining  | Decrease in population size of knot, purple sandpiper and sanderling justifies unfavourable condition; recovering small unit is explained by its retained ability to perform ecological function, despite purple sandpiper population decline.   |
| Cowpen Marsh                               | 100% unfavourable recovering  | No net loss of habitat area and succession progressing to lower- mid marsh communities. Declines in redshank, teal, curlew and dunlin by >50% but increase in golden plover numbers by >50%. Unfavourable assessment due to no obvious remedy of these changes.  |
| Durham Coast                               | 62.8% favourable<br>37.2% unfavourable recovering   | Colliery spoil erosion, some evidence of human use including litter and vehicle use and fire remains. Cliff top vegetation often poor quality grassland and scrub invasion needs controlling / monitoring. Dune system succession recovering well.   |
| Redcar Rocks                               | 100% favourable   | No evidence of anthropogenic disturbance of the geological interest are noted, but it is not clear from the condition assessment whether the effects of anthropogenic disturbance have been assessed for the bird species that make up the qualifying interests of the SPA/ Ramsar site.   |
| Seal Sands                                 | 3.31% favourable<br>82.43% unfavourable recovering<br>9.91% unfavourable no change<br>4.34% area destroyed / part destroyed | Littoral sediment habitat lost completely within 2 units due to human disturbance with no opportunity for reinstatement. Only remaining littoral sediment supports good feeding and roosting opportunities but some risk of encroachment by <i>Phragmites</i> . Mean peak declines of shelduck and knot <50% while redshank increased 55% since 1994. Some threat of <i>Salicornia</i> encroachment on sand flats. |
| Seaton Dunes                               | 38.54% favourable   | <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> clearance on-going and all   |

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk>

|                              |   |   |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| and Common                   | 61.46% unfavourable recovering                      | but one unit meeting botanical objectives. Sanderling and turnstone have decreased significantly across the site, with declines also seen in aggregations of ringed plover and knot. Significant increase in curlew, wigeon and lapwing in one unit of littoral sediment.   |
| South Gare and Coatham Sands | 23.95% favourable<br>76.05% unfavourable recovering | Favourable unit in good condition with increase in sanderling and knot but decline in ringed plover. Unfavourable recovering unit vegetation satisfied common standards criteria and 46% increase in ringed plover and 264% increase in sanderling overwinter. But 65% decline in wintering knot while breeding little tern declined 96% where habitat favourable and no obvious remedy. A total of 21 bait collectors active on intertidal site at time of assessment. |

**Potential extension to the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA and Ramsar Site**

- 3.1.25 Natural England are currently consulting on a potential extension to the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA and Ramsar site<sup>7</sup>. The extension includes proposals for including off-shore habitats between Peterlee and Marske within a revised SPA boundary, as these areas are considered likely to provide core foraging habitat for little tern and common tern. The main channel of the River Tees is also included upstream as far as the barrage in Middlesborough, as this is also considered to provide important foraging habitat for common tern.
- 3.1.26 Some areas of terrestrial habitat have also been identified for possible inclusion within a revised SPA boundary. The majority of areas identified are on the north bank of the River Tees, outside the RCBC Local Plan area and separated from it by the river channel. Terrestrial extensions have been proposed
- 3.1.27 Two relatively small terrestrial extensions have been proposed within the RCBC administrative area; a lagoon and surrounding grassland near the mouth of the Tees; and an area of grassland and wetland habitats on the north-west edge of Redcar. The proposed boundary revisions to the SPA and Ramsar site are shown on **Figure 2**.
- 3.1.28 Terrestrial extensions to the SPA have been proposed on the basis they may be used by important numbers of waterbirds associated with the SPA. Natural England is also likely to recommend the addition of breeding avocet and breeding common tern as interest features of the SPA.

**Summary**

- 3.1.29 Taking into account the results of the condition assessments the main vulnerabilities of the SPA / Ramsar site are increases in the local population, which may result in increased disturbance and displacement of SPA and Ramsar Site bird species as a result of increased recreational activity. It is also possible that an increase in the local population and recreational plan policies may increase the risk of damage to the designated site, for example as a result of vehicle movements or trampling by people. Policies relating to the safeguarding of employment land in the vicinity of the SPA and Ramsar could also potentially impact SPA and Ramsar site bird species using those and adjacent areas.

<sup>7</sup> Natural England (July 2015) Technical Information Note TIN172: A possible extension to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area

## North York Moors SAC / SPA

### **Reasons for designation**

- 3.1.30 The North York Moors SPA and SAC sites are located immediately to the south of the Local Plan area. The following information has been obtained from the SPA and SAC site data sheets.
- 3.1.31 The North York Moors contains the largest continuous tract of heather moorland in England. It displays a wide range of high quality dry heathland and blanket bog vegetation with wet heath in the transition areas.
- 3.1.32 This site qualifies as an SPA under Article 4.1 of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:
- golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 526 pairs representing at least 2.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain; and
  - merlin *Falco columbarius*, 35 pairs representing at least 2.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain.
- 3.1.33 In April 2005, the North York Moors was designated as an SAC. Annex I habitats identified as a primary reason for selection of this site include Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* and European dry heaths.
- 3.1.34 The site is reported to contain the largest continuous tract of upland heather moorland in England. M16 *Erica tetralix* – *Sphagnum compactum* wet heath is the second most extensive vegetation type on the site and is predominantly found on the eastern and northern moors where the soil is less free-draining. Purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and heath rush *Juncus squarrosus* are also common within this community. In the wettest stands bog-mosses, including *Sphagnum tenellum*, occur, and the nationally scarce creeping forget-me-not *Myosotis stolonifera* can be found in acid moorland streams and shallow pools.
- 3.1.35 Dry heath covers over half the site and forms the main vegetation type on the western, southern and central moors where the soil is free-draining and has only a thin peat layer. The principal NVC type present is H9 *Calluna vulgaris* – *Deschampsia flexuosa*, with some H10 *Calluna vulgaris* – *Erica cinerea* heath on well-drained areas throughout the site, and large areas of H12 *Calluna vulgaris* – *Vaccinium myrtillus* heath on steeper slopes.
- 3.1.36 The Natura 2000 site data sheet also identifies that the Annex 1 priority habitat blanket bog is present as a qualifying feature, although is not a primary reason for the selection of the site.

### **Conservation Objectives**

- 3.1.37 The Favourable Condition Tables for North York Moors SPA / SAC are provided in **Appendix A**. Natural England's conservation objectives at a site level focus on maintaining the condition of the qualifying habitats of the SAC and the habitats used by the qualifying bird species of the SPA. Habitat condition is maintained through appropriate site management including the avoidance of damaging activities and disturbance to the species for which the site was designated.
- 3.1.38 The conservation objectives for the North York Moors SPA are to:
- 3.1.39 Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;
- The population of each of the qualifying features; and
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

3.1.40 The conservation objectives for the North York Moors SAC are to:

3.1.41 Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:

- The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats;
- The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats; and
- The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely.

***Potentially damaging operations***

3.1.42 Natural England has prepared a list of potentially damaging operations for each component SSSI within the North York Moors SPA/SAC. Examination of these lists reveals that potentially damaging operations, i.e. those with the potential to cause deterioration or disturbance of the sites’ qualifying interests, can broadly be categorised as shown in Table 4 (see **Appendix A** for a full list).

Table 4: Potentially Damaging Operations: North York Moors SPA / SAC constituent SSSI

| Potentially Damaging Operation                                | Potential Impact Mechanisms Arising From The Local Plan  |
|---|--|
| Direct habitat loss or disturbance                            | None of the proposed Local Plan policies will result in direct habitat loss within the SPA / Ramsar site.  |
| Changes in habitat management                                 | None of the proposed Local Plan policies will result in changes in land management with the SPA / Ramsar site.   |
| Application of materials, chemicals or other substances       | Increased local population could result in greater incidences of fly tipping etc, although this is unlikely given the remoteness of the site from any areas of development proposed within the Local Plan. Some development types could result in pollutants being released, such as dust and vehicle emissions, but again, the distance of development allocations from the site makes such effects unlikely. |
| Killing, injuring, taking or removal of wild animals          | This is unlikely to be a significant issue, given the distance of the majority of allocations identified within the Local Plan from the SPA / SAC.   |
| Drainage and alteration of ground and/or surface water levels | None of the proposed Local Plan policies are likely to result in changes in drainage with the SPA / SAC site.  |
| Mineral extraction  | Mineral extraction is covered by a separate plan.  |
| Recreation and other activities                               | Increased local population in RCBC could result in greater   |

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| resulting in disturbance | incidences of recreational disturbance and damage. |
|--------------------------|--|

**SSSI Condition Assessment**

3.1.43 The SSSI condition assessment indicates that only a limited extent of the North York Moors is currently considered to be in favourable condition (Table 4). However, the reason for its current condition is primarily due to inappropriate management, including grazing and burning. These impacts are therefore controlled by land owners and managers. Whilst recreational visitors may give rise to disturbance impacts of birds, for example, they are less likely to contribute significantly to the underlying issues that have resulted in the decline of the site (although increased risk of accidental fires, for example, cannot be ruled out). Recreational pressures in combination with other pressures could be significant against a baseline which largely reflects unfavourable conservation status.

Table 5: Summary of SSSI condition assessments for component SSSI within the North York Moors SPS and SAC

| Component SSSI   | Condition Assessment           | Condition Assessment comments  |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| North York Moors | 92.31% unfavourable recovering | Burning of dry heath, overgrazing by sheep, limited wet heath extent, less than 10% heather in mature growth phase in many units of dry heath, bracken encroachment, lack of indicator species for wet heath and blanket bog, high abundance of <i>Juncus effusus</i> in wet heath, lack of dwarf shrub diversity  |
|                  | 0.19% unfavourable no change   | Complex mosaic of dry and wet heath, bracken stands, acid grassland and <i>Juncus effusus</i> -dominated mire. Dry heath: lack of bryophytes and lichens, of dwarf shrub diversity. <i>Calluna</i> stands are in the pioneer and building phases. In wet heath areas <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> are present throughout; the former is locally dominant and the latter locally abundant. |
|                  | 0.12% unfavourable declining   | Inappropriate burning of wet heath, bracken cover, cover of dwarf shrub, presence of indicator species, overgrazing and the significant risk that the extent of certain features of interest will decrease.  |
|                  | 7.37% favourable               |  |

## 4 Screening Assessment Results

### 4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 During the screening stage a simple and precautionary approach has been adopted whereby elements of the Local Plan that are unlikely to have a significant effect (i.e. there is no clear impact mechanism) on a Natura 2000 site when implemented, either alone or in combination, with other plans or projects have been identified. These policies have then been screened out from further assessment. The results of this screening exercise are presented in Table B.2 and B.3 in **Appendix B**.
- 4.1.2 For those elements of the Local Plan where a potential LSE has been identified, consideration has been given to whether other policy provisions already contained within the Local Plan would prevent LSE occurring. Where it has not been possible to demonstrate this robustly, consideration has been given to simple amendments to policy wording and/or to mitigation measures that could be included within the next draft of the Local Plan/HRA that would allow a conclusion of no LSE to be reached. The results of this stage of the assessment are presented in Table B.4
- 4.1.3 Following the steps described above, any remaining elements of the Local Plan that could still lead to LSE on one or more Natura 2000 Sites have been recommended for full appropriate assessment, to assess the potential for adverse effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 Sites. Again, the results of this assessment are presented in Table B.4 in **Appendix B**.
- 4.1.4 A summary of the results of the assessment is presented in Table 6, below

Table 6: Results of HRA Screening Assessment

| Local Plan Chapter/Policy/Allocation number | Description                      | Potential for Likely Significant Effects              |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Foreword                                    | Preamble to the draft Local Plan | NO  |
| Chapter 1                                   | Introduction                     | NO  |
| SD1   | Sustainable Development          | NO  |
| SD2   | Locational Policy                | NO  |
| SD3   | Development Limits               | YES   |
| SD4   | General Development Principles   | NO  |
| SD5   | Developer Contributions          | NO  |
| SD6   | Renewable and Low Carbon Energy  | NO, subject to implementation of recommended measures |
| SD7   | Flood and Water Management       | NO  |
| LS1   | Urban Area Spatial Strategy      | NO  |

|               |   |  |
|---------------|---|--|
| LS2           | Coastal Area Spatial Strategy                               | YES  |
| LS3           | Rural Communities Spatial Strategy                          | NO   |
| LS4           | South Tees Spatial Strategy                                 | YES  |
| REG 1         | Coatham   | YES  |
| REG 2         | Kirkleatham   | NO   |
| REG 3         | Skelton   | NO   |
| ED1           | Protecting and Enhancing the Borough's Centres              | NO   |
| ED2           | Cleveland Retail Park                                       | NO   |
| ED3           | Hot food takeaways  | NO   |
| ED4           | Retail development on Industrial Estates and Business Parks | NO   |
| ED5           | Advertisements  | NO   |
| ED6           | Protecting Employment Areas                                 | YES  |
| ED7           | Cleveland Gate  | NO   |
| ED8           | Rural Economy   | NO   |
| ED9           | Leisure and Tourism Development                             | YES  |
| ED10          | Tees Motorsport Park  | NO   |
| ED11          | Caravan Sites and Tourist Accommodation                     | YES  |
| ED12          | New Hotel and Guest House Accommodation                     | YES  |
| ED13          | Equestrian Development                                      | NO, subject to implementation of recommended measures. |
| H1            | Housing Requirements  | NO   |
| H2            | Type and mix of housing                                     | NO   |
| H3.1 to H3.31 | Housing Allocations   | YES  |
| H4            | Affordable Housing  | NO   |

|     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
| H5  | Sub-division and conversion of buildings to residential uses | YES |
| H6  | Houses in Multiple Occupation                                | YES |
| H7  | Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation     | NO  |
| N1  | Landscape  | NO  |
| N2  | Green Infrastructure   | NO  |
| N3  | Provision of Open Space                                      | NO  |
| N4  | Biodiversity and Geological Conservation                     | NO  |
| HE1 | Conservation Areas   | NO  |
| HE2 | Heritage Assets  | NO  |
| HE3 | Archaeological Sites and Monuments                           | NO  |
| TA1 | Demand Management Measures                                   | NO  |
| TA2 | Travel Plans   | NO  |
| TA3 | Improving Accessibility within and beyond the Borough        | NO  |
| TA4 | Sustainable Transport Networks                               | YES |

## 4.2 Summary of Policies with Potential LSE

- 4.2.1 Twelve of the policies contained within the draft Local Plan have been identified as having potential to lead to LSE, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The nature of potential impacts associated with each draft policy is set out in Table 7 overleaf.



Table 7: Potential Impacts arising from draft Local Plan policies that could lead to LSE

| Policy  | Nature of potential impacts   |
|---|---|
| SD3: Development Limits                       | This policy sets development limits which also include small areas within the proposed extension of the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA, with other development limits in close proximity to both the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA and Ramsar Site and North York Moors SAC and SPA.   |
| LS2: Coastal Area Strategy                    | This policy promotes development in coastal areas, including locations in close proximity to the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA and Ramsar Site. Impacts on SPA and Ramsar site bird species could arise as a result of increased recreational and other use of coastal habitats. The potential effects of increased water supply requirements, waste water discharges and potential increases in emissions from motor vehicles on Natura 2000 sites also require consideration.   |
| LS4: South Tees Spatial Strategy              | This policy relates to the industrial area located along the southern shore of the Tees Estuary, and whilst promoting the protection of the adjacent Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA AND Ramsar Site, it also promotes development in the area.   |
| REG1: Coatham                                 | This Policy allocates an 8.7 ha site at Coatham Sands (adjacent to the northern edge of Redcar) for a mixed use development comprising of leisure, tourism and visitor uses. The allocation is located adjacent to the Coatham Sands SSSI component of the Redcar and Cleveland SPA and Ramsar Site. The primary issue is the potential for increased recreational impacts to SPA and Ramsar site bird species.   |
| ED6: Protecting Employment Areas              | This policy identifies several areas within Redcar and Cleveland that will be protected as existing/potential employment land. The largest allocation within the Local Plan area is located adjacent to the River Tees and includes areas within the boundary of the proposed Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA extension. As the policy promotes development activities within and adjacent to a Natura 2000 Site, detailed consideration of the potential for LSE is required.  |
| ED9: Leisure and Tourist development          | This policy promotes leisure and tourism, which could potentially result in increased recreational pressure on the SPA at Redcar, particular as the seafront at Redcar and Coatham are identified as key leisure areas. ED9 also includes policy wording that promotes the use of the North York Moors National Park, which includes the North York Moors SPA / SAC and could increase recreational pressures on those sites. The potential effects of increased water supply requirements, waste water discharges and potential increases in emissions from motor vehicles also require consideration. |
| ED11: Caravan Sites and Tourist Accommodation | This policy sets out criteria for caravan sites and tourist accommodation in relation to site selection and suitability although no specific allocations are identified. This policy could therefore contribute to increased recreational pressures on Natura 2000 Sites within the Local Plan area.  |
| ED12: New Hotel and Guest House               | This policy sets out criteria for new hotel and guest house accommodation although no specific allocations are identified. This   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Accommodation  | policy could therefore contribute to increased recreational pressures on Natura 2000 Sites within the Local Plan area, through the promotion of increased tourism.   |
| H3.1 to H3.31:<br>Housing Allocations                            | This policy identifies 31 housing site allocations, many of which are located within 6 km of the Natura 2000 Sites in the Local Plan area. An increased number of residents within the Local Plan area could lead to a corresponding increase in recreational use of publicly accessible parts of the Natura 2000 Sites. This could in turn lead to increased disturbance of the habitats and species that make up the qualifying interests of Natura 2000 sites in the Local Plan area. Other effects, for example air pollution arising from increased traffic movements and reductions in water quality due to increased pressure on waste water treatment works, could also arise. |
| H5: Sub-division and conversion of buildings to residential uses | Potential impacts as set out above in relation to Housing Allocations.   |
| H6: Houses in multiple occupation                                | Potential impacts as set out above in relation to Housing Allocations.   |
| TA4: Sustainable Travel Networks                                 | This policy seeks to improve public access to various sites including the coast and North York Moors, with improved walking, cycling and horse riding networks in the borough. Consequently this policy has the potential to impact on Natura 2000 sites by increasing recreational levels in sensitive parts of the North York Moors SPA / SAC and the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site.   |

### 4.3 Conclusions

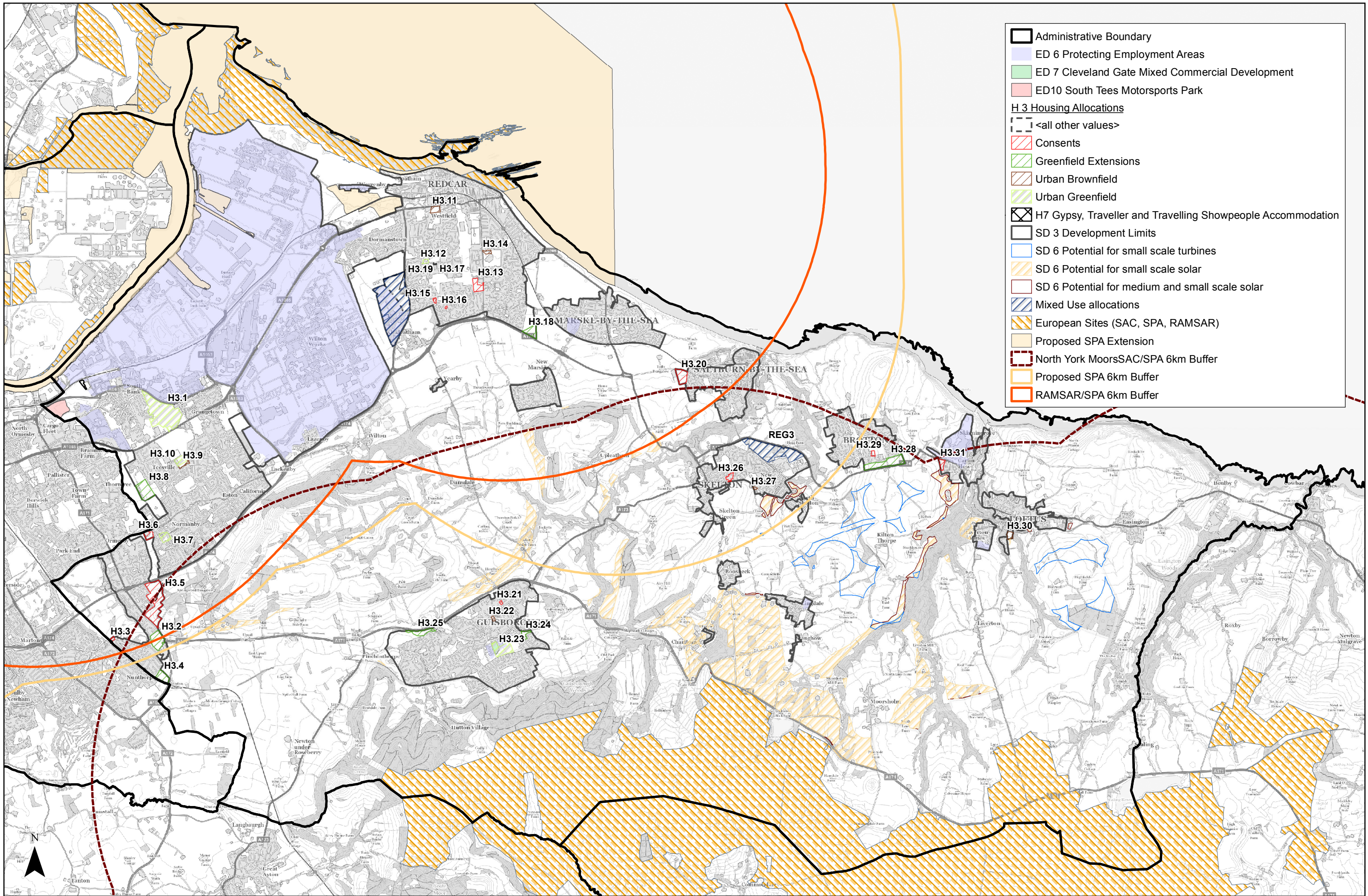
- 4.3.1 Two Natura 2000 Sites, The North York Moors SAC and SPA and the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site, could potentially be affected by the policies and allocations contained within the draft Local Plan. No other Natura 2000 sites are expected to be affected, primarily due to the distance of these from the Local Plan area (see paragraphs 4.1.2 to 4.1.4).
- 4.3.2 This screening exercise has identified that the majority of policies and allocations in the draft Local Plan will not result in Likely Significant Effects (LSE) to the identified Natura 2000 Sites within the Local Plan area. These policies and allocations are not therefore considered to require further assessment in relation to the Conservation Regulations, and, subject to the opinion of Natural England, may be authorised by RCBC as the competent authority with responsibility for publication of the Local Plan.
- 4.3.3 The screening exercise has identified that twelve of the policies and allocations within the draft Local Plan could result in LSE to the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA and Ramsar Site or the North York Moors SPA / SAC. In most instances, LSE are associated with the potential for policies promoting tourism or an increased number of residents in the Local Plan area to lead to increased recreational pressures on the Natura 2000 sites. Employment land allocations located within or adjacent to the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA and Ramsar site could also lead to LSE.
- 4.3.4 For those policies where the potential for LSE has been identified, as set out in Table 7, an Appropriate Assessment (stage 2 of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process) is

required. In accordance with the Conservation Regulations (2010, as amended), this assessment will investigate the plans and policies with potential LSE, to determine whether these could result in adverse effects to the integrity of the Natura 2000 Sites within the Local Plan area.

## 5 Figures

Figure 2: Natura 2000 Sites within the Local Plan Area





- Administrative Boundary
- ED 6 Protecting Employment Areas
- ED 7 Cleveland Gate Mixed Commercial Development
- ED10 South Tees Motorsports Park
- H 3 Housing Allocations**
- <all other values>
- Consents
- Greenfield Extensions
- Urban Brownfield
- Urban Greenfield
- H7 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation
- SD 3 Development Limits
- SD 6 Potential for small scale turbines
- SD 6 Potential for small scale solar
- SD 6 Potential for medium and small scale solar
- Mixed Use allocations
- European Sites (SAC, SPA, RAMSAR)
- Proposed SPA Extension
- North York Moors SAC/SPA 6km Buffer
- Proposed SPA 6km Buffer
- RAMSAR/SPA 6km Buffer



Client:  
Redcar and Cleveland District  
Council

1:70,000 @ A3  
27/05/16  
Drawn: CM  
Checked: CP

**Redcar and Cleveland Local Plan Allocations**



# Appendix A Designated Site Citations



## European Site Conservation Objectives for North York Moors Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9006161

With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

**Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;**

- **The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely**
- **The population of each of the qualifying features, and,**
- **The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.**

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

### **Qualifying Features:**

A098 *Falco columbarius*; Merlin (Breeding)

A140 *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (Breeding)

## Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the “Habitats Regulations”) and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a ‘Habitats Regulations Assessment’ including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where this is available) will also provide a framework to inform the management of the European Site under the provisions of Articles 4(1) and 4(2) of the Wild Birds Directive, and the prevention of deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance of its qualifying features required under Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each bird feature for a [Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive.

**Publication date:** 30 June 2014 (Version 2). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England’s Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014.





## European Site Conservation Objectives for North York Moors Special Area of Conservation Site code: UK0030228

With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

**Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;**

- **The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats**
- **The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats, and,**
- **The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely**

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

### **Qualifying Features:**

H4010. Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath

H4030. European dry heaths

H7130. Blanket bogs\*

\* denotes a priority natural habitat or species (supporting explanatory text on following page)

## \* Priority natural habitats or species

Some of the natural habitats and species listed in the Habitats Directive and for which SACs have been selected are considered to be particular priorities for conservation at a European scale and are subject to special provisions in the Directive and the Habitats Regulations. These priority natural habitats and species are denoted by an asterisk (\*) in Annex I and II of the Directive. The term 'priority' is also used in other contexts, for example with reference to particular habitats or species that are prioritised in UK Biodiversity Action Plans. It is important to note however that these are not necessarily the priority natural habitats or species within the meaning of the Habitats Directive or the Habitats Regulations.

## Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment', including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where available) will also provide a framework to inform the measures needed to conserve or restore the European Site and the prevention of deterioration or significant disturbance of its qualifying features as required by the provisions of Article 6(1) and 6(2) of the Directive.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each habitat or species of a [Special Area of Conservation \(SAC\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving Favourable Conservation Status for that species or habitat type at a UK level. The term 'favourable conservation status' is defined in Article 1 of the Habitats Directive.

**Publication date:** 30 June 2014 – version 2. This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England's Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014.

## EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds: Special Protection Area (SPA)

**Name:** North York Moors

**Unitary Authority/County:** North Yorkshire County and Redcar & Cleveland Unitary Authority

**Consultation proposal:** North York Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (which includes the renotification of Tripsdale SSSI, Fylingdales Moor SSSI and May Moss SSSI) has been recommended has a Special Protection Area because of the site's European Ornithological importance.

The North York Moors SPA contains the largest continuous tract of heather moorland in England. The site displays a wide range of high quality dry heathland and blanket bog vegetation types dominated by *Calluna*. The transition from dry heathland to blanket bog is complemented by a diverse mosaic of wet heath and flush communities.

**Boundary of SPA:** The SPA boundary is coincident with North York Moors SSSI. See SPA map for detail of boundary.

**Size of SPA:** The SPA covers an area of 44,087.68 ha.

**European ornithological importance of the SPA:** North York Moors SPA is of European importance because:

The site qualifies under **article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the Great Britain population of two species listed in Annex I in any season:

| Annex I species                          | Estimated breeding population 1996 | % GB population |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>          | 35 - 40 pairs                      | 2.7 - 3.1 % GB  |
| Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> | 526 -706 pairs                     | 2.3- 3.1 % GB   |

### Data sources:

Charlton, T. & Archer, R (1996). *North York Moors National Park breeding wader survey 1996*. RSPB.

Nattrass, M. & Downing, R. (1991) *Survey of merlins breeding in the North York Moors National Park, 1991*. RSPB.

Rebecca, G. & Bainbridge, I (In press) The status of breeding merlin *Falco columbarius* in Britain in 1993-94. *Bird study*.

Stone, B.H., Sears, J.E., Cranswick, P.A., Gregory, R.D., Gibbons, D.W., Rehfisch, M.M., Aebischer, N.J. & Reid, J.B. (1997) Population estimates of birds in Britain and the United Kingdom. *British Birds* 90:1-22.

### Non-qualifying species of interest

In addition, the site supports a rich upland breeding bird assemblage which includes Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*, Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* and Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* (all Annex I species), together with Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus scoticus* and a nationally important population of Curlew *Numenius arquata*.

### Status of SPA:

North York Moors was classified as a Special Protection Area on 12 May 2000.

# NATURA 2000 – STANDARD DATA FORM

## **Special Areas of Conservation under the EC Habitats Directive (includes candidate SACs, Sites of Community Importance and designated SACs).**

Each Natura 2000 site in the United Kingdom has its own Standard Data Form containing site-specific information. The data form for this site has been generated from the Natura 2000 Database submitted to the European Commission on the following date:

22/12/2015

The information provided here, follows the officially agreed site information format for Natura 2000 sites, as set out in the [Official Journal of the European Union recording the Commission Implementing Decision of 11 July 2011](#) (2011/484/EU).

The Standard Data Forms are generated automatically for all of the UK's Natura 2000 sites using the European Environment Agency's Natura 2000 software. The structure and format of these forms is exactly as produced by the EEA's Natura 2000 software (except for the addition of this coversheet and the end notes). The content matches exactly the data submitted to the European Commission.

Please note that these forms contain a number of codes, all of which are explained either within the data forms themselves or in the end notes.

Further technical documentation may be found here  
[http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Natura\\_2000/reference\\_portal](http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Natura_2000/reference_portal)

As part of the December 2015 submission, several sections of the UK's previously published Standard Data Forms have been updated. For details of the approach taken by the UK in this submission please refer to the following document:  
[http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000\\_StandardDataForm\\_UKApproach\\_Dec2015.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000_StandardDataForm_UKApproach_Dec2015.pdf)

More general information on Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in the United Kingdom is available from the [SAC home page on the JNCC website](#). This webpage also provides links to Standard Data Forms for all SACs in the UK.

Date form generated by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee  
25 January 2016.



# NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),  
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),  
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and  
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE UK0030228  
SITENAME North York Moors

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- [5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS AND RELATION WITH CORINE BIOTOPES](#)
- [6. SITE MANAGEMENT](#)

## 1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

|                      |                                   |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>1.1 Type</b><br>B | <b>1.2 Site code</b><br>UK0030228 | <a href="#">Back to top</a> |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|

### 1.3 Site name

North York Moors

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>1.4 First Compilation date</b><br>2001-03 | <b>1.5 Update date</b><br>2015-12 |
|--|-----------------------------------|

### 1.6 Respondent:

**Name/Organisation:** Joint Nature Conservation Committee  
**Address:** Joint Nature Conservation Committee Monkstone House City Road Peterborough  
PE1 1JY  
**Email:**

**Date site proposed as SCI:** 2001-03  
**Date site confirmed as SCI:** 2004-12  
**Date site designated as SAC:** 2005-04

**National legal reference of SAC designation:**

Regulations 11 and 13-15 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010  
(<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made>).

## 2. SITE LOCATION

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## 2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

### Longitude

-0.904166667

### Latitude

54.40916667

## 2.2 Area [ha]:

44053.29

## 2.3 Marine area [%]

0.0

## 2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

## 2.5 Administrative region code and name

### NUTS level 2 code

### Region Name

|      |                        |
|------|------------------------|
| UKC1 | Tees Valley and Durham |
| UKE2 | North Yorkshire        |

## 2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (100.0  
%)

## 3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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### 3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

| Annex I Habitat types |    |    |            |               |              | Site assessment  |                  |              |        |
|-----------------------|----|----|------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|--------|
| Code                  | PF | NP | Cover [ha] | Cave [number] | Data quality | A B C D          | A B C            |              |        |
|                       |    |    |            |               |              | Representativity | Relative Surface | Conservation | Global |
| 4010                  |    |    | 8163.07    |               | G            | A                | C                | B            | A      |
| 4030                  |    |    | 24057.5    |               | G            | B                | B                | B            | A      |
| 7130                  | X  |    | 524.23     |               | G            | C                | C                | B            | C      |

- **PF:** for the habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (6210, 7130, 9430) enter "X" in the column PF to indicate the priority form.
- **NP:** in case that a habitat type no longer exists in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Cover:** decimal values can be entered
- **Caves:** for habitat types 8310, 8330 (caves) enter the number of caves if estimated surface is not available.
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation)

## 4. SITE DESCRIPTION

#### 4.1 General site character

| Habitat class              | % Cover    |
|----------------------------|------------|
| N23                        | 1.0        |
| N08                        | 73.0       |
| N19                        | 1.0        |
| N16                        | 2.0        |
| N09                        | 15.0       |
| N06                        | 1.0        |
| N10                        | 2.0        |
| N17                        | 1.0        |
| N07                        | 4.0        |
| <b>Total Habitat Cover</b> | <b>100</b> |

#### Other Site Characteristics

1 Terrestrial: Soil & Geology: nutrient-poor,acidic,sandstone,limestone,peat 2 Terrestrial: Geomorphology and landscape: upland,hilly

#### 4.2 Quality and importance

Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. European dry heaths for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Blanket bogs for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

#### 4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

| Negative Impacts |                              |                             |                        |
|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Rank             | Threats and pressures [code] | Pollution (optional) [code] | inside/outside [i o b] |
| H                | M01                          |                             | B                      |
| H                | H04                          |                             | B                      |
| H                | I01                          |                             | B                      |
| H                | K04                          |                             | I                      |
| H                | J01                          |                             | I                      |

| Positive Impacts |                               |                             |                        |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Rank             | Activities, management [code] | Pollution (optional) [code] | inside/outside [i o b] |
| H                | B02                           |                             | I                      |
| H                | A04                           |                             | I                      |
| H                | A03                           |                             | I                      |
| H                | A02                           |                             | I                      |
| H                | B06                           |                             | I                      |

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low

Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,

T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions

i = inside, o = outside, b = both

#### 4.5 Documentation

Conservation Objectives - the Natural England links below provide access to the Conservation Objectives (and other site-related information) for its terrestrial and inshore Natura 2000 sites, including conservation advice packages and supporting documents for European Marine Sites within English waters and for cross-border sites. See also the 'UK Approach' document for more information (link via the JNCC website).

Link(s): <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216>

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/3212324>

[http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000\\_StandardDataForm\\_UKApproach\\_Dec2015.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000_StandardDataForm_UKApproach_Dec2015.pdf)

## 5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

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### 5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

| Code | Cover [%] | Code | Cover [%] | Code | Cover [%] |
|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|
| UK04 | 100.0     |      |           |      |           |

## 6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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### 6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

|               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Organisation: | Natural England |
| Address:      |                 |
| Email:        |                 |

### 6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

|                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Yes                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | No, but in preparation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No                     |

### 6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

For available information, including on Conservation Objectives, see Section 4.5.



## EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN THE NATURA 2000 STANDARD DATA FORMS

The codes in the table below are also explained in the [official European Union guidelines for the Standard Data Form](#). The relevant page is shown in the table below.

### 1.1 Site type

| CODE | DESCRIPTION   | PAGE NO |
|------|---|---------|
| A    | Designated Special Protection Area  | 53      |
| B    | SAC (includes candidates Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance and designated SAC) | 53      |
| C    | SAC area the same as SPA. Note in the UK Natura 2000 submission this is only used for Gibraltar           | 53      |

### 3.1 Habitat representativity

| CODE | DESCRIPTION              | PAGE NO |
|------|--------------------------|---------|
| A    | Excellent                | 57      |
| B    | Good                     | 57      |
| C    | Significant              | 57      |
| D    | Non-significant presence | 57      |

### 3.1 Habitat code

| CODE | DESCRIPTION  | PAGE NO |
|------|--|---------|
| 1110 | Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time   | 57      |
| 1130 | Estuaries  | 57      |
| 1140 | Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide   | 57      |
| 1150 | Coastal lagoons  | 57      |
| 1160 | Large shallow inlets and bays  | 57      |
| 1170 | Reefs  | 57      |
| 1180 | Submarine structures made by leaking gases   | 57      |
| 1210 | Annual vegetation of drift lines   | 57      |
| 1220 | Perennial vegetation of stony banks  | 57      |
| 1230 | Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts   | 57      |
| 1310 | Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand   | 57      |
| 1320 | Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae)   | 57      |
| 1330 | Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)  | 57      |
| 1340 | Inland salt meadows  | 57      |
| 1420 | Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)   | 57      |
| 2110 | Embryonic shifting dunes   | 57      |
| 2120 | Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes")   | 57      |
| 2130 | Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")  | 57      |
| 2140 | Decalcified fixed dunes with Empetrum nigrum   | 57      |
| 2150 | Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea)  | 57      |
| 2160 | Dunes with Hippophila rhamnoides   | 57      |
| 2170 | Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae)   | 57      |
| 2190 | Humid dune slacks  | 57      |
| 21A0 | Machairs (* in Ireland)  | 57      |
| 2250 | Coastal dunes with Juniperus spp.  | 57      |
| 2330 | Inland dunes with open Corynephorus and Agrostis grasslands  | 57      |
| 3110 | Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)                                 | 57      |
| 3130 | Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea | 57      |
| 3140 | Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.  | 57      |
| 3150 | Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation   | 57      |

| CODE | DESCRIPTION   | PAGE NO |
|------|---|---------|
| 3160 | Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds  | 57      |
| 3170 | Mediterranean temporary ponds   | 57      |
| 3180 | Turloughs   | 57      |
| 3260 | Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation                        | 57      |
| 4010 | Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix  | 57      |
| 4020 | Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix  | 57      |
| 4030 | European dry heaths   | 57      |
| 4040 | Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with Erica vagans   | 57      |
| 4060 | Alpine and Boreal heaths  | 57      |
| 4080 | Sub-Arctic Salix spp. scrub   | 57      |
| 5110 | Stable xerothermophilous formations with Buxus sempervirens on rock slopes (Berberidion p.p.)   | 57      |
| 5130 | Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands  | 57      |
| 6130 | Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae  | 57      |
| 6150 | Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands  | 57      |
| 6170 | Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands  | 57      |
| 6210 | Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)             | 57      |
| 6230 | Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe)               | 57      |
| 6410 | Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)  | 57      |
| 6430 | Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels   | 57      |
| 6510 | Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)   | 57      |
| 6520 | Mountain hay meadows  | 57      |
| 7110 | Active raised bogs  | 57      |
| 7120 | Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration  | 57      |
| 7130 | Blanket bogs (* if active bog)  | 57      |
| 7140 | Transition mires and quaking bogs   | 57      |
| 7150 | Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion  | 57      |
| 7210 | Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae   | 57      |
| 7220 | Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)   | 57      |
| 7230 | Alkaline fens   | 57      |
| 7240 | Alpine pioneer formations of the Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae  | 57      |
| 8110 | Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)                                      | 57      |
| 8120 | Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii)  | 57      |
| 8210 | Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation  | 57      |
| 8220 | Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation   | 57      |
| 8240 | Limestone pavements   | 57      |
| 8310 | Caves not open to the public  | 57      |
| 8330 | Submerged or partially submerged sea caves  | 57      |
| 9120 | Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion) | 57      |
| 9130 | Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests  | 57      |
| 9160 | Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests of the Carpinion betuli   | 57      |
| 9180 | Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines   | 57      |
| 9190 | Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains   | 57      |
| 91A0 | Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles   | 57      |
| 91C0 | Caledonian forest   | 57      |
| 91D0 | Bog woodland  | 57      |
| 91E0 | Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)                            | 57      |
| 91J0 | Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles  | 57      |

### 3.1 Relative surface

| CODE | DESCRIPTION | PAGE NO |
|------|-------------|---------|
| A    | 15%-100%    | 58      |
| B    | 2%-15%      | 58      |
| C    | < 2%        | 58      |

### 3.1 Conservation status habitat

| CODE | DESCRIPTION                     | PAGE NO |
|------|---------------------------------|---------|
| A    | Excellent conservation          | 59      |
| B    | Good conservation               | 59      |
| C    | Average or reduced conservation | 59      |

### 3.1 Global grade habitat

| CODE | DESCRIPTION       | PAGE NO |
|------|-------------------|---------|
| A    | Excellent value   | 59      |
| B    | Good value        | 59      |
| C    | Significant value | 59      |

### 3.2 Population (abbreviated to 'Pop.' in data form)

| CODE | DESCRIPTION                | PAGE NO |
|------|----------------------------|---------|
| A    | 15%-100%                   | 62      |
| B    | 2%-15%                     | 62      |
| C    | < 2%                       | 62      |
| D    | Non-significant population | 62      |

### 3.2 Conservation status species (abbreviated to 'Con.' in data form)

| CODE | DESCRIPTION                     | PAGE NO |
|------|---------------------------------|---------|
| A    | Excellent conservation          | 63      |
| B    | Good conservation               | 63      |
| C    | Average or reduced conservation | 63      |

### 3.2 Isolation (abbreviated to 'Iso.' in data form)

| CODE | DESCRIPTION   | PAGE NO |
|------|---|---------|
| A    | Population (almost) Isolated                                    | 63      |
| B    | Population not-isolated, but on margins of area of distribution | 63      |
| C    | Population not-isolated within extended distribution range      | 63      |

### 3.2 Global Grade (abbreviated to 'Glo.' Or 'G.' in data form)

| CODE | DESCRIPTION       | PAGE NO |
|------|-------------------|---------|
| A    | Excellent value   | 63      |
| B    | Good value        | 63      |
| C    | Significant value | 63      |

### 3.3 Assemblages types

| CODE | DESCRIPTION  | PAGE NO          |
|------|--|------------------|
| WATR | Non breeding waterfowl assemblage                                    | UK specific code |
| SBA  | Breeding seabird assemblage  | UK specific code |
| BBA  | Breeding bird assemblage (applies only to sites classified pre 2000) | UK specific code |

#### 4.1 Habitat class code

| CODE | DESCRIPTION  | PAGE NO |
|------|--|---------|
| N01  | Marine areas, Sea inlets   | 65      |
| N02  | Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins)            | 65      |
| N03  | Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes  | 65      |
| N04  | Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair  | 65      |
| N05  | Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets  | 65      |
| N06  | Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)  | 65      |
| N07  | Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens  | 65      |
| N08  | Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana  | 65      |
| N09  | Dry grassland, Steppes   | 65      |
| N10  | Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland   | 65      |
| N11  | Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland  | 65      |
| N14  | Improved grassland   | 65      |
| N15  | Other arable land  | 65      |
| N16  | Broad-leaved deciduous woodland  | 65      |
| N17  | Coniferous woodland  | 65      |
| N19  | Mixed woodland   | 65      |
| N21  | Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including Orchards, groves, Vineyards, Dehesas) | 65      |
| N22  | Inland rocks, Screes, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice  | 65      |
| N23  | Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites)           | 65      |
| N25  | Grassland and scrub habitats (general)   | 65      |
| N26  | Woodland habitats (general)  | 65      |

#### 4.3 Threats code

| CODE | DESCRIPTION  | PAGE NO |
|------|--|---------|
| A01  | Cultivation  | 65      |
| A02  | Modification of cultivation practices                      | 65      |
| A03  | Mowing / cutting of grassland                              | 65      |
| A04  | Grazing  | 65      |
| A05  | Livestock farming and animal breeding (without grazing)    | 65      |
| A06  | Annual and perennial non-timber crops                      | 65      |
| A07  | Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals                    | 65      |
| A08  | Fertilisation  | 65      |
| A10  | Restructuring agricultural land holding                    | 65      |
| A11  | Agriculture activities not referred to above               | 65      |
| B01  | Forest planting on open ground                             | 65      |
| B02  | Forest and Plantation management & use                     | 65      |
| B03  | Forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth | 65      |
| B04  | Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry)         | 65      |
| B06  | Grazing in forests/ woodland                               | 65      |
| B07  | Forestry activities not referred to above                  | 65      |
| C01  | Mining and quarrying                                       | 65      |
| C02  | Exploration and extraction of oil or gas                   | 65      |
| C03  | Renewable abiotic energy use                               | 65      |
| D01  | Roads, paths and railroads                                 | 65      |
| D02  | Utility and service lines                                  | 65      |
| D03  | Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions                | 65      |
| D04  | Airports, flightpaths                                      | 65      |
| D05  | Improved access to site                                    | 65      |
| E01  | Urbanised areas, human habitation                          | 65      |
| E02  | Industrial or commercial areas                             | 65      |

| CODE | DESCRIPTION  | PAGE NO |
|------|--|---------|
| E03  | Discharges   | 65      |
| E04  | Structures, buildings in the landscape   | 65      |
| E06  | Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities  | 65      |
| F01  | Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture  | 65      |
| F02  | Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources   | 65      |
| F03  | Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including damage caused by game (excessive density), and taking/removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc.), trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control, accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear), etc.) | 65      |
| F04  | Taking / Removal of terrestrial plants, general  | 65      |
| F05  | Illegal taking/ removal of marine fauna  | 65      |
| F06  | Hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above  | 65      |
| G01  | Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities   | 65      |
| G02  | Sport and leisure structures   | 65      |
| G03  | Interpretative centres   | 65      |
| G04  | Military use and civil unrest  | 65      |
| G05  | Other human intrusions and disturbances  | 65      |
| H01  | Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)  | 65      |
| H02  | Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)   | 65      |
| H03  | Marine water pollution   | 65      |
| H04  | Air pollution, air-borne pollutants  | 65      |
| H05  | Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges)  | 65      |
| H06  | Excess energy  | 65      |
| H07  | Other forms of pollution   | 65      |
| I01  | Invasive non-native species  | 65      |
| I02  | Problematic native species   | 65      |
| I03  | Introduced genetic material, GMO   | 65      |
| J01  | Fire and fire suppression  | 65      |
| J02  | Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions  | 65      |
| J03  | Other ecosystem modifications  | 65      |
| K01  | Abiotic (slow) natural processes   | 65      |
| K02  | Biocenotic evolution, succession   | 65      |
| K03  | Interspecific faunal relations   | 65      |
| K04  | Interspecific floral relations   | 65      |
| K05  | Reduced fecundity/ genetic depression  | 65      |
| L05  | Collapse of terrain, landslide   | 65      |
| L07  | Storm, cyclone   | 65      |
| L08  | Inundation (natural processes)   | 65      |
| L10  | Other natural catastrophes   | 65      |
| M01  | Changes in abiotic conditions  | 65      |
| M02  | Changes in biotic conditions   | 65      |
| U    | Unknown threat or pressure   | 65      |
| XO   | Threats and pressures from outside the Member State  | 65      |

### 5.1 Designation type codes

| CODE | DESCRIPTION                              | PAGE NO |
|------|--|---------|
| UK00 | No Protection Status                     | 67      |
| UK01 | National Nature Reserve                  | 67      |
| UK02 | Marine Nature Reserve                    | 67      |
| UK04 | Site of Special Scientific Interest (UK) | 67      |



## European Site Conservation Objectives for Teessmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9006061

With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

**Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;**

- **The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely**
- **The population of each of the qualifying features, and,**
- **The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.**

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

### **Qualifying Features:**

- A143 *Calidris canutus*; Red knot (Non-breeding)
  - A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding)
  - A191 *Sterna sandvicensis*; Sandwich tern (Non-breeding)
  - A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)
- Waterbird assemblage

## This is a European Marine Site

This SPA is a part of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast European Marine Site (EMS). These Conservation Objectives should be used in conjunction with the Regulation 35 Conservation Advice document for the EMS. For further details about this please visit the Natural England website at: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/protectandmanage/mpa/europeansites.aspx> or contact Natural England's enquiry service at [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk) or by phone on 0845 600 3078.

## Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where this is available) will also provide a framework to inform the management of the European Site under the provisions of Articles 4(1) and 4(2) of the Wild Birds Directive, and the prevention of deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance of its qualifying features required under Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each bird feature for a [Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive.

**Publication date:** 30 June 2014 (Version 2). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England's Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014. Previous references to additional features identified in the 2001 UK SPA Review have also been removed.

## Appendix B Screening Matrices

### B.1 Redcar and Cleveland Draft Local Plan: LSE Screening Matrices

B.1.1 Table B.2, sets out the results of the screening assessment for the draft Local Plan. In order to minimise repetition, a series of standard categories have been used to describe the results of the HRA screening. The categories used have been generated in accordance with the guidance presented within the Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook, and are presented in Table B.1, below. Categories K and L are not used in Table B.2, as they relate to the full in-combination assessment, which is presented in Table B.3.

Table B.1: LSE Screening Categories

| Screening Categories   | Potential for Likely Significant Effects?                       |
|--|---|
| A: General statement of policy / general aspiration  | No  |
| B: Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals   | No  |
| C: Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan   | No  |
| D: Environmental Protection / site safeguarding policy   | No  |
| E: Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect Natura 2000 Site from adverse effects  | No  |
| F: Policies or proposals that cannot lead to development or other change   | No  |
| G: Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect upon a Natura 2000 Site   | No  |
| H: Policy or proposal which could not result in any effects with the potential to undermine the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 Site under consideration  | No  |
| I: Policy or proposal with the potential to lead to LSE on one or more Natura 2000 Sites alone.  | Yes   |
| J: Policy or proposal with the potential to result in non-significant effects on one or more Natura 2000 Sites, therefore requires assessment for LSE in-combination with other plans or projects to determine significance. | Requires in-combination assessment to confirm potential for LSE |
| K: Policy or proposal not likely to lead to LSE either alone or in combination   | No  |
| L: Policy or proposal likely to lead to LSE in combination with other plans and/or projects  | Yes   |



Table B.2: Redcar and Cleveland Draft Local Plan Screening Matrices (excluding in-combination effects)

| Local Plan Chapter/Policy/Allocation number | Description                      | LSE Screening Evaluation | Commentary (where applicable)  | Potential for LSE                    |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Foreword                                    | Preamble to the draft Local Plan | A                        | N/A  | NO                                   |
| Chapter 1                                   | Introduction                     | A                        | N/A  | NO                                   |
| SD1   | Sustainable Development          | B                        | Policy will promote development in accordance with the presumption in favour of sustainable development as per the NPPF. Presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply in relation to Natura 2000 sites.   | NO                                   |
| SD2   | Locational Policy                | F                        | Policy identifies hierarchy of locations for delivery of development, which includes some locations located in close proximity to Natura 2000 Sites. However, this is a general aspiration and non-specific in terms of the types, exact locations, or quantum of development proposed. As such the potential for Policy SD1 to impact Natura 2000 sites is better assessed with reference to specific locational policies, for example protected employment land and housing allocations. As such, LSE are not assessed in relation to this Policy, with effects being considered in reaction to Policies H3.1 to H3.31, ED6, and other more specific locational policies.  | NO                                   |
| SD3   | Development Limits               | I                        | This policy establishes development limits around the conurbation and certain towns and villages. In the case of Redcar the development limit abuts the boundary of the Natura 2000 site. It also sets out restrictions that apply outside development limits, but this could potentially include land near Natura 2000 sites.   | YES                                  |
| SD4   | General Development Principles   | B                        | This policy sets out general development principles. It specifies that “...development will be permitted where it... will not result in an adverse impact on a Natura 2000 site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects”.   | NO                                   |
| SD5   | Developer Contributions          | G                        | The collection of developer contributions will not in and of itself lead to any impacts on Natura 2000 Sites. Developer Contributions could potentially be used to deliver infrastructure that might lead to an effect on a Natura 2000 Site. At this stage it is impossible to predict with any certainty the projects that might be funded by developer contributions. It is therefore considered that this policy will not lead to LSE, as it is simply a funding mechanism for delivering specific projects that might or might not lead to LSE (and could indeed deliver positive management or other measures that contribute to the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 Sites. As such, no LSE are expected to arise from Policy SD5.                                    | NO                                   |
| SD6   | Renewable and Low Carbon Energy  | I                        | The policy map accompanying Policy SD6 identifies locations for solar and wind energy developments that are located in close proximity to the North York Moors SAC / SPA. No locations within the SAC are proposed, hence effects on the habitats for which it has been designated are highly unlikely.<br><br>It is conceivable that bird species that are the qualifying interests of the Redcar and Cleveland SPA and Ramsar Site and North York Moors SPA could fly over or otherwise utilise habitats in the areas identified as potentially suitable for solar farm and wind farm development. Mortality of qualifying bird species could occur as a result of collisions with wind turbines.  | YES (in relation to SPA sites only). |
| SD7   | Flood and Water Management       | D                        | This policy sets out the standards that will be required from new developments in relation to managing flood risk and water during new development, rather than promoting development per se. As this policy includes measures to promote the enhancement of biodiversity, and development falling under the provisions of Policy SD7 would also fall under the provisions of Policy N4 (Biodiversity Protection), no LSE are expected. This policy also includes policy wording promoting the delivery of biodiversity enhancement of watercourses during flood risk measures.  | NO                                   |
| LS1   | Urban Area Spatial Strategy      | I                        | This policy promotes the development of the Greater Eston area, which is on the western side of the plan area. The area identified for development is greater than 2 km from the Natura 2000 site boundaries and is separated by a significant industrial area at Redcar in the case of the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA and Ramsar Site. However, the policy could lead to increased recreational impacts on Natura 2000 Sites, via promoting increased numbers of residents and increased recreational activities. The potential effects of increased residential development within the borough are considered in relation to policies H3.1 to H3.31, below, and are not considered to act cumulatively with policy LS3. As such, no LSE are expected in relation to policy LS1. | NO                                   |

| Local Plan Chapter/Policy/Allocation number | Description                                    | LSE Screening Evaluation | Commentary (where applicable)  | Potential for LSE |
|---|--|--------------------------|--|-------------------|
| LS2   | Coastal Area Spatial Strategy                  | I                        | This policy promotes development in coastal areas, including locations in close proximity to the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA and Ramsar Site. It includes the following specific text: <i>"promote and support the sustainable use of the foreshore and dunes in the South Gare and Coatham Sands SSSI, Redcar Rocks SSSI and the Coatham Marsh Nature Reserve whilst protecting and enhancing the features of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA/Ramsar site"</i> . This policy therefore includes specific provisions in relation to the protection of the SPA and Ramsar Site, although it also specifically promotes measures to improve and promote access to its constituent SSSI. As such, detailed assessment and specific measures are likely to be required to demonstrate no adverse effect on the integrity of the Redcar and Cleveland SPA and Ramsar Site in relation to Policy LS2. This is in accordance with the related assessment of Policy REG1 and Natural England's advice on the 2013 version of the previous draft of the Local Plan. Given the areas covered by the Coastal Strategy are in excess of 6 km from the North York Moors SAC and SPA, it is unlikely that the Coastal Area Spatial Strategy will lead to LSE on this site. The potential effects of increased water supply requirements, waste water discharges and potential increases in emissions from motor vehicles also require consideration. | YES               |
| LS3   | Rural Communities Spatial Strategy             | I                        | This policy promotes the development of rural communities, including the provision of new housing in suitable locations. Although the villages are not adjacent to Natura 2000 sites their proximity in certain cases means that effects are possible, considered primarily the risk of increased recreational impacts on the Natura 2000 Sites arising as a result of an increase in the number of residents. The potential effects of increased residential development within the borough are considered in relation to policies H3.1 to H3.31, below, and are not considered to act cumulatively with policy LS3. As such, no LSE are expected in relation to policy LS3.  | NO                |
| LS4   | South Tees Spatial Strategy                    | L                        | This policy relates to the industrial area located along the southern shore of the Tees Estuary. The policy includes an explicit reference to the requirement to protect European sites and encourages integrated habitat creation and management and the enhancement of the environmental quality of the River Tees and coastline, all of which may have a positive impact on Natura 2000 sites. The policy does however also include a number of measures to promote development in the South Tees area, which could potentially lead to LSE if not considered holistically with other plans and projects. Further information on the detail of proposed measures to protect and enhance the SPA is also required to be confident that general development proposals will not lead to LSE. It should also be noted that the proposed extension to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA would bring the boundary of this designated site adjacent to the area covered by Policy LS4.   | YES               |
| REG 1                                       | Coatham  | I                        | This Policy allocates an 8.7 ha site at Coatham Sands (adjacent to the northern edge of Redcar) for a mixed use development comprising of leisure, tourism and visitor uses. The allocation is located adjacent to the Coatham Sands SSSI component of the Redcar and Cleveland SPA and Ramsar Site. Policy Reg 1 identifies the need for any development proposals to be accompanied by a screening exercise to determine the need for appropriate assessment. Given recreational impacts have been identified as a potential cause of declines in SPA bird species in this area and the proposals will encourage recreational activity in the vicinity of the SPA, the potential for LSE cannot be ruled out on the basis of the available information. The potential effects of increased water supply requirements, waste water discharges and potential increases in emissions from motor vehicles also require consideration.  | YES               |
| REG 2                                       | Kirkleatham                                    | H                        | This policy seeks to protect and restore the cultural heritage assets at Kirkleatham, favouring the restoration of existing assets and restricting new construction. The proposed measures will not impact upon any Natura 2000 sites.   | NO                |
| REG 3                                       | Skelton  | H                        | This policy promotes mixed use development on land at Skelton and requires that any proposal is accompanied by an ecology survey and appropriate mitigation measures. The allocation is located in excess of 6 km from the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA / Ramsar Site and the North York Moors SPA and SAC and hence considered beyond the distance at which increased recreational disturbance arising from new residents is likely to lead to LSE.  | NO                |
| ED1   | Protecting and Enhancing the Borough's Centres | H                        | This policy aims to protect and enhance town centres the focus being on retail, leisure, offices, arts, tourism and cultural activities within the existing conurbations. The objective is to enhance town centres and to attract people into the urban areas. This has the potential to reduce the visitor impact on Natura 2000 sites and for this reason there may be neutral or positive effects on Natura 2000 sites.   | NO                |
| ED2   | Cleveland Retail Park                          | H                        | This policy specifically relates to retail development types at Cleveland Retail Park, which is located in excess of 7 km from the   | NO                |

| Local Plan Chapter/Policy/Allocation number | Description   | LSE Screening Evaluation | Commentary (where applicable)   | Potential for LSE |
|---|---|--------------------------|---|-------------------|
|   |   |                          | North York Moors SPA/SAC. Although located approximately 1.5 km from the proposed Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA extension (the Tees river channel), no LSE are anticipated as the site is isolated from the river by several roads and extensive areas of existing industrial development. These factors also make this section of the proposed SPA extension unappealing as a recreational destination.  |                   |
| ED3   | Hot food takeaways  | G                        | This policy seeks to limit the location and number of hot food takeaways in urban and suburban centres.   | NO                |
| ED4   | Retail development on Industrial Estates and Business Parks | H                        | This policy sets out the circumstances under which retail development will be permitted on industrial land. It is in essence a change of use policy. Any specific projects brought forward under the proposals would still require screening to consider the potential for effects on Natura 2000 Sites, although it is considered unlikely based on the policy wording that any such proposals would lead to LSE.  | NO                |
| ED5   | Advertisements  | G                        |   | NO                |
| ED6   | Protecting Employment Areas                                 | I                        | <p>This policy identifies several areas within Redcar and Cleveland that will be protected as existing/potential employment land. The majority of the locations are in urban centres and/or are located some distance from the Natura 2000 Sites within the Local Plan area. The policy also includes strong wording that identifies the requirement for any proposals within the ED6 allocations to 'demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA and Ramsar Site, or other European designated nature conservation sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.' There is therefore strong policy protection written into the policy in relation to Natura 2000 Sites, which in most instances, will ensure LSE are avoided.</p> <p>The largest allocation within the Local Plan area is located adjacent to the River Tees. The recently proposed extension to the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA and Ramsar site would extend the boundary of the SPA to include the river adjacent to the site (in relation to foraging habitat for common tern) and a lagoon located within the ED6 allocation, adjacent to the River channel. Given part of the ED6 boundary overlaps with the proposed SPA extension boundary, consideration of potential LSE is required.</p> | YES               |
| ED7   | Cleveland Gate  | H                        | This allocation is located in Guisborough and comprises a 2.4 ha mixed use commercial development on a former brownfield site. The site is located in excess of 7 km from the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA and Ramsar Site and in excess of 1.5 km from the North York Moors SAC and SPA. The policy will provide employment opportunities for residents and will promote retail and business use of land at the site. It does not promote tourism.  | NO                |
| ED8   | Rural Economy   | H                        | This policy sets out a series of measures for supporting the rural economy and includes support for the management of the land for nature conservation. Consideration of the promotion of tourism is made under Policy ED9.   | NO                |
| ED9   | Leisure and Tourism Development                             | I                        | This policy promotes leisure and tourism, which could potentially result in increased recreational pressure on the SPA at Redcar, particular as the seafront at Redcar and Coatham are identified as key leisure areas. ED9 also includes policy wording that promotes the use of the North York Moors National Park, which includes the North York Moors SPA / SAC. The potential effects of increased water supply requirements, waste water discharges and potential increases in emissions from motor vehicles also require consideration.  | YES               |
| ED10  | Tees Motorsport Park  | E                        | This policy promotes the relocation of an existing motorsports facility to an area that is currently used for quad biking. The existing motorsports facility is located approximately 350 m from the proposed extension to the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA and Ramsar site (the River Tees channel). The new location will be located approximately 400 m away from the SPA extension and will also be further isolated from it by the A66 dual carriageway.  | NO                |
| ED11  | Caravan Sites and Tourist Accommodation                     | I                        | This policy sets out criteria for caravan sites and tourist accommodation in relation to site selection and suitability although no specific allocations are identified. It is therefore possible that sites could be brought forward in locations where Natura 2000 Sites could be subject to LSE as a result of their development. The policy includes specific wording requiring any proposals brought forward under this policy to be subject to screening in relation to potential effects on Natura 2000 Site, with particular reference to potential recreational effects. Natural England have previously advised that a strategic approach to mitigation of recreational impacts is advisable, as it may not be possible for individual projects to effectively mitigate for their impacts. There  | YES               |

| Local Plan Chapter/Policy/Allocation number | Description  | LSE Screening Evaluation | Commentary (where applicable)   | Potential for LSE                  |
|---|--|--------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
|   |  |                          | is also a growing body of evidence that SPA bird species associated with the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA are already subject to recreational impacts that may be undermining the conservation objectives for the site. As such further consideration of potential LSE arising from recreational pressures is required at the Local Plan stage.  |                                    |
| ED12  | New Hotel and Guest House Accommodation                      | I                        | This policy sets out the criteria for new hotels and guest houses within the plan area. Restrictions are imposed by the requirement to comply with policy ED1. No specific locations are identified and so sites in close proximity to Natura 2000 sites are a possibility, although population increases are likely to be relatively small.  | YES                                |
| ED13  | Equestrian Development                                       | I                        | This policy relates exclusively to equestrian development but does not take into account potential impacts on birds if horses are taken onto intertidal habitats in the vicinity of or included within the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA / Ramsar Site, or are taken onto the North York Moors SAC/SPA. The policy does however includes a proviso that centres are located in areas where there is adequate provision of suitable off-road horse-riding routes.  | YES                                |
| H1  | Housing Requirements   | H                        | This policy sets out the housing requirement for the plan period in terms of the planned level of growth in population within the Local Plan area. Specific allocations are dealt with under Policy H3 as the effects of population growth on Natura 2000 Sites will vary depending on the location of allocated sites.   | NO                                 |
| H2  | Type and mix of housing                                      | B                        | This policy sets out the criteria by which proposals for housing developments will be assessed in terms of the types and sizes of houses, rather than their location or overall number of residents they would support. As such, no LSE are expected.   | NO                                 |
| H3.1 to H3.31                               | Housing Allocations  | I                        | This policy identifies 31 housing site allocations, many of which are located within 6 km of the Natura 2000 Sites in the Local Plan area. An increased number of residents within the Local Plan area could lead to a corresponding increase in recreational use of publicly accessible parts of the Natura 2000 Sites. This could in turn lead to increased disturbance of the habitats and species that make up the qualifying interests of Natura 2000 sites in the Local Plan area. Other effects, for example air pollution arising from increased traffic movements and reductions in water quality due to increased pressure on waste water treatment works, could also arise.  | YES                                |
| H4  | Affordable Housing   | B                        | This policy requires the delivery of a minimum of 15% of affordable housing on developments comprising 15 or more dwellings. It does not identify the quantum or location of development proposed by the draft Local Plan, which is considered in relation to Policy H3.1 to H3.31  | NO                                 |
| H5  | Sub-division and conversion of buildings to residential uses | J                        | This policy sets out the conditions under which conversion and/or sub-division of buildings to residential uses will be permitted. It could, conceivably, lead to increases in residential occupancy in the vicinity of Natura 2000 Sites, and hence result in increased recreational impacts on those sites as a result of increased visits by new residents. Given the nature of the policy, any increase in the number of residents is expected to be minor in comparison to the housing allocations identified under Policy H3.   | In-combination assessment required |
| H6  | Houses in Multiple Occupation                                | J                        | This policy sets out the conditions under which planning permission for a change of use to a house in multiple occupation will be permitted. It could, conceivably, lead to increases in residential occupancy in the vicinity of Natura 2000 Sites, and hence result in increased recreational impacts on those sites as a result of increased visits by new residents. Given the wording of the policy and the nature of the activities it is concerned with, any increase in the number of residents is expected to be minor in comparison to the housing allocations identified under Policy H3.  | In-combination Assessment required |
| H7  | Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation     | I                        | Under this proposal nine additional pitches are proposed at the existing site at The Haven over the plan period. This site is located approximately 500 m from the proposed extension to the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA (the channel of the River Tees). The extension to the SPA at this point is proposed in relation to its use as a flyway by foraging common tern. Under the policy, it is possible that additional sites could be proposed for Traveller and Gypsy accommodation elsewhere in the Local Plan area. However, the recent Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment covering the Local Plan area (RCBC, 2015) indicated a requirement for only eight additional pitches in the period to 2030, which the policy specifies will be provided at The Haven site in the first instance. It is considered that any possible impact arising from this policy would be so minor as to have no appreciable effect on any Natura 2000 Sites ( <i>de minimus</i> ), and hence should be screened out from further assessment including for in-combination effects. | NO                                 |



| Local Plan Chapter/Policy/Allocation number | Description   | LSE Screening Evaluation | Commentary (where applicable)  | Potential for LSE |
|---|---|--------------------------|--|-------------------|
| N1  | Landscape   | D                        |  | NO                |
| N2  | Green Infrastructure                                  | D                        |  | NO                |
| N3  | Provision of Open Space                               | D; E                     | Policy N3 promotes the delivery of open green space as part of new development, which may help to alleviate or reduce recreational pressures on Natura 2000 Sites.   | NO                |
| N4  | Biodiversity and Geological Conservation              | D                        |  | NO                |
| HE1   | Conservation Areas                                    | D                        | This policy sets out design standards for development within Conservation Areas. The proposed measures are not likely to result in impacts on Natura 2000 sites.   | NO                |
| HE2   | Heritage Assets                                       | D                        | This policy sets out standards for development affecting listed buildings and other heritage assets. The proposed measures are not likely to result in impacts on Natura 2000 sites.   | NO                |
| HE3   | Archaeological Sites and Monuments                    | D                        | This policy affords protection to archaeological sites and is not likely to result in any activities that impact on Natura 2000 sites.   | NO                |
| TA1   | Demand Management Measures                            | E                        | This policy promotes sustainable transport in accordance with the Local Transport Plan, the objective being to reduce travel within the Borough, and to promote modal shift away from the use of private motor vehicles. Travel related impacts on Natura 2000 sites are most likely to occur as a result of pollution and possibly disturbance depending upon the proximity to the site. Consequently a policy that seeks to reduce travel would be expected to have a neutral or a positive impact on Natura 2000 sites. | NO                |
| TA2   | Travel Plans  | E                        | This policy builds upon policy TA1, also promoting sustainable transport. The policy sets out the requirement to support the Redcar and Cleveland Local Transport Plan.  | NO                |
| TA3   | Improving Accessibility within and beyond the Borough | E                        | This policy seeks to improve bus and rail transport provision within the Borough, and will enhance key parts of the road network. Specific routes are identified within the policy and these are all remote from Natura 2000 sites. Consequently any improvements would be expected to have a neutral or positive impact on Natura 2000 sites. Furthermore the policy includes a commitment that schemes will be considered against their potential to affect wildlife sites of European importance.                       | NO                |
| TA4   | Sustainable Transport Networks                        | I                        | This policy seeks to improve public access to various sites including the coast and North York Moors, with improved walking, cycling and horse riding networks in the borough. Consequently this policy has the potential to impact on Natura 2000 sites by increasing recreational levels in sensitive parts of the North York Moors SPA / SAC and the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site.   | YES               |

B.1.2 The screening assessment of individual policies and plans completed in Table B.2 above, has identified two policies with potential to lead to effects on Natura 2000 sites that are in their own right not considered to be significant. In accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations, it is necessary to consider the potential for in-combination effects with other projects. This has first included consideration of in-combination effects with other elements of the draft Local Plan, as set out below in Table B.3.

Table B.3: In-combination assessment of Local Plan elements

| Policy being assessed | Commentary   | Potential for LSE |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------|
| H5                    | <p>This policy sets out the conditions under which conversion and/or sub-division of buildings to residential uses will be permitted. It could, conceivably, lead to increases in residential occupancy in the vicinity of Natura 2000 Sites, and hence result in increased recreational impacts on those sites as a result of increased visits by new residents. Such effects are not anticipated to lead to LSE due to the small number of additional residents likely to arise. Policies H3.1 to H3.31 identify residential allocations designed to meet forecast populations growth of 250 people per year, over the plan period. This level of growth could potentially lead to LSE on Natura 2000 Sites. As such, any further population growth occurring as a result of Policy H5 could result in LSE in-combination with policies H3.1 to H3.31.</p>           | YES               |
| H6                    | <p>This policy sets out the conditions under which planning permission for a change of use to a house in multiple occupation will be permitted. It could, conceivably, lead to increases in residential occupancy in the vicinity of Natura 2000 Sites, and hence result in increased recreational impacts on those sites as a result of increased visits by new residents. Such effects are not anticipated to lead to LSE due to the small number of additional residents likely to arise. Policies H3.1 to H3.31 identify residential allocations designed to meet forecast populations growth of 250 people per year, over the plan period. This level of growth could potentially lead to LSE on Natura 2000 Sites. As such, any further population growth occurring as a result of Policy H5 could result in LSE in-combination with policies H3.1 to H3.31.</p> | YES               |

B.1.3 Policies H5 and H6 are considered to have potential to contribute to LSE on Natura 2000 Sites in-combination with the allocations identified in Policy H3.1 to H3.31. A number of other policies in the draft Local Plan have been identified as not leading to LSE on any Natura 2000 Site, when considered alone. Given the subject matter and wording of these policies, they are also not expected to lead to LSE when considered in-combination with other plans or projects.

B.1.4 The screening exercise recorded in Tables B1.2 and B1.3 has identified 14 policies within the draft Local Plan that have the potential to result in LSE to Natura 2000 Sites. Table B.4 lists the policies that could give rise to LSE and identifies measures that are already included within the Local Plan that could avoid, mitigate or reduce the potential for LSE. Where these measures cannot give certainty that LSE will be avoided, suggestions for further measures to address potential LSE are made.

Table B.4: Consideration of Measures to avoid or reduce LSE

| Local Plan Policy                    | Existing Measures contained in Local Plan  | Existing measures sufficient to avoid LSE?   | Potential measures to avoid LSE/adverse effects on integrity (if required)  | Conclusions and next steps  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| SD3: Development Limits              | <p>Policy SD4, General Development Principles, specifies that development will not be permitted where it results in an adverse effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 Site.</p> <p>Policies N2 and N3 promote the delivery of green space and identify strategic green infrastructure across the Local Plan area</p> <p>Policy N4 contains strict policy wording identifying that development proposals will only be allowed where they have no adverse effect on any Natura 2000 Site, or as a last resort demonstrate the development is of overriding public interest and suitable compensatory measures are provided.</p>                                | <p>It is likely that many of the individual developments that might be brought forward under the Local Plan (once adopted) would be sufficiently controlled. However, where development limits are proximate to, or even within Natura 2000 Sites, further measures are required to give confidence that LSE will be avoided.</p>  | <p>Amend boundary of development limits adjacent to River Tees to remove proposed extension of Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA from development limits.</p> <p>Consider development of strategic approach to mitigation in collaboration with relevant bodies such as Natural England and the Industry and Nature conservation Association in relation to the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA. It is likely this would require consideration in a full Appropriate Assessment rather than via re-screening for LSE, given the potential complexities of assessing and mitigating the potential impacts and interactions with other plans and policies.</p>  | <p>LSE cannot be fully excluded at this stage of the plan-making process. Consider amendments to development limits adjacent to River Tees and proceed to Appropriate Assessment (Stage 2 of the HRA process).</p>  |
| SD6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy | <p>Policy wording in SD6 includes the following: <i>'Renewable energy developments will not be allowed within, or where they are likely to have an adverse effect - alone, or in combination with other plans or projects - on designated ecological sites or on priority species, unless they meet the exceptions criteria set out in Policy N4.'</i></p> <p>Areas identified as potential locations for renewable energy development are all located outside Natura 2000 Sites, with possible wind turbine locations in excess of 2 km from the North York Moors SAC and SPA and in excess of 7 km from the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA and Ramsar Site.</p> | <p>Policy SD6 is not expected to lead to LSE on the North York Moors SAC due to none of the allocations falling within the SAC.</p> <p>There is a body of published research and grey literature which identifies that wind farm developments can negatively effect birds, through displacement, disturbance and direct mortality. This includes research indicating the potential for significant impacts on species for which the SPA and Ramsar sites within the Local Plan area have been designated, e.g. golden plover.</p> <p>Given that birds associated with the SPA may also use habitats outside the designated boundaries, and be particularly sensitive to wind farm developments, further measures are considered advisable to minimise the risk of LSE at the Plan Stage.</p> | <p>It is not possible to fully discount the risk of LSE in relation to the North York Moors SPA and the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA and Ramsar Site at the local plan stage, as there is insufficient information available about how qualifying interest bird species may use habitats within and adjacent to the SD6 locations.</p> <p>It should however be noted that Policy SD6 seeks to identify broad locations that may be suitable for small and medium scale wind and solar development, rather than strict allocations. It is recommended that policy SD 6 includes the following wording: <i>"Sites being brought forward for small and medium scale wind turbine deployment should be subject to survey to assess their use by the bird species that are qualifying interests of the North York Moors SPA and the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA and Ramsar Site. Where the presence of the relevant species is confirmed, an assessment of the impacts of the development on the relevant bird species, including assessment of the risk of mortality from turbine blade strikes, shall be undertaken."</i></p> | <p>It is considered that if the proposed modifications to the SD6 policy wording are incorporated into the adopted version of the Local Plan, that LSE can be avoided. Assuming the wording is modified as recommended, there is therefore no requirement for further assessment of Policy SD6.</p> |

| Local Plan Policy                  | Existing Measures contained in Local Plan  | Existing measures sufficient to avoid LSE?  | Potential measures to avoid LSE/adverse effects on integrity (if required)   | Conclusions and next steps  |
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| LS2: Coastal Area Spatial Strategy | <p>Policy SD4, General Development Principles, specifies that development will not be permitted where it results in an adverse effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 Site.</p> <p>Policies N2 and N3 promote the delivery of green space and identify strategic green infrastructure across the Local Plan area.</p> <p>Policy N4 contains strict policy wording identifying that development proposals will only be allowed where they have no adverse effect on any Natura 2000 Site, or as a last resort demonstrate the development is of overriding public interest and suitable compensatory measures are provided.</p>   | <p>The latest condition assessment for the South Gare and Coatham Sands SSSI unit identified that 76% of the unit was in unfavourable condition. Survey information provided by Natural England has also identified that the colony of little tern that previously bred at South Gare and Coatham Sands has failed to breed at the site since 2005. Studies carried out at the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast European Marine Site<sup>8</sup> have also identified that recreational disturbance is likely to already be impacting SPA bird species in the areas where access would be promoted under this policy.</p> <p>Given the existing pressures highlighted above, and also the difficulty of addressing recreational impacts on a 'per project' basis, the potential for LSE cannot be excluded on the basis of the existing measures</p> | <p>A strategic approach to the management of recreational impacts arising from new development is likely to be required. This reflects Natural England comments on the previous 2013 iteration of the draft Local Plan, and is consistent with the approach to recreational impacts that is increasingly being taken during the assessment of recreational impacts that may arise as a result of recreational impacts associated with plans and policies. Any measures should be proportionate to the likely level of impact associated with the various policies within the draft Local Plan that may lead to increased recreational pressures. This should also consider existing measures in place to control recreational impacts at the designated sites.</p> <p>The level of detail needed for such an assessment requires consideration via Appropriate Assessment.</p> | <p>LSE cannot be fully excluded at this stage of the plan-making process. Proceed to stage 2 of the HRA process to assess this policy: Appropriate Assessment.</p>  |
| LS4: South Tees Spatial Strategy   | <p>Policy SD4, General Development Principles, specifies that development will not be permitted where it results in an adverse effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 Site.</p> <p>Policy N4 contains strict policy wording identifying that development proposals will only be allowed where they have no adverse effect on any Natura 2000 Site, or as a last resort demonstrate the development is of overriding public interest and suitable compensatory measures are provided.</p> <p>Policy LS4 includes the following wording: <i>'The Council and its partners will aim to... protect European sites, and safeguard and improve sites of biodiversity interest particularly along the River Tees and the estuary and encourage integrated habitat creation and management.'</i></p> | <p>Given the proposed extension to the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA and Ramsar Site, which will bring this adjacent to some of the areas covered by Policy LS4, detailed consideration of potential impacts and mitigation measures is required. The potential for LSE cannot therefore be excluded on the basis of existing measures contained within the draft Local Plan.</p>   | <p>Further consideration of this policy by way of an Appropriate Assessment is recommended, given the proximity of the proposed SPA extension. Further engagement with the Industry and Nature Conservation Association is recommended, given the role INCA plays in supporting the needs of both industry and nature conservations in the Tees area.</p>  | <p>LSE cannot be fully excluded at this stage of the plan-making process.</p> <p>Proceed to stage 2 of the HRA process to assess this policy: Appropriate Assessment. Further engagement with INCA (and Natural England).</p> |
| REG1: Coatham                      | <p>Policy SD4, General Development Principles, specifies that development will not be permitted where it results in an adverse effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 Site.</p> <p>Policy N4 contains strict policy wording identifying that development proposals will only be allowed where they have no adverse effect on any Natura 2000 Site, or as a last resort demonstrate the development is of overriding public interest and suitable compensatory measures are provided.</p> <p>Policy REG1 includes the following wording: <i>'The site is</i></p>  | <p>No. Natural England previously identified concerns in relation to Policy REG1 when commenting on the 2013 draft of the Local Plan. Their consultation response stated: <i>'Natural England has concern in relation to Policy REG1 as Coatham lies close to Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA and the policy promotes leisure and tourism. This could lead to increased visitor pressure on the designated site. The requirement for a</i></p>  | <p>A strategic approach to the management of recreational impacts arising from new development is likely to be required. This reflects Natural England comments on the previous 2013 iteration of the draft Local Plan, and is consistent with the approach to recreational impacts that is increasingly being taken during the assessment of recreational impacts that may arise as a result of recreational impacts associated</p>   | <p>LSE cannot be fully excluded at this stage of the plan-making process.</p> <p>Proceed to stage 2 of the HRA process to assess this policy: Appropriate Assessment.</p>   |

<sup>8</sup> Linaker, R., (2012). Recreational Disturbance at the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast European Marine Site: Bird Disturbance field work winter 2011/2012.



| Local Plan Policy                           | Existing Measures contained in Local Plan   | Existing measures sufficient to avoid LSE?  | Potential measures to avoid LSE/adverse effects on integrity (if required)  | Conclusions and next steps   |
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|   | <p><i>located in close proximity to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area and Ramsar site. Any proposal will be required to carry out a screening exercise to determine the need for Appropriate Assessment, to ensure that there will be no adverse impacts upon the SPA.'</i></p>   | <p><i>HRA to be undertaken with any development to ensure no negative impacts on the SPA is noted'. Their consultation response also stated that ...'Natural England advises a strategic approach should be considered to address impacts relating to recreational disturbance. For example, a stronger policy requirement for green infrastructure may be one such solution, it is suggested that it should be a requirement for developers to contribute to green infrastructure provision in areas where there are recreational pressures on the coast. This may provide alternative areas of recreational green space to sites.'</i></p> <p>Given the above, and also the difficulty of addressing recreational impacts on a 'per project' basis, the potential for LSE cannot be excluded on the basis of existing measures.</p> | <p>with plans and policies. Any measures should be proportionate to the likely level of impact associated with the various policies within the draft Local Plan that may lead to increased recreational pressures. This should also consider existing measures in place to control recreational impacts at the designated sites.</p> <p>The level of detail needed for such an assessment requires consideration via Appropriate Assessment.</p>  |  |
| <p>ED6: Protecting Employment Areas</p>     | <p>Policy SD4, General Development Principles, specifies that development will not be permitted where it results in an adverse effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 Site.</p> <p>Policy N4 contains strict policy wording identifying that development proposals will only be allowed where they have no adverse effect on any Natura 2000 Site, or as a last resort demonstrate the development is of overriding public interest and suitable compensatory measures are provided.</p> <p>Policy ED6 includes the following policy wording: <i>'Some of the above general employment sites lie adjacent to, or are within, the proximity of protected landscapes and nature conservation sites. Where appropriate, proposals will need to demonstrate that there will be no adverse impacts on the integrity of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site, or other European designated nature conservation sites either 94 Draft Local Plan May 2016 alone or in combination with other plans and programmes. Any necessary mitigation measures must be secured in advance of the development in order to meet the requirements of the Habitat Regulations'</i>.</p> | <p>No. Policy ED6 includes land that has been proposed for inclusion within the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA extension. Further consideration of potential effects is required.</p>  | <p>Consider amending boundary of policy ED6 to remove lagoon at grid reference NZ 552 248 from employment land allocation.</p> <p>Consider development of strategic approach to mitigation in collaboration with relevant bodies such as Natural England and the Industry and Nature conservation Association in relation to the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA. It is likely this would require consideration in a full Appropriate Assessment rather than via re-screening for LSE, given the potential complexities of assessing and mitigating the potential impacts and interactions with other plans and policies.</p> | <p>LSE cannot be fully excluded at this stage of the plan-making process.</p> <p>Proceed to stage 2 of the HRA process to assess this policy: Appropriate Assessment.</p> <p>Further engagement with INCA (and Natural England).</p>   |
| <p>ED9: Leisure and Tourism development</p> | <p>Policy SD4, General Development Principles, specifies that development will not be permitted where it results in an adverse effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 Site.</p> <p>Policy N4 contains strict policy wording identifying that development proposals will only be allowed where they have no adverse effect on any Natura 2000 Site, or as a last resort demonstrate the development is of overriding public interest and suitable compensatory measures are provided.</p> <p>Policy ED9 includes the following policy wording: <i>'Development proposals for leisure and tourism uses will be</i></p>  | <p>No. Natural England previously identified concerns about the likely effectiveness of seeking to manage recreational pressures at the project stage. When commenting on the previous HRA that assessed the 2013 draft Local Plan they stated the following: <i>'Further justification is required to explain how recreational pressure will be addressed through the plan to ensure no adverse effect on European sites. The HRA places a reliance on undertaking a HRA at the project</i></p>  | <p>Engage with Natural England and Natura 2000 Site managers to identify existing measures in place to manage recreational impacts. Commit to development of strategic approach to avoidance and management measures in collaboration with other local authorities and stakeholders surrounding the relevant Natura 2000 Sites and in consideration of other Local Plan policies that may lead to recreational impacts. Assess potential for adverse effects on the</p>   | <p>LSE cannot be fully excluded at this stage of the plan-making process.</p> <p>Proceed to stage 2 of the HRA process to assess this policy: Appropriate Assessment.</p> <p>Further engagement with Natural England, adjoining local authorities and Natura 2000 site managers.</p> |

| Local Plan Policy                                    | Existing Measures contained in Local Plan   | Existing measures sufficient to avoid LSE?   | Potential measures to avoid LSE/adverse effects on integrity (if required)  | Conclusions and next steps   |
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|  | <p><i>expected to follow the sequential approach set out in Policy SD2. Any proposals located within 16km of a Natura 2000 site will be required to carry out a screening exercise to determine the need for an Appropriate Assessment.</i></p>   | <p><i>stage to deal with effects relating to recreational pressure. Natural England advises that a strategic solution may be more appropriate, rather than relying on individual assessments at the project stage. In order to ensure no adverse effect at the plan stage there needs to be level of certainty that avoidance and/or mitigation measures are available and can be secured at the planning application stage.</i></p>   | <p>integrity of Natura 2000 Sites via an Appropriate Assessment.</p>  |  |
| <p>ED11: Caravan Sites and Tourist Accommodation</p> | <p>Policy SD4, General Development Principles, specifies that development will not be permitted where it results in an adverse effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 Site.</p> <p>Policy N4 contains strict policy wording identifying that development proposals will only be allowed where they have no adverse effect on any Natura 2000 Site, or as a last resort demonstrate the development is of overriding public interest and suitable compensatory measures are provided.</p> <p>Policy ED11 includes the following text: <i>'Development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that it will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, either alone or in combination. It is likely that a Recreation Management Plan will be required that sets out the measures that will be adopted to ensure that increased recreational pressure arising from the proposed development will not have an adverse effect on a Natura 2000 site.'</i></p> | <p>No. As highlighted above in relation to Policy ED9, a strategic approach is considered necessary in relation to managing potential recreational pressures arising from increased tourism in proximity to Natura 2000 Sites.</p>   | <p>Engage with Natural England and Natura 2000 Site managers to identify existing measures in place to manage recreational impacts. Commit to development of strategic approach to avoidance and management measures in collaboration with other local authorities and stakeholders surrounding the relevant Natura 2000 Sites and in consideration of other Local Plan policies that may lead to recreational impacts. Assess potential for adverse effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 Sites via an Appropriate Assessment.</p> | <p>LSE cannot be fully excluded at this stage of the plan-making process.</p> <p>Proceed to stage 2 of the HRA process to assess this policy: Appropriate Assessment.</p> <p>Further engagement with Natural England, adjoining local authorities and Natura 2000 site managers.</p> |
| <p>ED12: New Hotel and Guest House Accommodation</p> | <p>Policy SD4, General Development Principles, specifies that development will not be permitted where it results in an adverse effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 Site.</p> <p>Policy N4 contains strict policy wording identifying that development proposals will only be allowed where they have no adverse effect on any Natura 2000 Site, or as a last resort demonstrate the development is of overriding public interest and suitable compensatory measures are provided.</p>  | <p>No. As highlighted above in relation to Policy ED9, a strategic approach is considered necessary in relation to managing potential recreational pressures arising from increased tourism in proximity to Natura 2000 Sites.</p> <p>Natural England stated the following in their consultation response to the 2013 draft Local Plan: <i>'New Hotel and Guest House Accommodation sets out the criteria for new hotels and guest houses. The HRA indicates sites in close proximity to Natura 2000 sites are a possibility, the potential increase in visitor numbers to these sensitive areas is a concern to Natural England.'</i></p> | <p>Engage with Natural England and Natura 2000 Site managers to identify existing measures in place to manage recreational impacts. Commit to development of strategic approach to avoidance and management measures in collaboration with other local authorities and stakeholders surrounding the relevant Natura 2000 Sites and in consideration of other Local Plan policies that may lead to recreational impacts. Assess potential for adverse effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 Sites via an Appropriate Assessment.</p> | <p>LSE cannot be fully excluded at this stage of the plan-making process.</p> <p>Proceed to stage 2 of the HRA process to assess this policy: Appropriate Assessment.</p> <p>Further engagement with Natural England, adjoining local authorities and Natura 2000 site managers.</p> |
| <p>ED13: Equestrian Development</p>                  | <p>Policy SD4, General Development Principles, specifies that development will not be permitted where it results in an adverse effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 Site.</p> <p>Policy N4 contains strict policy wording identifying that development proposals will only be allowed where they have no adverse effect on any Natura 2000 Site, or as a last resort demonstrate the development is of overriding public interest and suitable compensatory measures are provided.</p>  | <p>No. As highlighted above in relation to Policy ED9, a strategic approach may be required in relation to managing potential recreational pressures arising from increased tourism in proximity to Natura 2000 Sites.</p> <p>Equestrian developments that will not result in increased use of Natura 2000 Sites could</p>   | <p>Consider whether policy wording can be incorporated into Local Plan (or other RCBC policy and/or byelaws) to manage equestrian use of SAC and SPA habitats, particularly at sensitive times of the year.</p> <p>Consider policy wording within SD11 that favours locating equestrian development in areas with a good availability of routes,</p>  | <p>Subject to the identification of suitable policy wording, it is considered that LSE can be avoided, and hence further assessment by way of an Appropriate Assessment can be avoided.</p>  |

| Local Plan Policy  | Existing Measures contained in Local Plan  | Existing measures sufficient to avoid LSE?   | Potential measures to avoid LSE/adverse effects on integrity (if required)   | Conclusions and next steps   |
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|  |  | potentially be screened out from further assessment at the project stage with no requirement for mitigation.   | away from Natura 2000 sites boundaries.  |  |
| H3.1 to H3.31: Housing Allocations                               | <p>Policy SD4, General Development Principles, specifies that development will not be permitted where it results in an adverse effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 Site.</p> <p>Policy N4 contains strict policy wording identifying that development proposals will only be allowed where they have no adverse effect on any Natura 2000 Site, or as a last resort demonstrate the development is of overriding public interest and suitable compensatory measures are provided.</p> <p>Policy H3 of the draft Local Plan includes the following wording: <i>'Proposals for housing development located within 16km of a Natura 2000 site will be required to carry out a screening exercise to determine the need for an Appropriate Assessment.'</i></p>   | <p>No. One of the key potential impacts on designated sites arising from the predicted increase in population in RCBC is increased recreational pressure disturbing SPA bird species. Increased recreational use of the North York Moors SAC could also potentially damage the habitats for which the site has been designated.</p> <p>Given the potential difficulty of addressing recreational impacts on a 'per project' basis, the potential for LSE cannot be excluded on the basis of the existing measures.</p>   | <p>Complete detailed assessment of housing allocations to identify likely population increase within 6 km of Natura 2000 Sites (the likely core catchment for recreational use of Natura 2000 Sites by residents of RCBC).</p> <p>Engage with Natural England and Natura 2000 Site managers to identify existing measures in place to manage recreational impacts. Commit to development of strategic approach to avoidance and management measures in collaboration with other local authorities and stakeholders surrounding the relevant Natura 2000 Sites. Assess potential for adverse effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 Sites via an Appropriate Assessment.</p> | <p>LSE cannot be fully excluded at this stage of the plan-making process.</p> <p>Proceed to stage 2 of the HRA process to assess this policy: Appropriate Assessment.</p> <p>Further engagement with Natural England, adjoining local authorities and Natura 2000 site managers.</p> |
| H5: Sub-division and conversion of buildings to residential uses | <p>Policy SD4, General Development Principles, specifies that development will not be permitted where it results in an adverse effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 Site.</p> <p>Policy N4 contains strict policy wording identifying that development proposals will only be allowed where they have no adverse effect on any Natura 2000 Site, or as a last resort demonstrate the development is of overriding public interest and suitable compensatory measures are provided.</p>   | As H3.1 to H3.31 above.  | As H3.1 to H3.31 above.  | As H3.1 to H3.31 above.  |
| H6: Houses in Multiple Occupation.                               | As above.  | As above.  | As above.  | As above.  |
| TA4: Sustainable transport networks                              | <p>Policy SD4, General Development Principles, specifies that development will not be permitted where it results in an adverse effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 Site.</p> <p>Policy N4 contains strict policy wording identifying that development proposals will only be allowed where they have no adverse effect on any Natura 2000 Site, or as a last resort demonstrate the development is of overriding public interest and suitable compensatory measures are provided.</p> <p>Policy TA4 includes the following policy wording: <i>'It is also recognised that increased activity in sensitive designated areas such as the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA or the North York Moors SPA could have an adverse effect on the natural environment. All proposals in sensitive areas will have their environmental impacts assessed in order to ensure that there would be no adverse impacts.'</i></p> | <p>No. This policy promotes better public access to the North York Moors and coastal areas. It therefore requires consideration in relation to the potential for increased recreational usage and hence impacts on Natura 2000 Sites.</p> <p>As highlighted above in relation to Policy ED9, a strategic approach is considered necessary in relation to managing potential recreational pressures arising from increased tourism in proximity to Natura 2000 Sites.</p> <p>Natural England stated the following in their consultation response to the 2013 draft Local Plan: <i>'Whilst Natural England welcomes the commitment to improving public access, Policy TA4: Sustainable</i></p> | <p>Engage with Natural England and Natura 2000 Site managers to identify existing measures in place to manage recreational impacts. Commit to development of strategic approach to avoidance and management measures in collaboration with other local authorities and stakeholders surrounding the relevant Natura 2000 Sites and in consideration of other Local Plan policies that may lead to recreational impacts. Assess potential for adverse effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 Sites via an Appropriate Assessment.</p>  | <p>LSE cannot be fully excluded at this stage of the plan-making process.</p> <p>Proceed to stage 2 of the HRA process to assess this policy: Appropriate Assessment.</p> <p>Further engagement with Natural England, adjoining local authorities and Natura 2000 site managers.</p> |



| Local Plan Policy | Existing Measures contained in Local Plan | Existing measures sufficient to avoid LSE?   | Potential measures to avoid LSE/adverse effects on integrity (if required) | Conclusions and next steps |
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|                   |   | <p><i>Transport Networks seeks to improve access to sites including the coast and the North York Moors. However this objective may increase the visitor pressure on these designated areas.'</i></p> |  |                            |