



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regeneration and Environment Local Plan Habitat Regulations Assessment

Regulation 19 Publication Draft

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Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Economic Regeneration and Transport

Big plans for an outstanding Borough

Contents

- 1. Introduction** 1
 - Methodology Used for this Appropriate Assessment 1
- 2. Initial Screening**..... 2
 - Table 1: Sites potentially affected by the Regeneration and Environment Local Plan 2
 - Table 2: Natura 2000 Sites that could possibly be affected by the Regeneration and Environment Local Plan 3
 - Table 3: Key Requirements for Maintenance of Sites in a Favourable Condition 5
 - Table 4: Qualifying Features of Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar Site . 10
 - Table 5: Qualifying Features of North York Moors SAC..... 12
 - Table 6: Qualifying Features of North York Moors SPA..... 13
 - Table 7: Qualifying Features of Castle Eden Dene SAC..... 14
 - Table 8: Qualifying Features of Durham Coast SAC..... 14
 - Table 9: Qualifying Features of Durham Coast SAC..... 14
 - Table 10: Qualifying Features of Northumbria Coast SPA and Ramsar Site 15
- 3. Screening Analysis of the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Regeneration and Environment Local Plan**..... 16
 - Development Proposed in the Regeneration and Environment Local Plan..... 16
 - Table 11: Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA 18
 - Table 12: Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Ramsar Site 23
 - Table 13: Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon North York Moors SPA 28
 - Table 14: Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon North York Moors SAC..... 33
 - Table 15: Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon Castle Eden Dene SAC 38
 - Table 16: Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon Thrislington SAC. 42
 - Table 17: Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon Durham Coast SAC..... 46
 - Table 18: Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon Northumbria Coast SPA/Ramsar Site. 51
- 4. Conclusions of the Screening Exercise.** 56
- 5. Detailed Policy Assessment**..... 57
 - Table 19: Policy Assessment of Potential Impact on the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA..... 57
 - Table 20: Policy Assessment of Potential Impact on the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Ramsar Site. 61
 - Table 21: Policy Assessment of Potential Impact on the North York Moors SPA/SAC 65
 - Table 22: Policy Assessment of Potential Impact on the Castle Eden Dene SAC 65
- 6. Analysis of Likely Significant Effects** 66
- 7. In Combination Assessment** 74
 - Table 23: Analysis of the Core Strategy Review in Combination with Other Plans. 75
 - Consideration of In-Combination Effects..... 77
- 8. Conclusions**..... 78
- Appendix 1: Favourable Condition Table – Teesmouth Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar Site**..... 79
- Appendix 2: Favourable Condition Table –North York Moors SAC and SPA Site.** 82
- Appendix 3: Favourable Condition Table – Castle Eden Dene SAC.** 89
- Appendix 4: Favourable Condition Table – Thrislington SAC.**..... 92
- Appendix 5: Favourable Condition Table – Durham Coast SAC.**..... 95
- Appendix 6: Favourable Condition Table – Northumbria Coast SPA and Ramsar Site.** 97

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The EC Habitats Directive Articles 6.3 and 6.4 require an assessment of the impact of all plans and projects on sites designated as of European importance for their nature conservation value. This is known as Appropriate Assessment.
- 1.2. The requirement came into force in October 2005 following a ruling by the European Court of Justice. The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007, which came into force in August 2007, included a new Part IVa to the 1994 Regulations “Appropriate Assessment for Land Use Plans for England and Wales” in Schedule 1 of the Regulations. This legislation has since been consolidated into The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2010.
- 1.3. The Regulations require that “any plan or project not directly concerned 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 and projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives.”
- 1.4. Two types of European site are involved:

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) - designated under the EC Birds Directive for rare and vulnerable bird species, for regularly occurring migratory bird species, and for the protection of wetlands, especially wetlands of international importance.

Special Areas for Conservation (SACs) – protected sites under the Habitats Directive that make a significant contribution to conserving habitat types and species (excluding birds) identified in Annexes I and II of the Directive.

In addition, the UK Government’s National Planning Policy Framework requires that listed or proposed Ramsar sites are given the same level of protection as European sites. Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention.

Methodology Used for this Appropriate Assessment

- 1.5. European guidance recommends a process of up to four stages:
 - Screening. Determining whether the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site;
 - Appropriate Assessment. Determining whether, in view of the site’s conservation objectives, the plan would have an adverse effect (or risk of this) on the integrity of the site. If not, the plan can proceed;
 - Assessment of alternative solutions. Where the plan is assessed as having an adverse effect (or risk of this) on the integrity of a site, there should be an examination of alternatives;
 - Assessment where no alternative solutions remain and where adverse impacts remain.
- 1.6. This report discusses Stage 1, Screening, and Stage 2, Appropriate Assessment.

2. Initial Screening

- 2.1. The initial screening process aims to consider all of the European sites that the proposed Regeneration and Environment Local Plan (RELP) could possibly affect. Table 1 shows the locations of the European sites that lie within Stockton on Tees Borough, and also includes sites that exist in neighbouring authorities.
- 2.2. Within the Borough, Cowpen Marsh Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), parts of the Tees and Hartlepool Foreshore and Wetlands SSSI, and the majority of Seal Sands SSSI lie within the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area (SPA). This SPA is also recognised as a wetland of international importance for nature conservation, under the Ramsar convention.
- 2.3. This site also extends into neighbouring Boroughs, and a number of other European sites exist in different parts of the region. Government advice states “when considering whether the plan option is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, it should be noted that such a site may be located either within or outside the area covered by the plan. Significant effects may be incurred even in cases where the area of the plan is some distance away”. Therefore the table below provides a list of sites that lie, either within the Borough boundary or within approximately 10km of the Borough boundary, and may be affected by the LDD.

Table 1: Sites potentially affected by the Regeneration and Environment Local Plan¹

Site Name and Status	Location	Primary Reason for Designation
Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA	Stockton-on-Tees, Hartlepool, Redcar and Cleveland	Sandwich Tern, Breeding Little Tern, Internationally important assemblage of over-wintering waterfowl; wintering Knot and Redshank; internationally important population of Ringed Plover in spring.
Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Ramsar	Stockton-on-Tees, Hartlepool, Redcar and Cleveland	Knot, Common Redshank, Sandwich Tern, Breeding Little Tern, Internationally important assemblage of over-wintering waterfowl
North Yorkshire Moors SAC	North Yorkshire Moors National Park	North Atlantic Wet Heaths, European Dry Heaths.
North Yorkshire Moors SPA	North York Moors National Park	Breeding Golden Plover, Merlin
Thrislington (SAC)	Sedgefield	Semi natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies; Calcareous Grasslands
Castle Eden Dene (SAC)	Easington	Extensive occurrence of Yew Woodland
Durham Coast SAC	Easington	Vegetated Sea Cliffs

¹ Source - <http://www.wetlands.org/rsis/>
& <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?EUCCode=UK0012768>

Site Name and Status	Location	Primary Reason for Designation
Northumbria Coast SPA/Ramsar	Much of the coastline between the Tweed and Tees Estuaries	In summer, the site supports important numbers of breeding Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> , whilst in winter the mixture of rocky and sandy shore supports large number of Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> and Purple Sandpiper <i>Calidris maritima</i> .

2.4. Map 1 shows the locations of the sites considered in the Screening.

Table 2: Natura 2000 Sites that could possibly be affected by the Regeneration and Environment Local Plan

Site Name and Status	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives
Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast (Ramsar, SPA)	<p>SPA classified in August 1995 and extended in March 2000. Listed as a Ramsar site under the Convention of Wetlands of International Importance. The intertidal part of the SPA is termed a European Marine Site.</p> <p>Wetland of international importance comprising intertidal sand and mudflats, rocky shore, sand dunes, salt and freshwater marsh, all used for breeding, feeding and roosting of internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex 1 species². Teesmouth and the Cleveland coast is of importance for internationally important populations of breeding Little Tern and migrant sandwich tern. Knot occurs in internationally important numbers in winter and Redshank occurs in internationally important numbers during moult and migration in late summer and autumn. Internationally important wintering waterbird assemblage.</p>	Focus on maintaining favourable conservation status ³ , through appropriate site management including the avoidance of damaging activities and disturbance to species for which the site was designated.
North Yorkshire Moors (SAC/SPA)	<p>Classified as an SPA in May 2000 because of the site's European ornithological importance. The SPA contains the largest continuous tract of heather moorland in England. It displays a wide range of high quality dry heathland and blanket bog vegetation dominated by <i>Calluna</i>, with wet heath in the transition areas. The site is of European importance because it is regularly used by 1% or more of the Great Britain population of two species listed in Annex 1 in any season: Merlin and Golden Plover. In addition, the site supports a breeding population that includes Short-eared Owl, Peregrine and Hen Harrier.</p> <p>Also designated an SAC in April 2005 as it hosts habitats of blanket bog, European dry heaths and Northern Atlantic</p>	To maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the populations of Annex 1 species of European importance and to maintain in favourable condition the Annex 1 habitats.

² The species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive are the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. Species listed on Annex 1 are in danger of extinction, rare or vulnerable.

³Favourable conservation status - natural range and area are stable or increasing, and specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long term maintenance exist and are likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

Site Name and Status	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives
	wetland, with cross-leaved heath which are listed in Annex 1.	
Thrislington (SAC)	Semi natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates. Contains the largest of the few surviving strands of CG8 <i>Sesleria albicans</i> – <i>Scabiosa columbaria</i> grassland. This form of calcareous grassland is confined to the Magnesian Limestone of County Durham and Tyne and Wear, and is found mainly as small scattered strands.	To maintain ^{4*} , in favourable condition, the unimproved calcareous grassland, with particular reference to semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (CG8 ⁵ grasslands)
Castle Eden Dene (SAC)	Represents the most extensive northerly native occurrence of yew <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods in the UK. Extensive yew groves are found in association with ash-elm <i>Fraxinus-Ulmus</i> woodland and it is the only site selected for yew woodland on Magnesian Limestone in north-east England.	To maintain in favourable condition the <i>Taxus baccata</i> wood
Durham Coast (SAC)	Only example of vegetated sea cliffs on Magnesian Limestone exposures in the UK. These cliffs extend along the North Sea coast for over 20km from South Shields to Blackhall Rocks. Within these habitats rare species of contrasting phytogeographic distributions often grow together forming unusual and species-rich communities of high scientific interest.	Subject to natural change, to maintain, in favourable condition, the vegetated sea cliffs:
Northumbria Coast (SPA/Ramsar)	<p>The site consists of mainly discrete sections of rocky shore with associated boulder and cobble beaches. The site qualifies 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:</p> <p>During the breeding season; Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>, 40 pairs representing at least 1.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1992/3 - 1996/7)</p> <p>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:</p> <p>Over winter; Purple Sandpiper <i>Calidris maritima</i>, 763 individuals representing at least 1.5% of the Eastern Atlantic - wintering population (5 year peak mean 1992/3 - 1996/7); Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>, 1,456 individuals representing at least 2.6% of the Western Palearctic - wintering population (5 year peak mean 1992/3 - 1996/7)</p>	Subject to natural change, to maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important populations of the regularly occurring Annex 1 bird species (Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>), under the Birds Directive, in particular the sandy beaches and shallow inshore waters at Low Newton; and, subject to natural change, maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important populations of regularly occurring migratory bird species

⁴ Maintain implies restoration if feature is not currently in favourable condition. This applies to all sites.

⁵ CG8 Grasslands is *Sesleria albicans* and *Scabiosa columbaria* grassland.

Site Name and Status	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives
		Purple Sandpiper <i>Calidris maritime</i> and Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> , under the Birds directive, in particular rocky shores with associated boulder and cobble beaches, and artificial high tide roost sites.

Table 3: Key Requirements for Maintenance of Sites in a Favourable Condition

Site Name and Status	Requirement	Initial Assessment of effects of the Regeneration and Environment Local Plan
Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast (Ramsar, SPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food availability • Vegetation structure • Hydrology/flow • Water depth • No disturbance • Extent and distribution of habitat • Open landscape • Safe high tide roost sites 	<p>Potential for impact on water quality and hydrological changes; potential to affect food availability.</p> <p>Impact from land use change, habitat loss or fragmentation uncertain.</p> <p>Potential for damage to undesignated land linked to the SPA, e.g. roost sites and foraging areas used by SPA birds.</p> <p>Potential for limited disturbance due to growing population and increase in visitor trips.</p> <p>Potential for disturbance to SPA species caused by the construction and operation of developments.</p> <p>Potential for disturbance from road upgrades in the vicinity.</p> <p>Impact from wind energy development, e.g. through collision mortality, disturbance and displacement, infrastructure for power networks and service access.</p> <p>Coastal squeeze caused by a combination of sea level rise and fixed coastal defences.</p> <p>Potential for disturbance from water based and shoreline recreation.</p> <p>Potential for increased collision mortality from airport expansion.</p>
North Yorkshire Moors (SAC/SPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reduction in area of any of the habitat types and any consequent fragmentation • No artificial drains/grips especially in wetter areas 	<p>No impact on land management.</p> <p>Potential for impact on air quality.</p> <p>No impact in land use change, habitat loss or fragmentation.</p> <p>Potential for limited disturbance due</p>

Site Name and Status	Requirement	Initial Assessment of effects of the Regeneration and Environment Local Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No erosion associated with human impacts (e.g. fires vehicles, livestock grazing, recreational activities) • No large scale peat extraction • No overgrazing • No overburning • Appropriate grazing and burning (provides for diversity of heather) • Limited air pollution • Open landscape • Lack of disturbance and persecution 	to growing population and increase in visitor trips.
Thrislington (SAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reduction in extent • Continuous management by seasonally adjusted grazing • No fertiliser input • Control of invasive features • Control of over grazing 	No impact on land management. No impact in land use change, habitat loss or fragmentation. No impact on control of invasive species.
Castle Eden Dene (SAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No loss of ancient semi-natural stands • Site management to maintain current level of structural diversity (Age/size class variation within and between stands; presence of open space and old trees; dead wood lying on the ground; standing dead trees) • Limited air pollution • Limited grazing by ungulates where it leads to undesirable shifts in the composition/structure of the stand 	No impact on land management. Potential for impact on air pollution.
Durham Coast (SAC)	<p>The communities present on the sea cliffs are largely maintained by natural processes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposure to sea spray • Erosion and slippage of the soft Magnesian Limestone bedrock and overlying glacial drifts, localised flushing by calcareous water. <p>There should be no increase in area constrained by introduced structures or landforms</p>	No impact on natural processes/structure and landforms.
Northumbria Coast (SPA/Ramsar)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food availability • Disturbance • Extent of habitat, both sandy beaches and rocky shores • Safe high tide roost sites • Vegetation cover 	No impact on food availability, extent of habitat, high tide roosts or vegetation cover, owing to distance in combination with southerly currents along the north east coast. Some potential for increased disturbance due to growing population and increase in visitor trips.



Conclusions of Initial Screening

- 2.5. Although not specifically mentioned in Table 3 as a requirement for maintenance in a favourable condition, consultation with Natural England indicated that all of the sites considered could be at risk from air pollution. Therefore, all the sites will be carried forward for consideration as to whether any of the potential impacts are likely to be significant. The favourable conditions tables, which will be used to inform the scope of the AA are attached as Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar Site

- 2.6. The SPA is a wetland of international importance comprising intertidal sand and mudflats, rocky shore, sand dunes, salt marsh, and freshwater marsh. All habitats are used for breeding, feeding and roosting. Large numbers of waterfowl feed and roost on the site in winter and during passage periods. It qualifies under the Birds Directive by supporting internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex 1⁶ species and migratory species, and an internationally important assemblage of water birds. A number of sites, which are part of the SPA and Ramsar Site, lie within the Borough.
- 2.7. Table 4 provides details of the qualifying features of the SPA, alongside key sub features, the conservation objectives for the site, and a brief description of the site's vulnerabilities. The favourable conditions table, which is used to inform the scope of the AA is attached at Appendix 1.

North York Moors SAC and SPA

- 2.8. The SAC/SPA lies to the south east of the Borough, partly in Redcar and Cleveland Borough and partly in North Yorkshire. This upland landscape is regarded as one of the best areas in the UK for heathland, containing the largest continuous tract of upland heather moorland in England. The North Atlantic wet heaths in the northern and eastern moors account for a high proportion of the European distribution of this habitat, and are a primary reason for its selection as an SAC. On the western, southern and central moors the principal type of heathland is European dry heaths, reflecting the underlying sandstone and limestone geology of the area. Blanket bog is also a significant presence in the North York Moors, and is an important priority habitat within the UK due to the abundance of bogs found in the UK compared to their comparative scarcity in the rest of Europe.
- 2.9. The mosaic of dry and wet heaths on the moors supports an important assemblage of moorland breeding birds, including Merlin and Golden Plover.
- 2.10. Tables 5 and 6 provide details of the qualifying features of the SAC/SPA, alongside key sub features, the conservation objectives for the site, and a brief description of the site's vulnerabilities. The favourable conditions table, which is used to inform the scope of the AA is attached at Appendix 2.

Castle Eden Dene SAC

- 2.11. Castle Eden Dene is the largest area of natural woodland in North East England. It occupies a deep, steep-sided ravine formed in the Magnesian Limestone and boulder clay of this area of County Durham. The Dene vegetation is a survivor of the wild wood that once covered most of Britain. Even today it remains relatively undisturbed by humans due to the difficult terrain of the steep sided ravines. Over 450 species of plants have been recorded in the wood, many of

⁶ The identification and classification of Special Protection Areas for rare or vulnerable bird species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive

which are typical of ancient woodlands that date back to pre - medieval times. The favourable conditions table, which is used to inform the scope of the AA is attached at Appendix 3. The site lies to the north, in Easington District.

Thrislington SAC

- 2.12. This small site was selected due to the fact that it contains the largest of a few surviving strands of *Sesleria albicans-Scabiosa columbaria* grassland. This form of calcareous grassland is confined to the Magnesian Limestone of north east England. It is found mainly as small scattered strands. The site comprises semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland. Table 8 provides details of the qualifying features of the SAC, alongside key sub-features, the conservation objectives for the site, and a brief description of the site's vulnerabilities. The favourable conditions table, which is used to inform the scope of the AA is attached at Appendix 4. The site lies to the north west of the Borough, in Sedgfield District.

Durham Coast SAC

- 2.13. The Durham coast is the only example of vegetated sea cliffs on Magnesian Limestone exposures in the UK. Their vegetation is unique in the British Isles. The plant communities present on the sea cliffs are largely maintained by natural processes including exposure to sea spray, erosion and slippage of the soft Magnesian Limestone bedrock and overlying glacial drifts, as well as localised flushing by calcareous water. Table 9 provides details of the qualifying features of the SAC, alongside key sub features, the conservation objectives for the site, and a brief description of the site's vulnerabilities. The favourable conditions table, which should be used to inform the scope of the AA, is attached at Appendix 5. Both the Durham coast SAC and the Northumbria Coast SPA (see below) run along the coast northwards from Hartlepool Headland.

Northumbrian Coast SPA and Ramsar Site

- 2.14. The Northumbria Coast SPA and Ramsar Site includes much of the coastline between the Tweed and Tees Estuaries in north-east England. The site consists of mainly discrete sections of rocky shore with associated boulder and cobble beaches. The SPA also includes parts of three artificial pier structures and a small section of sandy beach. It qualifies under the Birds Directive by supporting populations of species of European importance listed on Annex I of the Directive, including Little Tern during the breeding season, and Purple Sandpiper and Turnstone over the winter. The favourable conditions table, which should be used to inform the scope of the AA, is attached at Appendix 6.

Table 4: Qualifying Features of Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar Site

Qualifying Feature	Key Sub Feature	Conservation Objectives	Vulnerabilities
<p>Internationally important populations of the regularly occurring Annex 1 species. Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast is of importance for internationally important populations of breeding Little Tern and migrant Sandwich Tern, both of which are listed on Annex 1. (English Nature's advice under regulation 33(2) for the European Marine Site (November 2000).</p>	<p>Sand and shingle: nesting area for Little Tern (colonies at e.g. Seaton Dunes, South Gare and Coatham Sands).</p>	<p>Subject to natural change, maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important populations of the regularly occurring Annex 1 bird species, under the Birds Directive, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sand and shingle • Intertidal sandflat and mudflat • Shallow coastal waters 	<p>The natural incursion of coarse marine sediments into the estuary and the eutrophication of sheltered mudflats leading to the spread of dense Enteromorpha beds may impact on invertebrate density and abundance, and hence on waterfowl numbers. Indications are that the observed sediment changes derive from the reassertion of natural coastal processes within the context of an estuary much modified by human activity. An extensive long-term monitoring programme is investigating the effects of the Tees Barrage, while enrichment from sewage discharges should be ameliorated by the planned introduction of improved treatment facilities and the Environment Agency's acceptance of Seal Sands as a candidate Sensitive Area to eutrophication. Aside from the eutrophication issue, water quality has shown considerable and sustained improvement, leading to the re-establishment of migratory fish populations and the growth of Cormorant and common seal populations. The future development of port facilities in areas adjacent to the site, and in particular of deep water frontages with associated capital dredging, has the potential to cause adverse effect; These nutrient issues will be addressed through the planning system/Habitats Regulations, as will incompatible coastal defence schemes. Other issues on this relatively robust site include scrub encroachment on dunes (addressed by Site Management</p>
	<p>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).</p>		
	<p>Shallow coastal waters: the main feeding areas for Little Tern and Sandwich Tern, both of which species feed almost exclusively on fish</p>		
<p>Internationally important populations of regularly occurring migratory bird species. Knot occurs in internationally important numbers in winter; Redshank occurs in internationally important numbers during moult and migration in late summer and autumn.</p>	<p>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).</p>	<p>Subject to natural change, maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important populations of regularly occurring migratory bird species, under the Birds Directive, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rocky shores • Intertidal sandflat and mudflat • Saltmarsh 	
	<p>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).</p>		

Qualifying Feature	Key Sub Feature	Conservation Objectives	Vulnerabilities
	Saltmarsh: roosting for Redshank (the margins of Greatham Creek and part of Seal Sands)		Statements with owners) and recreational, bait-gathering and other disturbance/damage to habitats/species (addressed by WCA 1981, NNR Byelaws and the Tees Estuary Management Plan). In view of the importance of adjacent areas for process industries, the area may be at risk from land-take for development and disturbance related to road upgrades associated with further development in the area.
	Grazing marsh: A small proportion of the Redshank population utilize grazing marsh habitats outside the European Marine Site.		
Internationally important assemblage of water birds 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.	Rocky shores: very important feeding habitats; invertebrates are eaten by Knot and wintering Redshank.	Subject to natural change, maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important assemblage of waterbirds, under the Birds Directive, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rocky shores • Intertidal sandflat and mudflat • Saltmarsh 	
	Intertidal sandflat and mudflat: invertebrates in these areas are important as winter food for Knot, Redshank, Shelduck and Sanderling.		
	Saltmarsh: feeding and roosting for many species, in particular Redshank, Shelduck and Teal.		
	Grazing marsh: a high proportion of the assemblage also utilise grazing marsh habitats outside the European Marine Site.		

Table 5: Qualifying Features of North York Moors SAC

Qualifying Feature	Key Sub Feature	Conservation Objectives	Vulnerabilities
<p>This site in north-east Yorkshire within the North York Moors National Park contains the largest continuous tract of upland heather moorland in England.</p> <p>North Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>, for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK.</p>	<p>M16 <i>Erica tetralix</i> – <i>Sphagnum compactum</i> 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 <i>Molinia caerulea</i> and heath rush <i>Juncus squarrosus</i> are also common within this community. In the wettest stands bog-mosses, including <i>Sphagnum tenellum</i>, occur, and the nationally scarce Creeping Forget-me-not <i>Myosotis stolonifera</i> can be found in acid moorland streams and shallow pools.</p>	<p>To maintain* in favourable condition the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European dry heath • Northern Atlantic wet heath with <i>Erica tetralix</i> • Blanket bog <p>*Maintain implies restoration if feature is not currently in favourable condition</p>	<p>This habitat is very sensitive to any changes to the existing moorland management regime, which is currently carried out mainly for sheep and grouse shooting purposes. Changes to grazing levels will impact upon the diversity of the heather found, with overgrazing leading to direct heather loss and undergrazing allowing scrub to encroach. The wetter habitats are vulnerable to changes in drainage that can lead to a loss in structural diversity as well as the loss of mosses and lichens. Overburning or accidental fires, the risk of which can be exacerbated by increasing visitor numbers, may also detrimentally impact upon these habitats. Any increase in air pollution may also have an impact.</p>
<p>European dry heaths, for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK.</p>	<p>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 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>, with some H10 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Erica cinerea</i> heath on well-drained areas throughout the site, and large areas of H12 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> heath on steeper slopes.</p>		
<p>Blanket bogs, for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p>	<p>Upland bog</p>		

Table 6: Qualifying Features of North York Moors SPA

Qualifying Feature	Key Sub Feature	Conservation Objectives	Vulnerabilities
<p>Internationally important populations of the regularly occurring Annex 1 species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden Plover • Merlin 	<p>Upland Moor Merlin feed on small birds such as meadow pipit and Skylark which nest on the moors. Golden Plover nest on the moors and feed on invertebrates on the moors. Both species require the moorland habitat to be managed.</p>	<p>To maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of Annex 1 species of European importance, with particular reference to Merlin and Golden Plover, the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • upland moorland. 	<p>The value of the North York Moors in providing suitable habitat for breeding Merlin and Golden Plover is dependent on the moorland management that is carried out by farmers and gamekeepers to maintain the moorland plant communities and grouse populations. The most vulnerable plant communities are the heaths and mires which are susceptible to overgrazing, gripping and too frequent heather burning leading to species impoverishment and a loss of structural diversity. A lack of keeping and undergrazing on some moors has resulted in large areas of undermanaged old heather lacking structural diversity that reduces the suitability of the habitat for Merlin and Golden Plover. This is being addressed by looking at payments for positive heather management, such as cutting and burning. The majority of the site is being managed in a desirable way with pressures being largely restricted to small areas.</p>
<p>Internationally important populations of regularly occurring migratory bird species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden Plover • Merlin 		<p>*Maintain implies restoration if feature is not currently in favourable condition</p>	

Table 7: Qualifying Features of Castle Eden Dene SAC

Qualifying Feature	Key Sub Feature	Conservation Objectives	Vulnerabilities
Castle Eden Dene represents the most extensive northerly native occurrence of Yew <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods in the UK. Extensive Yew groves are found in association with Ash-Elm <i>Fraxinus-Ulmus</i> woodland and it is the only site selected for Yew woodland on magnesian limestone in north-east England.	Not applicable	To maintain, in favourable condition, the <i>Taxus baccata</i> wood.	Loss of ancient semi-natural stands of Yew trees

Table 8: Qualifying Features of Durham Coast SAC

Qualifying Feature	Key Sub Feature	Conservation Objectives	Vulnerabilities
Vegetated Sea Cliff	Not applicable	To maintain in favourable condition the vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts.	Modification of vegetation patterns through natural and geomorphological processes without constraints. Land slippage and more constant erosion maintain the mobility of the cliffs and promote dynamic systems and a range and variety of successive communities. The introduction of, or increase in physical restraints would reduce the mobility of the cliffs. Potential susceptibility of species to air pollution.

Table 9: Qualifying Features of Durham Coast SAC

Qualifying Feature	Key Sub Feature	Conservation Objectives	Vulnerabilities
Vegetated Sea Cliff	Not applicable	To maintain in favourable condition the vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts.	Modification of vegetation patterns through natural and geomorphological processes without constraints. Land slippage and more constant erosion maintain the mobility of the cliffs and promote dynamic systems and a range and variety of successive communities. The introduction of, or increase in physical restraints would reduce the mobility of the cliffs. Potential susceptibility of species to air pollution.

Table 10: Qualifying Features of Northumbria Coast SPA and Ramsar Site

Qualifying Feature	Key Sub Feature	Conservation Objectives	Vulnerabilities
<p>Internationally important populations of the regularly occurring Annex 1 species, during the breeding season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Tern <p>Internationally important populations of regularly occurring over-wintering bird species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purple Sandpiper • Turnstone 	<p>Cliffs, Coastal, Estuary, Intertidal rock, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Open coast (including bay), Pools</p>	<p>Subject to natural change, to maintain, in favourable condition</p>	<p>Little Terns are vulnerable to disturbance by tourists in the summer causing reduced breeding success. The National Trust employs wardens each summer to protect the Little Tern colony at Beadnell Bay. The sandy beach at Low Newton is an important breeding area for Little Tern and the shallow inshore waters are used for feeding. The birds are highly sensitive to loss of habitat, beach and inshore waters which could damage their long-term condition.</p> <p>Over-wintering migratory species are highly sensitive to removal or smothering of algal mats along the shore, and removal of their favoured roosts. However, there is currently low exposure to this operation. Physical damage reduces food availability to birds or changes to the suitability of habitats for roosting and feeding. Most intertidal communities tend to be more resilient to physical damage because of their adaptation to the physical processes to which they are normally subjected. Over wintering waterfowl are moderately sensitive to noise and visual disturbance.</p> <p>Toxic contamination may also affect bird populations indirectly, by affecting the abundance of food items. However, there is no evidence to show there is a problem with this site. However, because of the location of the Tees to the south of the SPA, prevailing currents and winds make exposure to this minimal.</p>

3. Screening Analysis of the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Regeneration and Environment Local Plan

Development Proposed in the Regeneration and Environment Local Plan

- 3.1. The Regeneration and Environment Local Plan (RELP) is an amalgamation of the Regeneration DPD and the Environment DPD, which were both subject to separate Issues and Options consultations. Combining the documents allowed the Council to be consistent with Government advice and reduce the number of documents produced. In addition, the Council also consulted upon the Issues and Options of a Core Strategy DPD Review as a separate document. This review focused upon the housing aspects of the Spatial Strategy and the housing phasing and distribution policies and has also been amalgamated into the Regeneration and Environment Local Plan.
- 3.2. The RELP will:
- Set out the new spatial strategy for housing and allocate sites that will deliver this new housing strategy;
 - Include site specific allocations and development policies relating to employment, retail, renewable energy development, mixed use developments, transport, regeneration, the natural, built and historic environments and open space, sport and recreation;
 - Identify and designate non site-specific designations relating to Green Wedge, Limits to Development and Character Areas.
- 3.3. The key impacts from the housing spatial strategy within the RELP will arise from the identification of housing sites outside of the Core Area. This change in housing distribution will have the potential to impact upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 3.4. The RELP will also identify a number of site allocations that will fulfil the economic and transport needs of the Borough. The RELP includes policies that seek to control the expansion of built up areas both to protect the countryside for its own sake, and to encourage the recycling of derelict and underused sites within the urban area. It seeks to protect and enhance the Borough's green infrastructure, natural, historic, and rural environments, as well as areas for sport and recreation.
- 3.5. It is considered that the key impact that is likely to result from the Regeneration and Environment Local Plan is an increase in air pollution that may result from an increase in traffic due to future development. The elements of the review with the most relevance to the Natura 2000 sites are:
- Provision for the development of 8,839 dwellings, of which 3416 are new allocations ;
 - Identifying greenfield land for development;
 - The allocation of land in the area of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar Site for industrial uses;
 - Allocation of land adjacent to the River Tees.
- 3.6. The Regeneration and Environment LDD has the potential to impact upon Nature 2000 sites in the following ways:

- Increased air pollution from an increase in traffic, energy generation and industrial activity;
- Disturbance from increased activity, noise and light;
- Habitat loss from land take for development;
- Damage to undesignated foraging and roost sites for SPA birds;
- Water quality and hydrological changes including increased use of water and increased run-off of surface water;
- Disturbance of fauna and damage to habitats from increased visits to the designated sites;
- Collision mortality from wind energy development, the expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and overhead power lines.
- Disturbance to SPA species caused by the construction and operation of developments.

Table 11: Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA

Policy	Policy Description	Issues Likely to Affect Site Integrity	Further Assessment Required
SP1	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development Sets out how applications will be determined and reflects a presumption in favour of sustainable development.	The policy is based on the NPPF, which includes protection for European sites. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SPA.	No
SP2	Housing Spatial Strategy Sets out the strategy for approving housing development, including a site selection hierarchy.	Places sites within the Core Area and existing conurbation at the top of the hierarchy and is unlikely to impact upon the SPA.	No
SP3	Locating Development Restricts development outside of identified settlement boundaries and protects areas of Green Wedge and Strategic Gap.	This policy seeks to control and restrict development in a countryside location. However, the policy does include land that may be of functional importance to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site within the limits for development.	Yes
SP4	Infrastructure Delivery Confirms that the Council will seek the provision of previously identified infrastructure requirements.	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and does not, itself, allocate land for development. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SPA.	No
SP5	Infrastructure and Development Requires that any infrastructure identified as necessary for a development to proceed will be provided and supports the provision of new infrastructure.	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and does not, itself, allocate land for development. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SPA.	No
SP6	Developer Contributions Sets out the means by which the Council will secure infrastructure and contributions.	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and does not, itself, allocate land for development. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SPA.	No
T1	Protecting and Taking Up Opportunities for the Use of Sustainable Modes of Transport Supports the delivery of new infrastructure for sustainable transport and protects existing routes from development.	The policy encourages developments to connect to existing networks, provide infrastructure for sustainable travel and protects existing and proposed footpaths and cycle routes. These will be provided within developments that come forward separately of this policy and it is unlikely to lead to a significant impact on the SPA.	No
T2	Widening Transport Choice Supports the development of a strategic network of footpaths and cycleways.	The policy safeguards land for new infrastructure which includes crossing over the River Tees and new footpaths near Greatham Creek.	Yes
T3	Highways Infrastructure	Supports specific road schemes that	Yes

	Safeguards routes for road improvement schemes.	have the potential to impact upon the SPA site due to their location near to the River Tees.	
T4	Local Parking Standards Requires that new developments provide adequate parking.	The policy requires that development provide sufficient car parking to meet their needs and does not encourage new developments or allocate land and will not have to a significant impact on the SPA.	No
SL1	Development and Amenity Considers the effect of development on the amenity of neighbouring residents.	The policy is considered with the effect of development upon the amenity of residents and will not have a significant impact upon the SPA.	No
SL2	Renewable Energy Generation Supports renewable energy developments and sets criteria for their determination.	The policy indicates support for renewable energy schemes. These schemes, including the transport and combustion aspects of biofuel generation, have the potential to impact upon the SPA.	Yes
SL3	Communications Infrastructure Supports the expansion of communications networks and requires the delivery of infrastructure.	The policy aims to reduce the number of individual communications masts and require developers to provide infrastructure for telecommunications within their proposals. It is unlikely to lead to a significant impact upon the SPA.	No
EMP1	Employment Land Portfolio Allocates land for employment related development.	The policy allocates land for development which is located on the edge of the River Tees.	Yes
EMP2	North Tees and Billingham Allocates land for development by specific industries.	The policy allocates land for development within the area of the River Tees and specifically refers to the SPA.	Yes
EMP3	Important Bird Populations and the Seal Sands and North Tees Sites Protects land of functional importance to the SPA and requires measures to protect the SPA and the consideration of any cumulative impacts.	The policy seeks to protect land of functional importance to the SPA and to prevent a cumulative impact from development upon the SPA.	Yes
EMP4	Durham Tees Valley Airport Safeguards land for the continued operation of the airport and allocates land for employment developments.	Expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and the growth in employment uses has the potential to lead to increased air pollution.	Yes
TC1	Supporting Town Centres Directs town centre uses to a hierarchy of retail centres and sustainable areas.	The policy directs town centre use development to the town centre and then other sustainable locations and will not lead to a significant impact upon the SPA.	No
TC2	Protecting Town Centres Seeks to protect the viability of retail centres by placing restrictions on development outside of centres.	The policy requires that proposals for town centre uses outside the designated centres provide an acceptable retail impact assessment. The policy will not have any significant impact upon the SPA.	No
TC3	Development for Town Centre Uses Allocates town centre sites for development and supports	The policy includes an allocation for a mixed use development adjacent to the River Tees.	Yes

	development in Billingham and Ingleby Barwick centres.		
TC4	Stockton Primary Shopping Area Provides measures to protect the primary shopping area.	The policy relates to developments within the Primary Shopping Area of the Town Centre only and will not have an impact upon the SPA.	No
TC5	Stockton Town Centre Seeks to retain and mix of uses within the Town Centre.	The policy relates to developments within the designated Town Centre and will not impact upon the SPA.	No
TC6	District and Local Centres Seeks to restrict the loss of retail within District and Local Centres.	The policy relates to changes of use within the district and local retail centres and will not impact upon the SPA.	No
TC7	Small Scale Convenience Facilities Seeks to retain convenience retailing and community facilities in retail centres and provides protection against the loss of important local shops and services	The policy seeks to protect existing neighbourhood centres and local facilities and places restrictions on developments outside of the retail centres. It will not impact on the SPA.	No
TC8	Food, Drink and Evening Economy Uses Places restrictions on new food and drink uses.	Relates to proposals within identified centres and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SPA.	No
PF1	Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Seeks contributions to new facilities or improvements.	The policy does not propose new development nor allocate sites for development. It is unlikely that there will be a significant impact upon the SPA.	No
PF2	Maximise Civic Space for Community Interaction Provides for the enhancement of existing civic spaces.	The policy seeks to enhance existing spaces and is unlikely to result in an impact upon the SPA.. It is unlikely that there will be any resulting impact upon the SPA.	No
PF3	Community Facilities Safeguards land for a number of community facilities.	Proposes a riverside development that will increase the leisure use of the river.	Yes
H1	Housing Allocations Allocates a number of sites within the Borough for housing development.	Individual sites are unlikely to impact upon the SPA. However, the cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in air pollution or disturbance impacts.	Yes.
H2-H40	Housing Sites Individual policies for allocation of sites for housing.	Due to their locations, the individual allocations are unlikely to impact and their cumulative impact will be considered. H4 allocates land on the edge of the River Tees which may lead to an impact upon the SPA.	Yes for H4
H41	Affordable Housing Provision. Outlines requirements for affordable housing.	The policy does not propose development or allocate land and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SPA.	No
H43	Housing Mix Outlines requirements for affordable housing	The policy does not propose development or allocate land and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SPA..	No
ENV1	Green Infrastructure Seeks to protect and enhance green infrastructure in the Borough.	The policy seeks to protect existing areas of green infrastructure and does not propose new	No

		developments.	
ENV2	Natural Environment Seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity.	The policy seeks to protect Local Green spaces and the value of existing areas of Urban Open Space. It is unlikely there will be any impact upon the SPA.	No
ENV3	Tees Heritage Park Supports proposals to enhance the heritage park area.	The policy supports proposals that lead to an enhanced access to and use of the River Tees.	Yes
ENV4	Landscape Character Protects the character of areas defined within the Tees Lowlands National Character Area and the Stockton-on-Tees Landscape Character Assessment and Capacity Study.	The policy requires that developments respect or enhance the character of the landscape. It does not allocate land or propose development and is unlikely to impact upon the SPA.	No
ENV5	Re-Use and Replacement of Rural Buildings Supports the re-use of rural buildings and sets criteria for the consideration of replacement buildings.	The policy states that the re-use of rural buildings is preferable to new builds and places restrictions upon replacement rural buildings.	No
ENV6	Farm Diversification Sets criteria for the consideration of retail developments associated with horticultural nurseries or farm shops.	The policy relates to small scale developments within existing working farms. It seeks to limit the scale of farm diversification developments.	No
ENV7	Equestrian Activity Sets criteria for the consideration of private and commercial equestrian related development.	Inappropriately located equestrian developments could impact upon the SPA.	Yes.
ENV8	Agricultural, Forestry and Other Rural Enterprise Dwellings Sets criteria for approving dwellings necessary for a rural enterprise.	The policy will restrict new dwellings within the countryside and is unlikely to impact upon the SPA.	No
HE1	Conservation and Enjoyment of the Historic Environment Sets out how the Council will seek to ensure the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment.	The policy seeks to protect the character of the historic landscape by requiring developers to consider the historic characteristics of the landscape and demonstrate how the development will protect, interpret and enhance these characteristics. The policy is unlikely to have an impact upon the SPA.	No
HE2	Conserving and Enhancing Stockton's Heritage assets Identifies assets of significance and supports proposals for the enhancement of the historic environment.	The policy aims to protect the character of designated areas and does not encourage new development.	No
HE3	Character Areas Places restrictions on development within character areas.	The policy identifies areas within the conurbation where development that impacts upon the character of the area will be restricted. There will not be an impact upon the SPA.	No
HE4	Local List Identifies buildings of local architectural or historic interest that should be preserved.	The policy seeks to ensure that development proposals preserve the special local architectural or historic interest of buildings on the Local List. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the SPA.	No
HE5	Stockton and Darlington Railway	The policy places restrictions on	No.

	Seeks to preserve the route and remains of the former Stockton and Darlington Railway.	development on the historic route of the Stockton to Darlington Railway and is unlikely to impact upon the SPA.	
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Table 12: Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Ramsar Site

Policy	Policy Description	Issues Likely to Affect Site Integrity	Further Assessment Required
SP1	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development Sets out how applications will be determined and reflects a presumption in favour of sustainable development.	The policy is based on the NPPF, which includes protection for European sites. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the Ramsar site.	No
SP2	Housing Spatial Strategy Sets out the strategy for approving housing development, including a site selection hierarchy.	Places sites within the Core Area and existing conurbation at the top of the hierarchy and is unlikely to impact upon the Ramsar site.	No
SP3	Locating Development Restricts development outside of identified settlement boundaries and protects areas of Green Wedge and Strategic Gap.	This policy seeks to control and restrict development in a countryside location. However, the policy does include land that may be of functional importance to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site within the limits for development.	Yes
SP4	Infrastructure Delivery Confirms that the Council will seek the provision of previously identified infrastructure requirements.	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and does not, itself, allocate land for development. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the Ramsar site.	No
SP5	Infrastructure and Development Requires that any infrastructure identified as necessary for a development to proceed will be provided and supports the provision of new infrastructure.	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and does not, itself, allocate land for development. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the Ramsar site.	No
SP6	Developer Contributions Sets out the means by which the Council will secure infrastructure and contributions.	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and does not, itself, allocate land for development. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the Ramsar site.	No
T1	Protecting and Taking Up Opportunities for the Use of Sustainable Modes of Transport Supports the delivery of new infrastructure for sustainable transport and protects existing routes from development.	The policy encourages developments to connect to existing networks, provide infrastructure for sustainable travel and protects existing and proposed footpaths and cycle routes. These will be provided within developments that come forward separately of this policy and it is unlikely to lead to a significant impact on the Ramsar site.	No
T2	Widening Transport Choice Supports the development of a strategic network of footpaths and	The policy safeguards land for new infrastructure which includes crossing over the River Tees and	Yes

	cycleways.	new footpaths near Greatham Creek.	
T3	Highways Infrastructure Safeguards routes for road improvement schemes.	Supports specific road schemes that have the potential to impact upon the Ramsar site due to their location near to the River Tees.	Yes
T4	Local Parking Standards Requires that new developments provide adequate parking.	The policy requires that development provide sufficient car parking to meet their needs and does not encourage new developments or allocate land and will not have to a significant impact on the Ramsar site.	No
SL1	Development and Amenity Considers the effect of development on the amenity of neighbouring residents.	The policy is considered with the effect of development upon the amenity of residents and will not have a significant impact upon the Ramsar site.	No
SL2	Renewable Energy Generation Supports renewable energy developments and sets criteria for their determination.	The policy indicates support for renewable energy schemes. These schemes, including the transport and combustion aspects of biofuel generation, have the potential to impact upon the Ramsar site.	Yes
SL3	Communications Infrastructure Supports the expansion of communications networks and requires the delivery of infrastructure.	The policy aims to reduce the number of individual communications masts and require developers to provide infrastructure for telecommunications within their proposals. It is unlikely to lead to a significant impact upon the Ramsar.	No
EMP1	Employment Land Portfolio Allocates land for employment related development.	Designates sites for employment used and includes land adjacent to the river.	Yes
EMP2	North Tees and Billingham Allocates land for development by specific industries.	The policy allocates land for development within the area of the River Tees and specifically refers to the Ramsar site.	Yes
EMP3	Important Bird Populations and the Seal Sands and North Tees Sites Protects land identified as being of functional importance to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site and requires measures to protect the SPA and the consideration of any cumulative impacts..	The policy seeks to protect land of functional importance to the Ramsar site and to prevent a cumulative impact from development upon the Ramsar site.	Yes
EMP4	Durham Tees Valley Airport Safeguards land for the continued operation of the airport and allocates land for employment developments.	Expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and the growth in employment uses has the potential to lead to increased air pollution.	Yes
TC1	Supporting Town Centres Directs town centre uses to a hierarchy of retail centres and sustainable areas.	The policy supports the delivery of improvements to existing public realm within the Town Centre and is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the Ramsar site.	No
TC2	Protecting Town Centres Seeks to protect the viability of retail	The policy requires that proposals for town centre uses outside the	No

	centres by placing restrictions on development outside of centres.	designated centres provide an acceptable retail impact assessment. The policy will not have any significant impact upon the Ramsar site.	
TC3	Development for Town Centre Uses Allocates town centre sites for development and supports development in Billingham and Ingleby Barwick centres.	The policy includes an allocation for a mixed use development adjacent to the River Tees.	Yes
TC4	Stockton Primary Shopping Area Provides measures to protect the primary shopping area.	The policy relates to developments within the Primary Shopping Area of the Town Centre only and will not have an impact upon the Ramsar site.	No
TC5	Stockton Town Centre Seeks to retain and mix of uses within the Town Centre.	The policy relates to developments within the designated Town Centre and will not impact upon the Ramsar site.	No
TC6	District and Local Centres Seeks to restrict the loss of retail within District and Local Centres.	The policy relates to changes of use within the district and local retail centres and will not impact upon the Ramsar site.	No
TC7	Small Scale Convenience Facilities Seeks to retain convenience retailing and community facilities in retail centres and provides protection against the loss of important local shops and services	The policy seeks to protect existing neighbourhood centres and local facilities and places restrictions on developments outside of the retail centres. It will not impact on the Ramsar site.	No
TC8	Food, Drink and Evening Economy Uses Places restrictions on new food and drink uses.	Relates to proposals within identified centres and is unlikely to have an impact upon the Ramsar site.	No
PF1	Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Seeks contributions to new facilities or improvements.	The policy does not propose new development nor allocate sites for development. It is unlikely that there will be a significant impact upon the Ramsar site.	No
PF2	Maximise Civic Space for Community Interaction Provides for the enhancement of existing civic spaces.	The policy seeks to enhance existing spaces and is unlikely to result in an impact upon the Ramsar site. It is unlikely that there will be any resulting impact upon the Ramsar site.	No
PF3	Community Facilities Safeguards land for a number of community facilities.	Proposes a riverside development that will increase the leisure use of the river.	Yes
H1	Housing Allocations Allocates a number of sites within the Borough for housing development.	Individual sites are unlikely to impact upon the SPA. However, the cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in air pollution or disturbance impacts.	Yes
H2-H39	Housing Sites Individual policies for allocation of sites for housing.	Due to their locations, the individual allocations are unlikely to impact and their cumulative impact will be considered. H4 allocates land on the edge of the River Tees which may lead to an impact upon the Ramsar site.	Yes for H4

H40	Affordable Housing Provision. Outlines requirements for affordable housing.	The policy does not propose development or allocate land and is unlikely to have an impact upon the Ramsar site.	No
H41	Housing Mix Outlines requirements for affordable housing	The policy does not propose development or allocate land and is unlikely to have an impact upon the Ramsar site.	No
ENV1	Green Infrastructure Seeks to protect and enhance green infrastructure in the Borough.	The policy seeks to protect existing areas of green infrastructure and sets out the mechanism by which improvements to the open space provision will be delivered. No potential impact upon the Ramsar site has been identified.	No
ENV2	Natural Environment Seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity.	The policy seeks to protect designated biodiversity sites and priority habitats and improve the network of natural habitats within the Borough. It is unlikely there will be any impact upon the Ramsar site.	No
ENV3	Tees Heritage Park Supports proposals to enhance the heritage park area.	The policy supports proposals that lead to an enhanced access to and use of the River Tees.	Yes
ENV4	Landscape Character Protects the character of areas defined within the Tees Lowlands National Character Area and the Stockton-On-Tees Landscape Character Assessment and Capacity Study.	The policy requires that developments respect or enhance the character of the landscape. It does not allocate land for development or propose development and is unlikely to impact upon the Ramsar site.	No
ENV5	Re-Use and Replacement of Rural Buildings Supports the re-use of rural buildings and sets criteria for the consideration of replacement buildings.	The policy states that the re-use of rural buildings is preferable to new builds and places restrictions upon replacement rural buildings.	No
ENV6	Farm Diversification Sets criteria for the consideration of retail developments associated with horticultural nurseries or farm shops.	The policy relates to small scale developments within existing working farms. It seeks to limit the scale of farm diversification developments.	No
ENV7	Equestrian Activity Sets criteria for the consideration of private and commercial equestrian related development.	Inappropriately located equestrian developments could impact upon the Ramsar site.	Yes
ENV8	Agricultural, Forestry and Other Rural Enterprise Dwellings Sets criteria for approving dwellings necessary for a rural enterprise.	The policy will restrict new dwellings within the countryside and is unlikely to impact upon the Ramsar site.	No
HE1	Conservation and Enjoyment of the Historic Environment Sets out how the Council will seek to ensure the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment.	The policy relates to the conservation of the historic environment and heritage assets and is unlikely to have an impact upon the Ramsar site.	No
HE2	Conserving and Enhancing Stockton's Heritage assets Identifies assets of significance and supports proposals for the enhancement of the historic	The policy aims to protect the character of designated areas and does not encourage new development.	No

	environment.		
HE3	Character Areas Places restrictions on development within character areas.	The policy identifies areas within the conurbation where development that impacts upon the character of the area will be restricted. There will not be an impact upon the Ramsar site.	No
HE4	Local List Identifies buildings of local architectural or historic interest that should be preserved.	The policy seeks to ensure that development proposals preserve the special local architectural or historic interest of buildings on the Local List. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the Ramsar site.	No
HE5	Stockton and Darlington Railway Seeks to preserve the route and remains of the former Stockton and Darlington Railway.	The policy places restrictions on development on the historic route of the railway and is unlikely to impact upon the Ramsar site.	No

Table 13: Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon North York Moors SPA

Policy	Policy Description	Issues Likely to Affect Site Integrity	Further Assessment Required
SP1	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development Sets out how applications will be determined and reflects a presumption in favour of sustainable development.	The policy is based on the NPPF, which includes protection for European sites. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SPA.	No
SP2	Housing Spatial Strategy Sets out the strategy for approving housing development, including a site selection hierarchy.	Places sites within the Core Area and existing conurbation at the top of the hierarchy and is unlikely to impact upon the SPA.	No
SP3	Locating Development Restricts development outside of identified settlement boundaries and protects areas of Green Wedge and Strategic Gap.	This policy seeks to control and restrict development in a countryside location and is unlikely to impact upon the SPA.	No
SP4	Infrastructure Delivery Confirms that the Council will seek the provision of previously identified infrastructure requirements.	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and does not, itself, allocate land for development. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SPA.	No
SP5	Infrastructure and Development Requires that any infrastructure identified as necessary for a development to proceed will be provided and supports the provision of new infrastructure.	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and does not, itself, allocate land for development. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SPA.	No
SP6	Developer Contributions Sets out the means by which the Council will secure infrastructure and contributions.	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and does not, itself, allocate land for development. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SPA.	No
T1	Protecting and Taking Up Opportunities for the Use of Sustainable Modes of Transport Supports the delivery of new infrastructure for sustainable transport and protects existing routes from development.	The policy encourages developments to connect to existing networks, provide infrastructure for sustainable travel and protects existing and proposed footpaths and cycle routes. These will be provided within developments that come forward separately of this policy and it is unlikely to lead to a significant impact on the SPA.	No
T2	Widening Transport Choice Supports the development of a strategic network of footpaths and cycleways.	The policy safeguards land for new infrastructure but the sites are remote from the SPA and, due to the prevailing wind direction are unlikely to impact upon the SPA.	No
T3	Highways Infrastructure Safeguards routes for road	The policy supports the delivery of specific road schemes. These	No

	improvement schemes.	schemes will be remote from the SPA and are unlikely to result in an impact due to the prevailing wind direction. The cumulative impact of increased development will be considered separately.	
T4	Local Parking Standards Requires that new developments provide adequate parking.	The policy requires that development provide sufficient car parking to meet their needs and does not encourage new developments or allocate land and will not have to a significant impact on the SPA.	No
SL1	Development and Amenity Considers the effect of development on the amenity of neighbouring residents.	The policy is considered with the effect of development upon the amenity of residents and will not have a significant impact upon the SPA.	No
SL2	Renewable Energy Generation Supports renewable energy developments and sets criteria for their determination.	The policy indicates support for renewable energy schemes that have the potential to impact upon bird flight lines or lead to increased air pollution. Potential wind schemes are remote from the SPA and flight lines are predominantly along the coast and, while biomass generation and transport may lead to an increase in air pollution, the effect is likely to be minimal due to the prevailing wind direction.	No
SL3	Communications Infrastructure Supports the expansion of communications networks and requires the delivery of infrastructure.	The policy aims to reduce the number of individual communications masts and require developers to provide infrastructure for telecommunications within their proposals. It is unlikely to lead to a significant impact upon the SPA.	No
EMP1	Employment Land Portfolio Allocates land for employment related development.	Designates sites for employment that are remote from the SPA and unlikely to have an impact.	No
EMP2	North Tees and Billingham Allocates land for development by specific industries.	The sites are remote from the SPA and the policy is unlikely to lead to a significant impact upon the site.	No
EMP3	Important Bird Populations and the Seal Sands and North Tees Sites Protects land of functional importance to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site and requires measures to protect the site and the consideration of any cumulative impacts.	The policy relates specifically to land of functional importance to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site and will not impact upon the North Yorks Moors SPA.	No
EMP4	Durham Tees Valley Airport Safeguards land for the continued operation of the airport and allocates land for employment developments.	Provision for the expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and airport related uses has the potential to lead to an increase in air pollution.	Yes
TC1	Supporting Town Centres Directs town centre uses to a hierarchy of retail centres and sustainable areas.	The policy directs town centre use development to the town centre and then other sustainable locations and will not lead to a significant impact upon the SPA.	No
TC2	Protecting Town Centres	The policy requires that proposals for	No

	Seeks to protect the viability of retail centres by placing restrictions on development outside of centres.	town centre uses outside the designated centres provide an acceptable retail impact assessment. The policy will not have any significant impact upon the SPA.	
TC3	Development for Town Centre Uses Allocates town centre sites for development and supports development in Billingham and Ingleby Barwick centres.	The allocated sites are remote from the SPA and will not lead to an impact on the site.	No
TC4	Stockton Primary Shopping Area Provides measures to protect the primary shopping area.	The policy relates to developments within the Primary Shopping Area of the Town Centre only and will not have an impact upon the SPA.	No
TC5	Stockton Town Centre Seeks to retain and mix of uses within the Town Centre.	The policy relates to developments within the designated Town Centre and will not impact upon the SPA.	No
TC6	District and Local Centres Seeks to restrict the loss of retail within District and Local Centres.	The policy relates to changes of use within the district and local retail centres and will not impact upon the SPA.	No
TC7	Small Scale Convenience Facilities Seeks to retain convenience retailing and community facilities in retail centres and provides protection against the loss of important local shops and services.	The policy seeks to protect existing neighbourhood centres and local facilities and places restrictions on developments outside of the retail centres. It will not impact on the SPA.	No
TC8	Food, Drink and Evening Economy Uses Places restrictions on new food and drink uses.	Relates to proposals within identified centres and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SPA.	No
PF1	Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Seeks contributions to new facilities or improvements.	The policy does not propose new development nor allocate sites for development. It is unlikely that there will be a significant impact upon the SPA.	No
PF2	Maximise Civic Space for Community Interaction Provides for the enhancement of existing civic spaces.	The policy seeks to enhance existing spaces and it is unlikely to result in an impact upon the SPA.	No
PF3	Community Facilities Safeguards land for a number of community facilities.	The proposed facilities will be remote from the SPA and will not lead to any significant impacts.	No
H1	New Housing Sites Allocates a number of sites within the Borough for housing development.	The cumulative impact of the individual housing sites will be to increase the air pollution through a population increase. Due to the location of the site and the prevailing wind direction it is unlikely there will be any impact upon the SPA.	No
H2-H39	Housing Sites Individual policies for allocation of sites for housing.	Due to their locations, which are remote from the SPA, there will not be an impact upon the site from the individual housing allocations.	No
H40	Affordable Housing Provision. Outlines requirements for affordable housing.	The policy does not propose development or allocate land and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SPA.	No

H41	Housing Mix Outlines requirements for affordable housing	The policy does not propose development or allocate land and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SPA.	No
ENV1	Green Infrastructure Seeks to protect and enhance green infrastructure in the Borough.	The policy seeks to protect existing areas of green infrastructure and sets out the mechanism by which improvements to the open space provision will be delivered. No potential impact upon the SPA has been identified.	No
ENV2	Natural Environment Seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity	The policy seeks to protect designated biodiversity sites and priority habitats and improve the network of natural habitats within the Borough. It is unlikely there will be any impact upon the SPA.	No
ENV4	Landscape Character Protects the character of areas defined within the Tees Lowlands National Character Area and the Stockton-on-Tees Landscape Character Assessment and Capacity Study.	The policy requires that developments respect or enhance the character of the landscape. It does not allocate land or propose development and is unlikely to impact upon the SPA.	No
ENV5	Re-Use and Replacement of Rural Buildings Supports the re-use of rural buildings and sets criteria for the consideration of replacement buildings.	The policy places restrictions on new rural buildings in an area that is removed from the SPA.	No
ENV6	Farm Diversification Sets criteria for the consideration of retail developments associated with horticultural nurseries or farm shops.	The policy seeks to limit the scale of farm diversification schemes within existing working farms.	No
ENV7	Equestrian Activity Sets criteria for the consideration of private and commercial equestrian related development.	Any equestrian developments will be remote from the SPA and are unlikely to impact upon the site.	No
ENV8	Agricultural, Forestry and Other Rural Enterprise Dwelling Sets criteria for approving dwellings necessary for a rural enterprise.	The Policy will restrict new dwellings within the countryside and is unlikely to impact upon the SPA.	No
HE1	Conservation and Enjoyment of the Historic Environment Sets out how the Council will seek to ensure the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment.	The policy relates to the conservation of the historic environment and heritage assets and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SPA.	No
HE2	Conserving and Enhancing Stockton's Heritage assets Identifies assets of significance and supports proposals for the enhancement of the historic environment.	The policy aims to protect the character of designated areas and does not encourage new development. No impact upon the SPA has been identified.	No
HE3	Character Areas Designates areas of distinctive character for protection.	The policy aims to protect the character of designated areas and does not encourage new development.	No
HE4	Local List Identifies buildings of local architectural or historic interest that	The policy seeks to ensure that development proposals preserve the special local architectural or historic	No

	should be preserved.	interest of buildings on the Local List. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the SPA.	
HE5	Stockton and Darlington Railway Seeks to preserve the route and remains of the former Stockton and Darlington Railway.	The policy places restrictions on development on the historic route of the railway, which is remote from the SPA.	No

Table 14: Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon North York Moors SAC

Policy	Policy Description	Issues Likely to Affect Site Integrity	Further Assessment Required
SP1	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development Sets out how applications will be determined and reflects a presumption in favour of sustainable development.	The policy is based on the NPPF, which includes protection for European sites. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
SP2	Housing Spatial Strategy Sets out the strategy for approving housing development, including a site selection hierarchy.	Places sites within the Core Area and existing conurbation at the top of the hierarchy and is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
SP3	Locating Development Restricts development outside of identified settlement boundaries and protects areas of Green Wedge and Strategic Gap.	This policy seeks to control and restrict development in a countryside location and is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
SP4	Infrastructure Delivery Confirms that the Council will seek the provision of previously identified infrastructure requirements.	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and does not, itself, allocate land for development. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
SP5	Infrastructure and Development Requires that any infrastructure identified as necessary for a development to proceed will be provided and supports the provision of new infrastructure.	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and does not, itself, allocate land for development. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
SP6	Developer Contributions Sets out the means by which the Council will secure infrastructure and contributions.	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and does not, itself, allocate land for development. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
T1	Protecting and Taking Up Opportunities for the Use of Sustainable Modes of Transport Supports the delivery of new infrastructure for sustainable transport and protects existing routes from development.	The policy encourages developments to connect to existing networks, provide infrastructure for sustainable travel and protects existing and proposed footpaths and cycle routes. These will be provided within developments that come forward separately of this policy and it is unlikely to lead to a significant impact on the SAC.	No
T2	Widening Transport Choice Supports the development of a strategic network of footpaths and cycleways.	The safeguarded schemes are remote from the SAC and will not lead to a significant impact.	No
T3	Highways Infrastructure Safeguards routes for road	The policy supports the delivery of specific road schemes. These	

	improvement schemes.	schemes will be remote from the SAC and are unlikely to result in an impact due to the prevailing wind direction. The cumulative impact of increased development will be considered separately.	
T4	Local Parking Standards Requires that new developments provide adequate parking.	The policy requires that development provide sufficient car parking to meet their needs and does not encourage new developments or allocate land and will not have to a significant impact on the SAC.	No
SL1	Development and Amenity Considers the effect of development on the amenity of neighbouring residents.	The policy is concerned with the effect of development upon the amenity of residents and will not have a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
SL2	Renewable Energy Generation Supports renewable energy developments and sets criteria for their determination.	The policy indicates support for renewable energy schemes that have the potential to impact upon bird flight lines or lead to increased air pollution. Potential wind schemes are remote from the SAC and flight lines are predominantly along the coast and, while biomass generation and transport may lead to an increase in air pollution, the effect is likely to be minimal due to the prevailing wind direction.	No
EMP1	Employment Land Portfolio Allocates land for employment related development.	Designates sites for employment that are remote from the SAC and unlikely to have an impact.	No
EMP2	North Tees and Billingham Allocates land for development by specific industries.	The sites are remote from the SAC and the policy is unlikely to lead to a significant impact upon the site.	No
EMP3	Important Bird Populations and the Seal Sands and North Tees Sites Protects land of functional importance to the SPA and requires measures to protect the SPA and the consideration of any cumulative impacts.	The policy relates specifically to the protection of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site.	No
EMP4	Durham Tees Valley Airport Safeguards land for the continued operation of the airport and allocates land for employment developments.	Provision for the expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and airport related uses has the potential to lead to an increase in air pollution.	Yes
TC1	Supporting Town Centres Directs town centre uses to a hierarchy of retail centres and sustainable areas.	The policy directs town centre use development to the town centre and then other sustainable locations and will not lead to a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
TC2	Protecting Town Centres Seeks to protect the viability of retail centres by placing restrictions on development outside of centres.	The policy requires that proposals for town centre uses outside the designated centres provide an acceptable retail impact assessment. The policy will not have any significant impact upon the SAC.	No
TC3	Development for Town Centre Uses Allocates town centre sites for	The areas of for development are located within existing retail centres and the conurbation and there will	No

	development and supports development in Billingham and Ingleby Barwick centres.	not be an impact upon the SAC.	
TC4	Stockton Primary Shopping Area Provides measures to protect the primary shopping area.	The policy relates to developments within the Primary Shopping Area of the Town Centre only and will not have an impact upon the SAC.	No
TC5	Stockton Town Centre Seeks to retain and mix of uses within the Town Centre.	The policy relates to developments within the designated Town Centre and will not impact upon the SAC.	No
TC6	District and Local Centres Seeks to restrict the loss of retail within District and Local Centres.	The policy relates to changes of use within the district and local retail centres and will not impact upon the SAC.	No
TC7	Small Scale Convenience Facilities Seeks to retain convenience retailing and community facilities in retail centres and provides protection against the loss of important local shops and services.	The policy seeks to protect existing neighbourhood centres and local facilities and places restrictions on developments outside of the retail centres. It will not impact on the SAC.	No
TC8	Food, Drink and Evening Economy Uses Places restrictions on new food and drink uses.	Relates to proposals within identified centres and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SAC.	No
PF1	Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Seeks contributions to new facilities or improvements.	The policy does not propose new development nor allocate sites for development. It is unlikely that there will be a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
PF2	Maximise Civic Space for Community Interaction Provides for the enhancement of existing civic spaces.	The policy seeks to enhance existing spaces and it is unlikely to result in an impact upon the SAC.	No
PF3	Community Facilities Safeguards land for a number of community facilities.	The sites of the proposed facilities are remote from the SAC.	No
H1	New Housing Sites Allocates a number of sites within the Borough for housing development.	The cumulative impact of the individual housing sites will be to increase the air pollution through a population increase. Due to the location of the site and the prevailing wind direction it is unlikely there will be any impact upon the SAC.	No
H2-H39	Housing Sites Individual policies for allocation of sites for housing.	Sets out the phasing for the delivery of sites allocated within H1 and is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
H40	Affordable Housing Provision. Outlines requirements for affordable housing.	The policy does not propose development or allocate land and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SAC.	No
H41	Housing Mix Outlines requirements for affordable housing	The policy does not propose development or allocate land and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV1	Green Infrastructure Seeks to protect and enhance green infrastructure in the Borough.	The policy seeks to protect existing areas of green infrastructure and does not propose new developments.	No

ENV2	Natural Environment Seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity.	The policy seeks to protect Local Green spaces and the value of existing areas of Urban Open Space. It is unlikely there will be any impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV3	Tees Heritage Park Supports proposals to enhance the heritage park area.	The policy seeks to ensure that development that affects local sites is only permitted in certain circumstances and where development is allowed it provides mitigation or compensatory provision for the lost habitat. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the European sites.	No
ENV4	Landscape Character Protects the character of areas defined within the Tees Lowlands National Character Area and the Stockton-on-Tees Landscape Character Assessment and Capacity Study.	The policy requires that developments respect or enhance the character of the landscape and is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV5	Re-Use and Replacement of Rural Buildings Supports the re-use of rural buildings and sets criteria for the consideration of replacement buildings.	The policy states that the re-use of rural buildings in the Borough is preferable to new buildings and places restrictions on any replacement buildings.	No
ENV6	Farm Diversification Sets criteria for the consideration of retail developments associated with horticultural nurseries or farm shops.	The policy relates to small scale diversification schemes within existing farms and is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV7	Equestrian Activity Sets criteria for the consideration of private and commercial equestrian related development.	The location of any equestrian schemes will be remote from the SAC.	No
ENV8	Agricultural, Forestry and Other Rural Enterprise Dwellings Sets criteria for approving dwellings necessary for a rural enterprise.	The Policy will restrict new dwellings within the countryside and is unlikely to impact upon the SPA.	No
HE1	Conservation and Enjoyment of the Historic Environment Sets out how the Council will seek to ensure the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment.	The policy seeks to protect the character of the historic landscape by requiring developers to consider the historic characteristics of the landscape and demonstrate how the development will protect, interpret and enhance these characteristics. The policy is unlikely to have an impact upon the SAC.	No
HE2	Conserving and Enhancing Stockton's Heritage assets Identifies assets of significance and supports proposals for the enhancement of the historic environment.	The policy aims to protect the character of designated areas and does not encourage new development.	No
HE3	Character Areas Designates areas of distinctive character for protection.	The policy aims to protect the character of designated areas and does not encourage new development.	No
HE4	Local List Identifies buildings of local architectural or historic interest that	The policy seeks to ensure that development proposals preserve the special local architectural or historic	No

	should be preserved.	interest of buildings on the Local List. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the SAC.	
HE5	Stockton and Darlington Railway Seeks to preserve the route and remains of the former Stockton and Darlington Railway.	The policy places restrictions on development on the historic route of a railway that is remote from the SAC.	No

Table 15: Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon Castle Eden Dene SAC

Policy	Policy Description	Issues Likely to Affect Site Integrity	Further Assessment Required
SP1	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development Sets out how applications will be determined and reflects a presumption in favour of sustainable development.	The policy is based on the NPPF, which includes protection for European sites. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
SP2	Housing Spatial Strategy Sets out the strategy for approving housing development, including a site selection hierarchy.	Places sites within the Core Area and existing conurbation at the top of the hierarchy and is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
SP3	Locating Development Restricts development outside of identified settlement boundaries and protects areas of Green Wedge and Strategic Gap.	This policy seeks to control and restrict development in a countryside location and is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
SP4	Infrastructure Delivery Confirms that the Council will seek the provision of previously identified infrastructure requirements.	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and does not, itself, allocate land for development. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
SP5	Infrastructure and Development Requires that any infrastructure identified as necessary for a development to proceed will be provided and supports the provision of new infrastructure.	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and does not, itself, allocate land for development. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
SP6	Developer Contributions Sets out the means by which the Council will secure infrastructure and contributions.	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and does not, itself, allocate land for development. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
T1	Protecting and Taking Up Opportunities for the Use of Sustainable Modes of Transport Supports the delivery of new infrastructure for sustainable transport and protects existing routes from development.	The policy encourages developments to connect to existing networks, provide infrastructure for sustainable travel and protects existing and proposed footpaths and cycle routes. These will be provided within developments that come forward separately of this policy and it is unlikely to lead to a significant impact on the SAC.	No
T2	Widening Transport Choice Supports the development of a strategic network of footpaths and cycleways.	The proposed schemes are remote from the SAC and will not lead to an impact on the site.	No
T3	Highways Infrastructure Safeguards routes for road	Proposals relating to the A19 have the potential to impact on the SAC,	Yes

	improvement schemes.	as the road runs to the west of the site.	
T4	Local Parking Standards Requires that new developments provide adequate parking.	The policy requires that development provide sufficient car parking to meet their needs and does not encourage new developments or allocate land and will not have to a significant impact on the SAC.	No
SL1	Development and Amenity Considers the effect of development on the amenity of neighbouring residents.	The policy is considered with the effect of development upon the amenity of residents and will not have a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
SL2	Renewable Energy Generation Supports renewable energy developments and sets criteria for their determination.	The policy indicates support for renewable energy schemes that have the potential to impact upon bird flight lines or lead to increased air pollution. Potential wind schemes are remote from the SAC and flight lines are predominantly along the coast. Biomass generation and transport may lead to an increase in air pollution but the sites will be remote from the SAC and, given the prevailing wind direction, the effects are unlikely to be significant.	No
SL3	Communications Infrastructure Supports the expansion of communications networks and requires the delivery of infrastructure.	The policy aims to reduce the number of individual communications masts and require developers to provide infrastructure for telecommunications within their proposals. It is unlikely to lead to a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
EMP1	Employment Land Portfolio Allocates land for employment related development.	Designates sites for employment that are largely remote from the SAC but the Wynyard allocation has the potential to increase air pollution on the A19.	Yes
EMP2	North Tees and Billingham Allocates land for development by specific industries.	The sites are remote from the SAC and the policy is unlikely to lead to a significant impact upon the site.	No
EMP3	Important Bird Populations and the Seal Sands and North Tees Sites Protects land of functional importance to the SPA and requires measures to protect the SPA and the consideration of any cumulative impacts.	The policy relates to the protection of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site specifically and will not impact upon the SAC.	No
EMP4	Durham Tees Valley Airport Safeguards land for the continued operation of the airport and allocates land for employment developments.	Provision for the expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and airport related uses have the potential to lead to an increase in air pollution. However, given the distance from the SAC it is considered that any impact would be minimal.	No
TC1	Supporting Town Centres Directs town centre uses to a hierarchy of retail centres and sustainable areas.	The policy directs town centre use development to the town centre and then other sustainable locations and will not lead to a significant impact	No

		upon the SAC.	
TC2	Protecting Town Centres Seeks to protect the viability of retail centres by placing restrictions on development outside of centres.	The allocated sites are within the Stockton Town Centre and are currently developed. It is unlikely that the policy will have any significant impact upon the SAC.	No
TC3	Development for Town Centre Uses Allocates town centre sites for development and supports development in Billingham and Ingleby Barwick centres.	The areas of for development are located within existing retail centres and the conurbation and there will not be an impact upon the SAC.	No
TC4	Stockton Primary Shopping Area Provides measures to protect the primary shopping area.	The policy relates to developments within the Primary Shopping Area of the Town Centre only and will not have an impact upon the SAC.	No
TC5	Stockton Town Centre Seeks to retain and mix of uses within the Town Centre.	The policy relates to developments within the designated Town Centre and will not impact upon the SAC.	No
TC6	District and Local Centres Seeks to restrict the loss of retail within District and Local Centres.	The policy relates to changes of use within the district and local retail centres and will not impact upon the SAC.	No
TC7	Small Scale Convenience Facilities Seeks to retain convenience retailing and community facilities in retail centres and provides protection against the loss of important local shops and services.	The policy seeks to protect existing neighbourhood centres and local facilities and places restrictions on developments outside of the retail centres. It will not impact on the SAC.	No
TC8	Food, Drink and Evening Economy Uses Places restrictions on new food and drink uses.	Relates to proposals within identified centres and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SAC.	No
PF1	Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Seeks contributions to new facilities or improvements.	The policy does not propose new development nor allocate sites for development. It is unlikely that there will be a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
PF2	Maximise Civic Space for Community Interaction Provides for the enhancement of existing civic spaces.	The policy seeks to enhance existing spaces and it is unlikely to result in an impact upon the SAC.	No
PF3	Community Facilities Safeguards land for a number of community facilities.	The proposed facilities will be remote from the SAC and will not lead to an impact on the site.	No
H1	New Housing Sites Allocates a number of sites within the Borough for housing development.	The cumulative impact of the housing sites, and the individual sites at Wynyard, will increase traffic on the A19. There is potential for air pollution to impact upon the SAC	Yes
H2-H39	Housing Sites Individual policies for allocation of sites for housing.	Policies H34, H36a and H36b, which allocate a significant level of development may impact upon the SAC through increased traffic on the A19.	Yes
H40	Affordable Housing Provision. Outlines requirements for affordable housing.	The policy does not propose development or allocate land and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SAC.	No

H41	Housing Mix Outlines requirements for affordable housing.	The policy does not propose development or allocate land and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV1	Green Infrastructure Seeks to protect and enhance green infrastructure in the Borough.	The policy seeks to protect existing areas of green infrastructure and sets out the mechanism by which improvements to the open space provision will be delivered. No potential impact upon the SAC has been identified.	No
ENV2	Natural Environment Seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity.	The policy seeks to protect designated biodiversity sites and priority habitats and improve the network of natural habitats within the Borough. It is unlikely there will be any impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV3	Tees Heritage Park Supports proposals to enhance the heritage park area.	The policy supports proposals in a location that is remote from the SAC and will not have an impact on the site.	No
ENV4	Landscape Character Protects the character of areas defined within the Tees Lowlands National Character Area and the Stockton-on-Tees Landscape Character Assessment and Capacity Study.	The policy requires that developments respect or enhance the character of the landscape. It does not allocate land or propose development and is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV5	Re-Use and Replacement of Rural Buildings Supports the re-use of rural buildings and sets criteria for the consideration of replacement buildings.	The policy places restrictions upon replacement rural buildings and prefers the re-use of existing buildings. It is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV6	Farm Diversification Sets criteria for the consideration of retail developments associated with horticultural nurseries or farm shops.	The policy relates to small scale developments within existing working farms. It seeks to limit the scale of farm diversification developments and is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV7	Equestrian Activity Sets criteria for the consideration of private and commercial equestrian related development.	The location of any equestrian developments will be remote from the SAC.	No
ENV8	Agricultural, Forestry and Other Rural Enterprise Dwellings Sets criteria for approving dwellings necessary for a rural enterprise.	The policy will restrict new dwellings within the countryside and is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
HE1	Conservation and Enjoyment of the Historic Environment Sets out how the Council will seek to ensure the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment.	The policy relates to the conservation of the historic environment and heritage assets and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SAC.	No
HE2	Conserving and Enhancing Stockton's Heritage assets Identifies assets of significance and supports proposals for the enhancement of the historic environment.	The policy aims to protect the character of designated areas and does not encourage new development.	No
HE3	Character Areas	The policy aims to protect the	No

	Places restrictions on development within character areas.	character of designated areas and does not encourage new development.	
HE4	Local List Identifies buildings of local architectural or historic interest that should be preserved.	The policy seeks to ensure that development proposals preserve the special local architectural or historic interest of buildings on the Local List. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the SAC.	No
HE5	Stockton and Darlington Railway Seeks to preserve the route and remains of the former Stockton and Darlington Railway.	The policy places restrictions on development on the historic route of the railway and is unlikely to impact on the SAC.	No

Table 16: Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon Thrislington SAC.

Policy	Policy Description	Issues Likely to Affect Site Integrity	Further Assessment Required
SP1	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development Sets out how applications will be determined and reflects a presumption in favour of sustainable development.	The policy is based on the NPPF, which includes protection for European sites. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
SP2	Housing Spatial Strategy Sets out the strategy for approving housing development, including a site selection hierarchy.	Places sites within the Core Area and existing conurbation at the top of the hierarchy and is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
SP3	Locating Development Restricts development outside of identified settlement boundaries and protects areas of Green Wedge and Strategic Gap.	This policy seeks to control and restrict development in a countryside location and is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
SP4	Infrastructure Delivery Confirms that the Council will seek the provision of previously identified infrastructure requirements.	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and does not, itself, allocate land for development. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
SP5	Infrastructure and Development Requires that any infrastructure identified as necessary for a development to proceed will be provided and supports the provision of new infrastructure.	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and does not, itself, allocate land for development. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
SP6	Developer Contributions Sets out the means by which the Council will secure infrastructure and contributions.	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and does not, itself, allocate land for development. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
T1	Protecting and Taking Up Opportunities for the Use of Sustainable Modes of Transport Supports the delivery of new	The policy encourages developments to connect to existing networks, provide infrastructure for sustainable travel and protects	No

	infrastructure for sustainable transport and protects existing routes from development.	existing and proposed footpaths and cycle routes. These will be provided within developments that come forward separately of this policy and it is unlikely to lead to a significant impact on the SPA.	
T2	Widening Transport Choice Supports the development of a strategic network of footpaths and cycleways.	The safeguarded schemes are remote from the SAC and will not lead to an impact.	No
T3	Highways Infrastructure Safeguards routes for road improvement schemes.	The employment allocation has the potential to increase traffic on the A19 and lead to an increase in air pollution. However, the SAC is remote from the sites and, given the prevailing wind direction, the policy is unlikely to significantly impact upon the SAC. The road schemes are unlikely to lead to an impact on the SAC due to its location away from the schemes.	No
T4	Local Parking Standards Requires that new developments provide adequate parking.	The policy requires that development provide sufficient car parking to meet their needs and does not encourage new developments or allocate land and will not have to a significant impact on the SPA.	No
SL1	Development and Amenity Considers the effect of development on the amenity of neighbouring residents.	The policy is considered with the effect of development upon the amenity of residents and will not have a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
SL2	Renewable Energy Generation Supports renewable energy developments and sets criteria for their determination.	The policy indicates support for renewable energy schemes that have the potential to impact upon bird flight lines or lead to increased air pollution. However, potential wind schemes are remote from the SAC and flight lines are predominantly along the coast. Also, probable biofuels sites are remote from the SAC and unlikely to have a significant impact due to the prevailing wind direction.	No
SL3	Communications Infrastructure Supports the expansion of communications networks and requires the delivery of infrastructure.	The policy aims to reduce the number of individual communications masts and require developers to provide infrastructure for telecommunications within their proposals. It is unlikely to lead to a significant impact upon the SPA.	No
EMP1	Employment Land Portfolio Allocates land for employment related development.	The employment allocations are remote from the SAC and the policy is unlikely to significantly impact upon the SAC.	No
EMP2	North Tees and Billingham Allocates land for development by specific industries.	The sites are remote from the SAC and the policy is unlikely to lead to a significant impact upon the site.	No
EMP3	Important Bird Populations and the Seal Sands and North Tees Sites	The policy relates specifically to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast	No

	Protects land of functional importance to the SPA and requires measures to protect the SPA and the consideration of any cumulative impacts.	SPA and Ramsar site.	
EMP4	Durham Tees Valley Airport Safeguards land for the continued operation of the airport and allocates land for employment developments.	Provision for the expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and airport related uses has the potential to lead to an increase in air pollution. However, given the distance from the SAC and the prevailing wind direction, any impact would be minimal.	No
TC1	Supporting Town Centres Directs town centre uses to a hierarchy of retail centres and sustainable areas.	The policy directs town centre use development to the town centre and then other sustainable locations and will not lead to a significant impact upon the SPA.	No
TC2	Protecting Town Centres Seeks to protect the viability of retail centres by placing restrictions on development outside of centres.	The policy requires that proposals for town centre uses outside the designated centres provide an acceptable retail impact assessment. The policy will not have any significant impact upon the SAC.	No
TC3	Development for Town Centre Uses Allocates town centre sites for development and supports development in Billingham and Ingleby Barwick centres.	The land to be developed is located within the existing retail centres and conurbation and is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
TC4	Stockton Town Centre Seeks to retain and mix of uses within the Town Centre.	The policy relates to developments within the designated Town Centre and will not impact upon the SAC.	No
TC5	Stockton Primary Shopping Area Provides measures to protect the primary shopping area.	The policy relates to developments within the Primary Shopping Area of the Town Centre only and will not have an impact upon the SPA.	No
TC6	District and Local Centres Seeks to restrict the loss of retail within District and Local Centres.	The policy relates to changes of use within the district and local retail centres and will not impact upon the SAC.	No
TC7	Small Scale Convenience Facilities Seeks to retain convenience retailing and community facilities in retail centres and provides protection against the loss of important local shops and services.	The policy seeks to protect existing neighbourhood centres and local facilities and places restrictions on developments outside of the retail centres. It will not impact on the SAC.	No
TC8	Food, Drink and Evening Economy Uses Places restrictions on new food and drink uses.	Relates to proposals within identified centres and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SPA.	No
PF1	Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Seeks contributions to new facilities or improvements.	The policy does not propose new development nor allocate sites for development. It is unlikely that there will be a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
PF2	Maximise Civic Space for Community Interaction Provides for the enhancement of	The policy seeks to enhance existing spaces and it is unlikely to result in an impact upon the SPA.	No

	existing civic spaces.		
PF3	Community Facilities Safeguards land for a number of community facilities.	The sites of the proposed facilities are remote from the SAC.	No
H1	New Housing Sites Allocates a number of sites within the Borough for housing development.	The cumulative impact of the individual housing sites will be to increase the air pollution through a population increase. Due to the location of the site and the prevailing wind direction it is unlikely there will be any impact upon the SAC.	No
H2- H39	Housing Sites Individual policies for allocation of sites for housing.	The individual housing sites are remote from the SAC. The allocations at Wynyard under policies H34, H36a and H36b have the potential to increase traffic on the A19 and lead to an increase in air pollution. However, the SAC is remote from the sites and, given the prevailing wind direction, the policy is unlikely to significantly impact upon the SAC.	No
H40	Affordable Housing Provision. Outlines requirements for affordable housing.	The policy does not propose development or allocate land and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SAC.	No
H41	Housing Mix Outlines requirements for affordable housing.	The policy does not propose development or allocate land and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV1	Green Infrastructure Seeks to protect and enhance green infrastructure in the Borough.	The policy seeks to protect existing areas of green infrastructure and sets out the mechanism by which improvements to the open space provision will be delivered. No potential impact upon the SPA has been identified.	No
ENV2	Natural Environment Seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity.	The policy seeks to protect designated biodiversity sites and priority habitats and improve the network of natural habitats within the Borough. It is unlikely there will be any impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV3	Tees Heritage Park Supports proposals to enhance the heritage park area.	Any developments coming forward will be located in an area that is remote from the SAC.	No
ENV4	Landscape Character Protects the character of areas defined within the Tees Lowlands National Character Area and the Stockton-on-Tees Landscape Character Assessment and Capacity Study.	The policy requires that developments respect or enhance the character of the landscape. It does not allocate land or propose development and is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV5	Re-Use and Replacement of Rural Buildings Supports the re-use of rural buildings and sets criteria for the consideration of replacement buildings.	The policy states that the re-use of rural buildings is preferable to new buildings and places restrictions upon replacement rural buildings.	No
ENV6	Farm Diversification Sets criteria for the consideration of	The policy relates to small scale developments within existing farms	No

	retail developments associated with horticultural nurseries or farm shops.	and seeks to limit the scale of farm diversification schemes.	
ENV7	Equestrian Activity Sets criteria for the consideration of private and commercial equestrian related development.	The location of any new equestrian development will be removed from the SAC and the policy is unlikely to impact upon the site.	No
ENV8	Agricultural, Forestry and Other Rural Enterprise Dwellings Sets criteria for approving dwellings necessary for a rural enterprise.	The Policy will restrict new dwellings within the countryside and is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
HE1	Conservation and Enjoyment of the Historic Environment Sets out how the Council will seek to ensure the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment.	The policy relates to the conservation of the historic environment and heritage assets and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SAC.	No
HE2	Conserving and Enhancing Stockton's Heritage assets Identifies assets of significance and supports proposals for the enhancement of the historic environment.	The policy aims to protect the character of designated areas and does not encourage new development.	No
HE3	Character Areas Designates areas of distinctive character for protection.	The policy aims to protect the character of designated areas and does not encourage new development.	No
HE4	Local List Identifies buildings of local architectural or historic interest that should be preserved.	The policy seeks to ensure that development proposals preserve the special local architectural or historic interest of buildings on the Local List. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the SAC.	No
HE5	Stockton and Darlington Railway Seeks to preserve the route and remains of the former Stockton and Darlington Railway.	The policy seeks to limit damage to the historic remains of a railway and is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No

Table 17: Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon Durham Coast SAC.

Policy	Policy Description	Issues Likely to Affect Site Integrity	Further Assessment Required
SP1	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development Sets out how applications will be determined and reflects a presumption in favour of sustainable development.	The policy is based on the NPPF, which includes protection for European sites. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
SP2	Housing Spatial Strategy Sets out the strategy for approving housing development, including a site selection hierarchy.	Places sites within the Core Area and existing conurbation at the top of the hierarchy and is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
SP3	Locating Development Restricts development outside of identified settlement boundaries and protects areas of Green Wedge and Strategic Gap.	This policy seeks to control and restrict development in a countryside location and is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
SP4	Infrastructure Delivery	Aims to protect the separation	No

	Confirms that the Council will seek the provision of previously identified infrastructure requirements.	between settlements by restricting development. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the SAC.	
SP5	Infrastructure and Development Requires that any infrastructure identified as necessary for a development to proceed will be provided and supports the provision of new infrastructure.	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and does not, itself, allocate land for development. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
SP6	Developer Contributions Sets out the means by which the Council will secure infrastructure and contributions.	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and does not, itself, allocate land for development. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
T1	Protecting and Taking Up Opportunities for the Use of Sustainable Modes of Transport Supports the delivery of new infrastructure for sustainable transport and protects existing routes from development.	The policy encourages developments to connect to existing networks, provide infrastructure for sustainable travel and protects existing and proposed footpaths and cycle routes. These will be provided within developments that come forward separately of this policy and it is unlikely to lead to a significant impact on the SAC.	No
T2	Widening Transport Choice Supports the development of a strategic network of footpaths and cycleways.	The safeguarded schemes are remote from the SAC and will not lead to an impact on the SAC.	No
T3	Highways Infrastructure Safeguards routes for road improvement schemes.	The potential road schemes are unlikely to impact on the SAC due to the distance from the site.	No
T4	Local Parking Standards Requires that new developments provide adequate parking.	The policy requires that development provide sufficient car parking to meet their needs and does not encourage new developments or allocate land and will not have to a significant impact on the SAC.	No
SL1	Development and Amenity Considers the effect of development on the amenity of neighbouring residents.	The policy is considered with the effect of development upon the amenity of residents and will not have a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
SL2	Renewable Energy Generation Supports renewable energy developments and sets criteria for their determination.	The policy indicates support for renewable energy schemes that have the potential to impact upon bird flight lines or lead to increased air pollution. Potential wind schemes are remote from the SAC. Biomass generation and transport may lead to an increase in air pollution. However, the sites would be remote from the SAC.	No
SL3	Communications Infrastructure Supports the expansion of communications networks and requires the delivery of infrastructure.	The policy aims to reduce the number of individual communications masts and require developers to provide infrastructure for telecommunications within their	No

		proposals. It is unlikely to lead to a significant impact upon the SAC.	
EMP1	Employment Land Portfolio Allocates land for employment related development.	The employment allocations are remote from the SAC. The employment allocations have the potential to increase traffic on the A19 and lead to an increase in air pollution. However, the SAC is remote from the sites and the policy is unlikely to significantly impact upon the SAC.	No
EMP2	North Tees and Billingham Allocates land for development by specific industries.	The sites are remote from the SAC and the policy is unlikely to lead to a significant impact upon the site.	No
EMP3	Important Bird Populations and the Seal Sands and North Tees Sites Protects land of functional importance to the SPA and requires measures to protect the SPA and the consideration of any cumulative impacts.	The policy relates specifically to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site and will not have an impact upon this SAC.	No
EMP4	Durham Tees Valley Airport Safeguards land for the continued operation of the airport and allocates land for employment developments.	Provision for the expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and airport related uses has the potential to lead to an increase in air pollution. However, given the distance from the SAC it is unlikely that any impact would be significant.	No
TC1	Supporting Town Centres Directs town centre uses to a hierarchy of retail centres and sustainable areas.	The policy directs town centre use development to the town centre and then other sustainable locations and will not lead to a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
TC2	Protecting Town Centres Seeks to protect the viability of retail centres by placing restrictions on development outside of centres.	The policy requires that proposals for town centre uses outside the designated centres provide an acceptable retail impact assessment. The policy will not have any significant impact upon the SAC.	No
TC3	Development for Town Centre Uses Allocates town centre sites for development and supports development in Billingham and Ingleby Barwick centres.	The potential sites for development are located within retail centres and the existing conurbation and there will not be an impact upon the SAC.	No
TC4	Stockton Primary Shopping Area Provides measures to protect the primary shopping area.	The policy relates to developments within the Primary Shopping Area of the Town Centre only and will not have an impact upon the SAC.	No
TC5	Stockton Town Centre Seeks to retain and mix of uses within the Town Centre.	The policy relates to developments within the designated Town Centre and will not impact upon the SAC.	No
TC6	District and Local Centres Seeks to restrict the loss of retail within District and Local Centres.	The policy relates to changes of use within the district and local retail centres and will not impact upon the SAC.	No
TC7	Small Scale Convenience Facilities Seeks to retain convenience retailing and community facilities in retail	The policy seeks to protect existing neighbourhood centres and local facilities and places restrictions on	No

	centres and provides protection against the loss of important local shops and services.	developments outside of the retail centres. It will not impact on the SPA.	
TC8	Food, Drink and Evening Economy Uses Places restrictions on new food and drink uses.	Relates to proposals within identified centres and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SAC.	No
PF1	Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Seeks contributions to new facilities or improvements.	The policy does not propose new development nor allocate sites for development. It is unlikely that there will be a significant impact upon the SAC.	No
PF2	Maximise Civic Space for Community Interaction Provides for the enhancement of existing civic spaces.	The policy seeks to enhance existing spaces and it is unlikely to result in an impact upon the SAC.	No
PF3	Community Facilities Safeguards land for a number of community facilities.	The proposed facilities will be located a significant distance from the SAC and will not lead to an impact upon the site.	No
H1	New Housing Sites Allocates a number of sites within the Borough for housing development.	The cumulative impact of the individual housing sites will be to increase the air pollution through a population increase. Due to the location of the site it is unlikely there will be any impact upon the SAC.	No
H2-H39	Housing Sites Individual policies for allocation of sites for housing.	The individual housing sites are remote from the SAC and will not lead to a significant impact upon the site.	No
H40	Affordable Housing Provision. Outlines requirements for affordable housing.	The policy does not propose development or allocate land and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SAC.	No
H41	Housing Mix Outlines requirements for affordable housing.	The policy does not propose development or allocate land and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV1	Green Infrastructure Seeks to protect and enhance green infrastructure in the Borough.	The policy seeks to protect existing areas of green infrastructure and sets out the mechanism by which improvements to the open space provision will be delivered. No potential impact upon the SAC has been identified.	No
ENV2	Natural Environment Seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity.	The policy seeks to protect designated biodiversity sites and priority habitats and improve the network of natural habitats within the Borough. It is unlikely there will be any impact upon the SPA.	No
ENV3	Tees Heritage Park Supports proposals to enhance the heritage park area.	The area of the Tees Heritage Park is remote from the SAC and any proposed development in this area is unlikely to result in an impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV4	Landscape Character Protects the character of areas defined within the Tees Lowlands National Character Area and the	The policy requires that developments respect or enhance the character of the landscape. It is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No

	Stockton-on-Tees Landscape Character Assessment and Capacity Study.		
ENV5	Re-Use and Replacement of Rural Buildings Supports the re-use of rural buildings and sets criteria for the consideration of replacement buildings.	The policy states that the re-use of rural buildings is preferable to new buildings and seeks to restrict replacement rural buildings.	No
ENV6	Farm Diversification Sets criteria for the consideration of retail developments associated with horticultural nurseries or farm shops.	The policy relates to small scale developments within existing farms. It seeks to limit the scale of farm diversification schemes and is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV7	Equestrian Activity Sets criteria for the consideration of private and commercial equestrian related development.	The locations of any equestrian development will be remote from the SAC.	No
ENV8	Agricultural, Forestry and Other Rural Enterprise Dwellings Sets criteria for approving dwellings necessary for a rural enterprise.	The Policy will restrict new dwellings within the countryside and is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
HE1	Conservation and Enjoyment of the Historic Environment Sets out how the Council will seek to ensure the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment.	The policy relates to the conservation of the historic environment and heritage assets and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SAC.	No
HE2	Conserving and Enhancing Stockton's Heritage assets Identifies assets of significance and supports proposals for the enhancement of the historic environment.	The policy aims to protect the character of designated areas and does not encourage new development.	No
HE3	Character Areas Designates areas of distinctive character for protection.	The policy identifies areas within the conurbation where development that impacts upon the character of the area will be restricted. There will not be an impact upon the SAC.	No
HE4	Local List Identifies buildings of local architectural or historic interest that should be preserved.	The policy seeks to ensure that development proposals preserve the special local architectural or historic interest of buildings on the Local List. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the SAC.	No
HE5	Stockton and Darlington Railway Seeks to preserve the route and remains of the former Stockton and Darlington Railway.	The policy seeks to protect the historic remains of a railway and is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No

Table 18: Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon Northumbria Coast SPA/Ramsar Site.

Policy	Policy Description	Issues Likely to Affect Site Integrity	Further Assessment Required
SP1	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development Sets out how applications will be determined and reflects a presumption in favour of sustainable development.	The policy is based on the NPPF, which includes protection for European sites. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
SP2	Housing Spatial Strategy Sets out the strategy for approving housing development, including a site selection hierarchy.	Places sites within the Core Area and existing conurbation at the top of the hierarchy and is unlikely to impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
SP3	Locating Development Restricts development outside of identified settlement boundaries and protects areas of Green Wedge and Strategic Gap.	This policy seeks to control and restrict development in a countryside location and is unlikely to impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
SP4	Infrastructure Delivery Confirms that the Council will seek the provision of previously identified infrastructure requirements.	Aims to protect the separation between settlements by restricting development. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
SP5	Infrastructure and Development Requires that any infrastructure identified as necessary for a development to proceed will be provided and supports the provision of new infrastructure.	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and does not, itself, allocate land for development. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
SP6	Developer Contributions Sets out the means by which the Council will secure infrastructure and contributions.	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and does not, itself, allocate land for development. The policy will not have a significant impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
T1	Protecting and Taking Up Opportunities for the Use of Sustainable Modes of Transport Supports the delivery of new infrastructure for sustainable transport and protects existing routes from development.	The policy encourages developments to connect to existing networks, provide infrastructure for sustainable travel and protects existing and proposed footpaths and cycle routes. These will be provided within developments that come forward separately of this policy and it is unlikely to lead to a significant impact on the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
T2	Widening Transport Choice Supports the development of a strategic network of footpaths and cycleways.	The policy safeguards site for infrastructure developments that are remote from the SPA/Ramsar site and are unlikely to result in an impact on the site.	No
T3	Highways Infrastructure Safeguards routes for road improvement schemes.	The proposed highway schemes are remote from the SPA/Ramsar site and are unlikely to result in an impact site.	No

T4	Local Parking Standards Requires that new developments provide adequate parking.	The policy requires that development provide sufficient car parking to meet their needs and does not encourage new developments or allocate land and will not have to a significant impact on the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
SL1	Development and Amenity Considers the effect of development on the amenity of neighbouring residents.	The policy is considered with the effect of development upon the amenity of residents and will not have a significant impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
SL2	Renewable Energy Generation Supports renewable energy developments and sets criteria for their determination.	The policy indicates support for renewable energy schemes that have the potential to impact upon bird flight lines or lead to increased air pollution. Potential wind schemes are remote from the SPA/Ramsar site. Biomass generation and transport may lead to an increase in air pollution. However, the generation sites would be remote from the SPA/ Ramsar site.	No
SL3	Communications Infrastructure Supports the expansion of communications networks and requires the delivery of infrastructure.	The policy aims to reduce the number of individual communications masts and require developers to provide infrastructure for telecommunications within their proposals. It is unlikely to lead to a significant impact upon the SPA.	No
EMP1	Employment Land Portfolio Allocates land for employment related development.	The employment allocations are remote from the SPA/Ramsar site and the policy is unlikely to significantly impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
EMP2	North Tees and Billingham Allocates land for development by specific industries.	The sites are remote from the SPA/Ramsar site and the policy is unlikely to lead to a significant impact upon the site.	No
EMP3	Important Bird Populations and the Seal Sands and North Tees Sites Protects land of functional importance to the SPA and requires measures to protect the SPA and the consideration of any cumulative impacts.	The policy relates specifically to the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA and Ramsar site and will not have an impact on this site.	No
EMP4	Durham Tees Valley Airport Safeguards land for the continued operation of the airport and allocates land for employment developments.	Provision for the expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and airport related uses has the potential to lead to an increase in air pollution. However, given the distance from the SPA/Ramsar site it is unlikely that any impact would be significant.	No
TC1	Supporting Town Centres Directs town centre uses to a hierarchy of retail centres and sustainable areas.	The policy directs town centre use development to the town centre and then other sustainable locations and will not lead to a significant impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
TC2	Protecting Town Centres Seeks to protect the viability of retail centres by placing restrictions on	The policy requires that proposals for town centre uses outside the designated centres provide an	No

	development outside of centres.	acceptable retail impact assessment. The policy will not have any significant impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	
TC3	Development for Town Centre Uses Allocates town centre sites for development and supports development in Billingham and Ingleby Barwick centres.	The sites for potential developments are located within retail centres and the existing conurbation and will not result in an impact on the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
TC4	Stockton Primary Shopping Area Provides measures to protect the primary shopping area.	The policy relates to developments within the Primary Shopping Area of the Town Centre only and will not have an impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
TC5	Stockton Town Centre Seeks to retain and mix of uses within the Town Centre.	The policy relates to developments within the designated Town Centre and will not impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
TC6	District and Local Centres Seeks to restrict the loss of retail within District and Local Centres.	The policy relates to changes of use within the district and local retail centres and will not impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
TC7	Small Scale Convenience Facilities Seeks to retain convenience retailing and community facilities in retail centres and provides protection against the loss of important local shops and services.	The policy seeks to protect existing neighbourhood centres and local facilities and places restrictions on developments outside of the retail centres. It will not impact on the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
TC8	Food, Drink and Evening Economy Uses Places restrictions on new food and drink uses.	Relates to proposals within identified centres and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
PF1	Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Seeks contributions to new facilities or improvements.	The policy does not propose new development nor allocate sites for development. It is unlikely that there will be a significant impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
PF2	Maximise Civic Space for Community Interaction Provides for the enhancement of existing civic spaces.	The policy seeks to enhance existing spaces and it is unlikely to result in an impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
PF3	Community Facilities Safeguards land for a number of community facilities.	The proposed facilities will be remote from the SPA/Ramsar site and will not result in an impact on the site.	No
H1	New Housing Sites Allocates a number of sites within the Borough for housing development.	The cumulative impact of the individual housing sites will be to increase the air pollution through a population increase. Due to the location of the site it is unlikely there will be any impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
H2-H39	Housing Sites Individual policies for allocation of sites for housing.	The individual housing sites are remote from the SPA/Ramsar site and will not result in an impact on the site.	No
H40	Affordable Housing Provision. Outlines requirements for affordable housing.	The policy does not propose development or allocate land and is unlikely to have an impact upon the	No

		SPA/Ramsar site.	
H41	Housing Mix Outlines requirements for affordable housing.	The policy does not propose development or allocate land and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
ENV1	Green Infrastructure Seeks to protect and enhance green infrastructure in the Borough.	The policy seeks to protect existing areas of green infrastructure and sets out the mechanism by which improvements to the open space provision will be delivered. No potential impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site has been identified.	No
ENV2	Natural Environment Seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity.	The policy seeks to protect designated biodiversity sites and priority habitats and improve the network of natural habitats within the Borough. It is unlikely there will be any impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
ENV3	Tees Heritage Park Supports proposals to enhance the heritage park area.	The Tees Heritage Park is remote from the SPA/Ramsar site and any developments within this area will not result in an impact on the site.	No
ENV4	Landscape Character Protects the character of areas defined within the Tees Lowlands National Character Area and the Stockton-on-Tees Landscape Character Assessment and Capacity Study.	The policy requires that developments respect or enhance the character of the landscape. It does not allocate land or propose development and is unlikely to impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
ENV5	Re-Use and Replacement of Rural Buildings Supports the re-use of rural buildings and sets criteria for the consideration of replacement buildings.	The policy restricts replacement rural buildings and prioritises the re-use of existing buildings. It is unlikely to impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
ENV6	Farm Diversification Sets criteria for the consideration of retail developments associated with horticultural nurseries or farm shops.	The policy relates to small scale developments within existing farms and will not impact on the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
ENV7	Equestrian Activity Sets criteria for the consideration of private and commercial equestrian related development.	The locations of any equestrian developments will be remote from the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
ENV8	Agricultural, Forestry and Other Rural Enterprise Dwellings Sets criteria for approving dwellings necessary for a rural enterprise.	The Policy will restrict new dwellings within the countryside and is unlikely to impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
HE1	Conservation and Enjoyment of the Historic Environment Sets out how the Council will seek to ensure the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment.	The policy relates to the conservation of the historic environment and heritage assets and is unlikely to have an impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
HE2	Conserving and Enhancing Stockton's Heritage assets Identifies assets of significance and supports proposals for the enhancement of the historic environment.	The policy aims to protect the character of designated areas and does not encourage new development.	No

HE3	Character Areas Designates areas of distinctive character for protection.	The policy identifies areas within the conurbation where development that impacts upon the character of the area will be restricted. There will not be an impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No
HE4	Local List Identifies buildings of local architectural or historic interest that should be preserved.	The preferred option seeks to ensure that development proposals preserve the special local architectural or historic interest of buildings on the Local List. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the site.	No
HE5	Stockton and Darlington Railway Seeks to preserve the route and remains of the former Stockton and Darlington Railway.	The policy aims to protect the historic remains of a railway and is unlikely to impact upon the SPA/Ramsar site.	No

4. Conclusions of the Screening Exercise.

4.1. The main conclusions of the screening exercise are:

- Development within the river corridor especially on employment and regeneration sites has the potential to impact upon the integrity of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site.
- Development for industrial uses within the area of the Teesmouth Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site has significant potential for impacts upon the integrity of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site.
- The allocation of land as a key employment location for prestige industries and the allocation of housing sites at Wynyard have the potential to impact upon the Castle Eden Dene SAC through an increase in traffic on the A19.
- The expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport has the potential to impact upon the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site and the North York Moors SPA and SAC through an increase in air pollution and collision mortality.
- Renewable energy generating schemes have the potential to impact upon the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site.

4.2. In addition to the screening of individual policies, it is considered that there is potential for the cumulative growth of the population and in road traffic to result in increasing air pollution that impacts upon the integrity of a number of designated sites. The screening exercise has identified that Thrislington SAC, Durham Coast SAC and the Northumbria Coast SPA and Ramsar site are unlikely to be significantly affected by any of the policies within the Regeneration and Environment LDD and require no further assessment.

5. Detailed Policy Assessment

5.1. Each of the policies identified as requiring further assessment in Tables 11 to 18 are considered below in relation to the potential resulting effects of the policy against the sensitivities of the relevant Natura 2000 site.

Table 19: Policy Assessment of Potential Impact on the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA.

Policy and changes it provides for	Key points	How the SPA may be affected
SP3- Locating Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land that may be of functional importance to the SPA has been included within the limits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of land of functional importance Increased disturbance affecting sensitive wildlife.
T2 Widening Transport Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguards land for a River Tees crossing and footpaths in the area of Greatham Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in disturbance affecting sensitive wildlife, as a result of increasing visitor numbers. Increase disturbance from Use of the River Corridor Increased disturbance during construction. Potential habitat loss or damage
T3 Highways Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports road construction schemes including one in close proximity to Portrack Marsh and the river corridor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased air pollution
SL2 Renewable Energy Generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports renewable energy generating schemes, such as wind turbines and biofuel plants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase disturbance during construction and operation. Habitat loss or damage. Collision Increased air pollution due to plant operation and transport.
EMP1 Employment Land Portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocates land for employment uses, some of which is within the River Tees corridor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in air pollution. Reduction in water quantity and quality. Eutrophication on sensitive habitats from NO₂ deposition from increased

		<p>industrial activity and emissions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of soil and surface water quality through remediation of contaminated site, with the potential for improvement of water quality of the River Tees.
EMP2 North Tees and Billingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports developments for industrial uses in close proximity to the River Tees and in the area of the SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in air pollution. • Loss of roosting and foraging habitats through land take. • Obstruction to flight paths and sightlines. • Increase in disturbance during construction and operation. • Reduction in water quality and quantity. • Eutrophication on sensitive habitats from NO₂ deposition from increased industrial activity and emissions. • Impact of channel dredging on intertidal habitats. • Decontamination of polluted land with potential improvements to water quality. • Potential for coastal squeeze.
EMP3 Important Bird Populations and the Seal Sands and North Tees sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports developments within the areas near to the SPA. • Prevents developments on areas identified as being of functional importance and requires mitigation for any impacts on the designated site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in air pollution. • Loss of roosting and foraging habitats through land take. • Obstruction to flight paths and sightlines. • Increase in disturbance during construction and operation. • Reduction in water quality and quantity. • Eutrophication on sensitive habitats from NO₂ deposition from increased

		industrial activity and emissions.
EMP4 Durham Tees Valley Airport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports existing permissions relating to the expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased air pollution. • Increased collision mortality.
TC3 Development for Town Centre Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocates land for a mixed use development adjacent to the River Tees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in air pollution • Increase in surface water run-off into the River Tees. • Improvement of soil and surface water quality through remediation of contaminated site, with the potential for improvement of water quality of the River Tees. • Increase in disturbance affecting sensitive wildlife, as a result of increasing visitor numbers and population. • Increased disturbance from water based and shoreline recreation.
PF3 Community Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports development of a marina on the River Tees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased disturbance from increased use of the River Tees. • Increase in water pollution.
H1 Housing Allocations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocates land for significant numbers of housing in the Borough. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in air pollution • Increase in disturbance affecting sensitive wildlife, as a result of increasing visitor numbers and population.
H4 Boathouse Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports redevelopment of a riverside site. • Provides increased access along the River Tees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in air pollution. • Increase in surface water run-off into the River Tees, although this can be improved by the use of sustainable drainage systems. • Improvement of soil and surface water quality through remediation of

		<p>contaminated site, with the potential for improvement of water quality of the River Tees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in disturbance affecting sensitive wildlife, as a result of increasing visitor numbers and population.
ENV3 Tees Heritage Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports developments that will provide increased access along the River Tees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in disturbance affecting sensitive wildlife, as a result of increasing visitor numbers and population.
ENV7 Equestrian Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for new developments to be located on land of functional importance to the SPA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of land of functional importance • Increased disturbance affecting sensitive wildlife.

Table 20: Policy Assessment of Potential Impact on the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Ramsar Site.

Policy and changes it provides for	Key points	How the SPA may be affected
SP3- Locating Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land that may be of functional importance to the Ramsar site has been included within the limits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of land of functional importance Increased disturbance affecting sensitive wildlife.
T2 Widening Transport Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguards land for a River Tees crossing and footpaths in the area of Greatham Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in disturbance affecting sensitive wildlife, as a result of increasing visitor numbers. Increase disturbance from Use of the River Corridor Increased disturbance during construction. Potential habitat loss or damage
T3 Highways Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports road construction schemes including one in close proximity to Portrack Marsh and the river corridor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased air pollution Loss of land of functional importance
SL2 Renewable Energy Generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports renewable energy generating schemes, such as wind turbines and biofuel plants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase disturbance during construction and operation. Habitat loss or damage. Collision Increased air pollution due to plant operation and transport.
EMP1 Employment Land Portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocates land for employment uses, some of which is within the River Tees corridor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in air pollution. Reduction in water quantity and quality. Eutrophication on sensitive habitats from NO₂ deposition from increased industrial activity and emissions. Improvement of soil and surface water quality through remediation of contaminated site, with the potential for improvement of water quality of the

		River Tees.
EMP2 North Tees and Billingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports development for industrial uses in close proximity to the River Tees and in the area of the Ramsar site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in air pollution. • Loss of roosting and foraging habitats through land take. • Obstruction to flight paths and sightlines. • Increase in disturbance during construction and operation. • Reduction in water quality and quantity. • Eutrophication on sensitive habitats from NO₂ deposition from increased industrial activity and emissions. • Impact of channel dredging on intertidal habitats. • Decontamination of polluted land with potential improvements to water quality. • Potential for coastal squeeze.
EMP3 Important Bird Populations and the Seal Sands and North Tees sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports developments within the areas near to the Ramsar site. • Prevents developments on areas identified as being of functional importance and requires mitigation for any impacts on the designated site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in air pollution. • Loss of roosting and foraging habitats through land take. • Obstruction to flight paths and sightlines. • Increase in disturbance during construction and operation. • Reduction in water quality and quantity. • Eutrophication on sensitive habitats from NO₂ deposition from increased industrial activity and emissions.
EMP4 Durham Tees Valley Airport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports existing permissions relating to the expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased air pollution. • Increased collision mortality.

TC3 Development for Town Centre Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocates land for a mixed use development adjacent to the River Tees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in air pollution • Increase in surface water run-off into the River Tees. • Improvement of soil and surface water quality through remediation of contaminated site, with the potential for improvement of water quality of the River Tees. • Increase in disturbance affecting sensitive wildlife, as a result of increasing visitor numbers and population. • Increased disturbance from water based and shoreline recreation.
PF3 Community Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports development of a marina on the River Tees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased disturbance from increased use of the River Tees. • Increase in water pollution.
H1 Housing Allocations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies land for significant numbers of housing in the Borough. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in air pollution • Increase in disturbance affecting sensitive wildlife, as a result of increasing visitor numbers and population. • Decreased water quality from effluent discharge
H4 Boathouse Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports redevelopment of a riverside site. • Provides increased access along the River Tees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in air pollution. • Increase in surface water run-off into the River Tees, although this can be improved by the use of sustainable drainage systems. • Improvement of soil and surface water quality through remediation of contaminated site, with the potential for improvement of water quality of the River Tees.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in disturbance affecting sensitive wildlife, as a result of increasing visitor numbers and population.
ENV3 Tees Heritage Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports developments that will provide increased access along the River Tees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in disturbance affecting sensitive wildlife, as a result of increasing visitor numbers and population.
ENV7 Equestrian Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for new developments to be located on land of functional importance to the Ramsar site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of land of functional importance • Increased disturbance affecting sensitive wildlife.

Table 21: Policy Assessment of Potential Impact on the North York Moors SPA/SAC

Policy and changes it provides for	Key points	How the SPA/SAC may be affected
EMP4 Durham Tees Valley Airport - Identifies land for the expansion of airport facilities and for airport related development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports existing permissions relating to the expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased air pollution

Table 22: Policy Assessment of Potential Impact on the Castle Eden Dene SAC

Policy and changes it provides for	Key points	How the SAC may be affected
T3 Highways Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguards highways schemes including a second access for Wynyard off the A19 and widening of a stretch of the A19. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased air pollution.
EMP1 Employment Land Portfolio- Safeguards site as a key location for prestige employment uses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports a prestige employment development adjacent to the A19. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased air pollution.
H1 – Housing Allocations - Allocates a number of sites within the Borough for housing development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocates land for housing on sites adjacent to the A19. • The cumulative impact of the housing allocation will increase traffic on the A19. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased air pollution
H34, H36a and H36b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocates significant housing development adjacent to the A19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased air pollution

6. Analysis of Likely Significant Effects

- 6.1. The section includes an analysis of the likely significant effects identified within Chapter 5 and Tables 19 to 22.

Impacts upon the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar Site.

T2 Widening Transport Choice

- 6.2. Policy T2 seeks to safeguard land from development which may prevent the delivery of a number of infrastructure schemes that will increase pedestrian and cycle use. These schemes include the creation of a footbridge across the River Tees at Ingleby Barwick and Yarm and Eaglescliffe, improved cycle and pedestrian access along the River Tees and the creation of a footway/cycleway from Greatham Creek to the Transporter Bridge.
- 6.3. Part of the route identified for the Greatham Creek to the Transporter Bridge route will lie within the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site and habitat loss and disturbance from both construction and use have been identified as potential impacts in Chapter 5.
- 6.4. While Policy T2 provides support for specific infrastructure schemes, which includes a scheme partially within the SPA and Ramsar site, it does not allocate land for these schemes. Instead, the policy safeguards the routes of the potential schemes from other developments that may prevent their delivery. The effect Policy T2 is to restrict development and it will not in itself have an impact upon the integrity of the SPA and Ramsar site. Any development related to infrastructure provision will be required to comply with policies EMP3 and ENV2 which seek to protect the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site specifically and designated sites in general.

T3 Highways Infrastructure

- 6.5. Policy T3 identifies future highway infrastructure schemes. These include the construction of the Portrack Relief Road, which will be located within a Local Nature Reserve adjacent to the River Tees. Road construction schemes involve a significant amount of land take and also have the potential to lead to an increase in air pollution in the locality. However, in this case, the policy does not allocate land for these developments. The routes of the future schemes are safeguarded from other developments that may prevent or impair their delivery.
- 6.6. The effect of this policy will be to restrict development in the locations identified and it will not have an impact on the integrity of the SPA or Ramsar site.

SL2 Renewable Energy Generation

- 6.7. The policy indicates support for medium-small scale developments that come forward but does not allocate any areas of land for these developments. There is potential for renewable energy developments to locate in close proximity to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site. However, as the potential developments or their locations are not known at this stage the likelihood of an effect upon the integrity of the SPA and Ramsar site cannot be fully assessed. Nevertheless, any proposal will be required to comply with policy EMP3, which prevents the development of land identified as being of functional importance to the SPA/Ramsar site. ENV2, which includes measures to prevent harm to European sites, will also apply. In addition, Policy SL2 states that proposals will only be supported where they do not result in any significant individual or cumulative impact upon the natural environment.

Policy SL2 will not, in itself, lead to any adverse effect upon the site integrity of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site

EMP1 Employment Land Portfolio

- 6.8. Policy EMP1 allocates a large area of Wynyard Park for employment development and also identifies a number of locations that should be considered as principal or secondary office locations when carrying out a sequential test for new developments. General office developments and research and development schemes are directed to other industrial estates or industrial sites. Wynyard Park has existing planning permission for development and the other sites are existing employment areas with some vacant plots. They form unsuitable locations for SPA bird species due to the distance from the SPA, the scale of adjacent development or the type of habitat on site.
- 6.9. An increase in employment development within the Borough has the potential to impact upon air quality through industrial emissions or increased road traffic. All new industrial development will be subject to air quality control measures and pollutants from roads are considered to have localised effects up to 200 metres from the roadside⁷ and none of the main routes from the employment locations or the two main roads across the Borough (A66 and A19) pass within 200m of the SPA and Ramsar site.

SP3 Locating Development, EMP2 North Tees and Billingham and EMP3 Important Bird Populations and the Seal Sands and North Tees Sites.

- 6.10. The HRA accompanying the Stockton-on-Tees Core Strategy identified that the proximity of the industrial and employment areas of Seal Sands and North Tees to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site would be likely to lead to an effect on the integrity of the SPA and Ramsar site from the allocation of further development land in these areas. The potential impacts are:
- Increase in air pollution and deposition from operational emissions and transport.
 - Loss of roosting and foraging habitats through land take for development.
 - Obstruction to flight paths and sightlines.
 - Increase in disturbance during construction and operation from noise and increased activity.
 - Reduction in water quality and quantity.
 - Impact of channel dredging on intertidal habitats.
 - Potential for coastal squeeze.
- 6.11. The potential for site allocations to impact upon the integrity of the SPA and Ramsar site was acknowledged at the Examination in Public of the Core Strategy in 2009 and the following text was included within the adopted Core Strategy:

'To inform the allocations in the Seal Sands, North Tees Pools and River Tees Corridor areas in the Regeneration Development Plan Document, the Council has agreed to undertake a study in partnership with Natural England and the RSPB, to assess the potential for development in those areas to adversely affect the integrity of the SPA/Ramsar site. The study will involve a detailed assessment of the usage of these and adjacent areas by SPA and Ramsar site bird species. This will be used to develop a strategic framework for development in these areas by identifying where land can be allocated for development without adverse impact on the SPA/Ramsar site, whilst taking an integrated approach to habitat creation to ensure sufficient mitigation can be delivered.'

⁷ The Ecological Effects of Diffuse Air Pollution From Road Transport, English Nature, 2004

- 6.12. The Use of Land at Seal Sands and North Tees by Birds of the SPA study was undertaken in partnership with Natural England and RSPB, with INCA reviewing existing evidence and undertaking site surveys where necessary. It was completed in December 2011 and identified a number of sites which should be de-allocated as they were of 'functional importance' to birds using the SPA and Ramsar site. A further recommendation required the identification of strategic mitigation which would off-set the cumulative impact of the loss of land to development in the Seal Sands and North Tees areas.
- 6.13. Following this recommendation the Council, Tees Valley Unlimited and INCA sought to identify appropriate strategic mitigation in the area. However, site availability is limited due to, the distance that birds can physically travel; the land being unsuitable because of proximity to business; or because sites already support an assemblage of birds and do not have the capacity to support further populations. As a result, it has not been possible to secure a suitable area of land for use as strategic mitigation for the cumulative impacts of the allocation of employment land within the Seal Sands and North Tees areas.
- 6.14. This has led to a revision in employment land policies from the Preferred Options draft of the RELP. Policy EMP2 of the Publication Draft states that 'no land is allocated for development in the Seal Sands area as all available land is cumulatively important for bird species associated with the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar Site'. Furthermore, measures are included to require any schemes coming forward for process industry uses to demonstrate that either strategic mitigation can be secured or that the proposed development, in-combination with other proposals, will not adversely impact the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site.
- 6.15. Policy EMP2 does still include allocations for developments requiring a riverside location at Billingham Reach, Casebourne and Haverton Hill. These sites are largely brownfield, former industrial sites which include existing slipways and port infrastructure. Planning permissions that involved Environmental Impact Assessments have already been granted on some of the allocated land and these consented developments include a 45MW renewable energy plant that was subject to HRA screening. The specific details of potential developments are not known at this stage but it has demonstrated that these sites are not of functional importance to the SPA and Ramsar site. It is considered that the sites can be allocated without resulting in an impact on the integrity of the designated sites and any future developments will be subject to individual Habitat Regulations Assessments, as necessary.
- 6.16. Policy EMP3 relates specifically to the SPA and Ramsar site and the industrial areas of Seal Sands and North Tees and encourages development in the areas only on land not identified as being of functional importance. The policy also specifically protects areas that were identified within the 2011 study as being of functional importance and provides further protection for the SPA and Ramsar site by requiring the consideration of any combined or cumulative impacts and the provision of appropriate mitigation.
- 6.17. The Tees Valley Water Cycle Study, 2012 has considered that increased development within the Graythorpe Waste Water Treatment Works (WwTW), which currently treats discharge from industrial processes in the catchment, will not lead to any adverse effects on the SPA and Ramsar site because the site is coastal/estuarine/tidal in nature and therefore unlikely to be adversely impacted by water quality issues. Additional nutrient loading as a result of development is unlikely due to tighter treatment standards and the discharge would also be diluted by the tidal volume of the North Sea. In addition, while the capacity of Graythorpe WwTW to accept additional flows is limited, it has been identified that the Seaton Carew WwTW has the capacity to take additional flows transferred from Graythorpe.
- 6.18. As a result of the withdrawal of employment allocations within the Seal Sands area, the protection measures included within both EMP2 and EMP3 and the conclusions of the Tees

Valley Water Cycle Study, it is not considered that these policies will result in an impact upon the integrity of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site.

EMP4 Durham Tees Valley Airport

- 6.19. Policy EMP4 safeguards land for the continued operation of Durham Tees Valley Airport and allocates land for logistics and employment uses that will support the financial viability of the airport. Chapter 5 has considered that potential impacts on air pollution and collision mortality may arise from this policy.
- 6.20. A number of planning applications have previously been submitted in relation to the airport and these have been accompanied by Environmental Impacts Assessments. These reports identified that operational air quality impacts need to be assessed by considering where aircraft are likely to be flying below 100m on take-off and approach, and where changes in traffic flow due to expansion are likely to have an impact upon air quality. An area of 8km by 8km from the airport has been identified as the area of assessment required for operational air quality impacts. This area does not cover the land within any European Site and, as such, an increase in air pollution with potential to affect the SPA and Ramsar site has not been identified as a result of policy EMP4.
- 6.21. The potential for collision mortality from aircraft has been identified as a potential impact from policy EMP4. However, an increase in aircraft movements will not alter the bird strike flight risk because this risk is assessed on the basis of bird movements in relation to aircraft flight paths rather than on the numbers of aircraft using these flight paths. In addition, a study into sensitive areas for birds⁸ identified that the key flight lines for birds using the SPA lie along the coast, with routes along the river corridor being of a lower value. This was because the river corridor flight lines connect the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site with the Pennine upland habitats and only a small proportion of SPA birds move between these habitats. The main coastal flight paths and the SPA and Ramsar site lie outside of the 13km Bird Conflict Zone around the airport and no likelihood of significant collision mortality impacts upon the integrity of the designated site have been identified.
- 6.22. As a result of the above, Policy EMP4 will not lead to an impact upon the integrity of the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA and Ramsar site.

TC3 Development for Town Centre Uses

- 6.23. Policy TC3 includes an allocation on the northern shore of the River Tees for a mixed use development. The policy assessment has identified that the potential impacts of this developments for the SPA/Ramsar may include an increase in disturbance affecting sensitive wildlife and an increase in surface water run-off into the River Tees (see Tables 19 and 20).
- 6.24. In June 2009 a planning application (08/3644/EIS) for the mixed use development of this site was approved. The associated Environmental Impact Assessment concluded that the development at Northshore would result in some significant environmental impacts, both adverse and beneficial. The majority of the identified adverse impacts were localised to the development, such as wind acceleration affecting recreational spaces within the development. However, it was found that the development could lead to increased sediment in run-off to the River Tees during construction, which has the potential to impact upon the SPA habitats down river of the development. Nevertheless, the EIA considered that the increase in sediment during construction was of moderate significance and could be mitigated through the use of surface water interception and soil protection techniques. The policy will not, therefore lead to an impact on the integrity of the SPA and Ramsar site.

⁸ Mapping Sensitive Areas for Birds within Stockton and Five Districts within County Durham, March 2009.

PF3 Community Facilities

- 6.25. The policy supports the development of a marina or moorings that will encourage visitors and the increased leisure use of the River Tees. In practice, the provision of a marina in this location is unlikely to have a negative impact upon the SPA and Ramsar site and has the potential for a positive effect by attracting tourism and recreation to a location away from the European site. The increased leisure use of the River Tees from this location is unlikely to affect the SPA and Ramsar site as it is upstream of and separated from it by the Tees Barrage, which acts as a significant barrier to the recreational use of the river towards the SPA and Ramsar site.

H1 Housing Allocations

- 6.26. None of the individual housing allocations have been screened as having a potential impact upon the integrity of the SPA and Ramsar site. However, policy H1 does identify sites for 8839 dwellings in the Borough, which have the potential to have a cumulative impact on the site through an increase in air pollution and an increase in disturbance affecting sensitive wildlife, as a result of increasing population and visitor numbers.
- 6.27. The provision of a significant number of additional houses in the Borough is likely to lead to an increase in road traffic and a subsequent increase in air pollution. This increase is likely to be small in proportion with the existing scale of traffic and pollutants from roads are considered to have localised effects up to 200 metres from the roadside⁹ and none of the main routes from the housing allocations or the two main roads across the Borough (A66 and A19) pass within 200m of the SPA and Ramsar site. Due to this separation, the SPA and Ramsar site is unlikely to be affected by an increase in road traffic from the allocations.
- 6.28. The provision of additional housing within the Borough has been identified as having the potential to impact upon water quality through increased effluent discharge. However, the Tees Valley Water Cycle Study, 2012 has considered that housing developments within the Borough are not anticipated to lead to ecological impacts as no discharge consent or abstraction licence increases will be required. The potential for surface water run-off from the development impacting on water quality is also minimal as any pollution arising from the proposed development that flows into the River Tees is likely to be diluted significantly due to the large scale of this waterbody and, in any event, the location of most of the new allocations for housing development is away from both water courses draining into the River Tees and the river itself.
- 6.29. A large portion of this dwelling total is to come through commitments identified within the policy and already benefitting from planning permission and from land which is safeguarded for future development but is not allocated for housing. Policy H1 allocates new land for 3416 dwellings. An increase in population within the Borough does have the potential to increase visitor numbers at the SPA and Ramsar site and disturbance from recreational use has been identified as a vulnerability for the designated site.
- 6.30. However, these new allocations will only provide a population increase of approximately 4% above the 193,196 population living within the Borough in 2013. In addition, much of the SPA and Ramsar site has limited public access, especially south of the river due to being mud flats surrounded by heavy industry. Cowpen marsh area has a car park with hides and specially laid access routes which will manage visitors to reduce impact on other areas of the SPA. The coastal area of the SPA and Ramsar site, in particular North Gare, do have unmanaged public access. Although, it has been identified that “for the North Sands, Hartlepool Headland and North Gare areas, visitors were more likely to live at the site or travel up to five miles and to

⁹ The Ecological Effects of Diffuse Air Pollution From Road Transport, English Nature, 2004

visit daily or twice weekly. This suggests these sites are visited more frequently by local residents.”¹⁰

- 6.31. The proposed new housing allocations provide only a minor increase in population above the existing Borough total and only two site allocations, providing 70 dwellings, are located within 5 miles¹¹ of the National Nature Reserve and most accessible parts of the coastal area of the SPA and Ramsar site. Any increase in recreational visitors and impacts from these visitors will be minimal and mitigated through measures such as the European Marine Site Code of Conduct and management plans of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast NNR.
- 6.32. As a result of the above, Policy H1 is not assessed as having an impact upon the integrity of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site.

H4 Boathouse Lane

- 6.33. Policy H4 allocates land for a housing development which is located adjacent to the River Tees. Planning approvals have previously been granted for development on a large part of this site and environmental reports submitted in relation to a 2007 planning application have stated ‘redevelopment could mobilise further contaminants into the groundwater or create new pathways by which contaminants could migrate both horizontally and vertically. However, as no significant contamination was identified within the soils this is not of significant environmental concern.’ Evidence of elevated contaminant levels was found within the shallow groundwater underlying the site. Although further monitoring was recommended, it was estimated that the environmental risk from the existing ground conditions on the site was medium. There is therefore, potential for the development of the site for housing to lead to site remediation that can reduce the level of contaminants entering the River Tees from run-off, leading to a small beneficial impact for the SPA/Ramsar site.
- 6.34. The proposed allocation is located within the Core Area and in close proximity to Stockton Town Centre. There are existing industrial and commercial operations on a large part of the site and it does not provide an area of functional importance to SPA birds. The close proximity of the site to services and facilities and its location within the existing conurbation will prevent a significant impact from the development on air pollution in the area of the SPA and Ramsar site.
- 6.35. For the reasons stated above, the policy will not lead to an impact on the integrity of the SPA and Ramsar site on its own.

ENV3 Tees Heritage Park

- 6.36. Policy ENV3 supports proposals within the Tees Heritage Park which will promote increased activity on the River Tees. However, this site is located some 2.8km upstream of the Tees Barrage, which provides a significant barrier to the leisure use of the river. In addition, the enhancement of the Tees Heritage Park will increase the attractiveness of the location for recreation and has the potential to reduce pressure on the area of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site. There will be no impact on the integrity of the site from policy ENV3.

¹⁰ A Study into Recreational Disturbance at the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast European Marine Site, K Simpson, 2012.

¹¹ As the crow flies

ENV7 Equestrian Activity

- 6.37. The policy provides general support for commercial and private developments related to equestrian use. These types of development are generally located within the rural area and the policy does not place requirements on these developments to be located within or adjacent to existing farm buildings. As a result, there is potential for equestrian developments to be located on land that is of functional importance to SPA birds.
- 6.38. However, Policy ENV7 does not allocate any areas of land for this use and any schemes which come forward will be required to comply with policies ENV2 and EMP3, which seek to prevent harm to designated sites and the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site specifically. As a result, Policy ENV7 will not lead to any effect on the integrity of the SPA and Ramsar site.

Impacts Upon the North York Moors SPA and SAC

EMP7 – Airport Related Uses

- 6.39. Policy EMP4 safeguards land for the continued operation of Durham Tees Valley Airport and allocates land for logistics and employment uses that will support the financial viability of the airport. Chapter 5 has considered that potential impacts on air pollution and collision mortality may arise from this policy.
- 6.40. A number of planning applications have previously been submitted in relation to the airport and these have been accompanied by Environmental Impacts Assessments. These reports identified that operational air quality impacts need to be assessed by considering where aircraft are likely to be flying below 100m on take-off and approach, and where changes in traffic flow due to expansion are likely to have an impact upon air quality. An area of 8km by 8km from the airport has been identified as the area of assessment required for operational air quality impacts. This area does not cover the land within any European Site and the SPA and SAC is not within the prevailing wind direction from Durham Tees Valley Airport.
- 6.41. The potential for collision mortality from aircraft has been identified as a potential impact from policy EMP4. However, an increase in aircraft movements will not alter the bird strike flight risk because this risk is assessed on the basis of bird movements in relation to aircraft flight paths rather than on the numbers of aircraft using these flight paths and the SPA and SAC lies outside of the 13km Bird Conflict Zone around the airport. No likelihood of significant collision mortality impacts upon the integrity of the designated site have been identified as a result of this policy.
- 6.42. As a result of the above, Policy EMP4 will not lead to an impact upon the integrity of the North York Moors SPA and SAC.

Impacts Upon Castle Eden Dene SAC

H1, H34, H36 and EMP1 – Housing Allocations and prestige employment at Wynyard Park

- 6.43. These policies allocate land for development in close proximity to the A19 and have the potential to increase traffic on this route. As the A19 is a key route through the Borough there is also potential for the housing allocations as a whole to result in a cumulative impact on traffic growth on the A19, with a resulting increase in air pollution. However this increase in air pollution would be minor in comparison to existing levels of pollution from the road use. In addition, while the western boundary of Castle Eden Dene SAC lies within 200m of the A19

and could be subject to the localised increase in air pollution, the SAC is narrow and is approximately 5km in length, extending in an eastern direction away from the A19. Therefore, only a very small percentage of the SAC would be subject to a slight increase in air pollution and the adverse effect on the SAC is considered to be de minimis.

7. In Combination Assessment

- 7.1. The following is the consideration of other plans and projects which may interact with the Regeneration and Environment Local Plan and result in an in combination effect upon the identified Natura 2000 sites. In line with Government advice only the most relevant plans and projects have been considered.

Darlington Borough Council Local Plan

- 7.2. Darlington's Core Strategy was adopted in 2011. The location strategy for the borough is to concentrate development in sustainable locations and adjoining the main urban area and with good accessibility. However, the plan does include allocations for housing and employment developments, which may result in an increase in air pollution in combination with the RELP.

Hambleton LDF

- 7.3. Hambleton has an adopted Core Strategy and Site Allocations DPD. The spatial strategy identifies an area of restraint for residential development in the north of the district, extending south from the boundary with the Tees Valley south to near Northallerton. The focus for development is away from both Stockton and the North York Moors SAC and SPA and it is not considered that there is potential for in combination effects with the Core Strategy Review.

Hartlepool Local Plan

- 7.4. Hartlepool is still developing its revised Local Plan and does not yet have an adopted document. The employment policies and proposals in the existing Local Plan have the potential to affect the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site. However, the policy to protect international nature conservation sites will ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained. There is potential for the plan to impact upon all sites due to the potential to increase traffic growth and air pollution.

Middlesbrough LDF

- 7.5. Middlesbrough's Core Strategy and Regeneration DPDs have been adopted and were both subject to a Habitat Regulations Assessment. The LDF includes policies with measures to protect biodiversity and designated sites. There is potential for traffic growth to increase air pollution and there is a significant focus upon the river corridor for development.
- 7.6. Middlesbrough has also carried out a review of the housing element of the Core Strategy and this Housing Local Plan was adopted in November 2014. This document proposes 6970 dwellings over the plan period and has the potential to lead to an increase in air pollution in combination with the RELP.

Redcar and Cleveland LDF

- 7.7. The Core Strategy and Development Policies DPDs were adopted in 2007 and both were subject to rigorous assessment under the Habitat Regulations. The adopted policies incorporate mitigation measures to ensure that the integrity of designated sites is maintained. However, there is some potential for traffic growth, in combination with the Core Strategy Review, to lead to an increase in air pollution.

Sedgefield Borough Local Plan

- 7.8. Until a Local Plan is adopted for the unitary authority of County Durham, the Local Plan for the former Borough of Sedgefield remains relevant. The Local Plan focuses development upon the major towns, with some development upon Sedgefield, which is located to the north of Stockton Borough. There is potential for increasing traffic growth to lead to an increase in air pollution, which may impact upon the Castle Eden Dene SAC.

Joint Tees Valley Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and Policies and Sites DPDs.

- 7.9. These are joint DPDs setting out policies and site allocations for minerals and waste developments. The DPDs cover the boundaries of the five Tees Valley authorities, Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton. Policy MWC8 identifies an area of land for the location of large waste management facilities. The Habitat Regulations Assessment for this document identifies that the policy has the potential to effect the SPA/Ramsar site through disturbance from operational activity and vehicle movements, increased emissions and loss of land. However, the Habitat Regulation Assessment concludes that there is sufficient flexibility to avoid a conflict.

Other Plans

Table 23: Analysis of the Core Strategy Review in Combination with Other Plans.

Plan	Proposals	In Combination Effect
Other Stockton Borough Council Strategies and Plans. Sustainable Community Strategy. Local Transport Plan. Climate Change Action Plan. Regeneration Strategy. Housing Strategy.	The Local Plan is the vehicle for delivering the spatial aspects of these strategies. Any proposals contained in these strategies that would either impact on or maintain the integrity of protected sites have been incorporated into the Local Plan.	No
Shoreline Management Plan 2	The aim of the SMP has been 'to provide the basis for sustainable coastal defence policies within a sediment cell and to set objectives for the future management of the shoreline'. Among the objectives are 'to comply with the statutory obligations of sites such as ...SPA and SAC'.	No
Tees Tidal Flood Risk Management Strategy (March 2006).	This strategy sets out the Environment Agency's plan for sustainable management of flood risk to people, property and the environment. The strategy's approach could have a short-term impact upon the integrity of the SPA through 'coastal squeeze'. However, a managed realignment site adjacent to Greatham Creek on the northern boundary of the Borough has been identified to provide replacement intertidal habitat. It is anticipated that these mitigation measures will be sufficient to meet current predictions.	No
River Tees Catchment Flood Management Plan.	This will provide a strategic framework within which a plan can be drawn up of actions that are likely to modify the level of flood risk both now and in the future. 'Catchment policies	No

	would need to consider the potential implications for nature conservation. Potential opportunities also exist to support the conservation management of protected species’.	
Northumbria River Basin District Management Plan.	This plan sets out a series of objectives and actions for the ‘protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment’. The actions include the reduction of impacts from the built environment and an emphasis upon the sustainable management of surface water drainage.	No
European Marine Site Management Plans.	Key requirements for the management of European Marine Sites are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of the sites should contribute to maintaining or achieving favourable conservation status of their natural habitats and species; • Steps must be taken to avoid the deterioration or disturbance of the habitats and species for which the site has been designated; • Activities, plans or projects, whether inside or outside the site, which are likely to have a significant effect upon the site features, must be subject to an assessment. • Monitoring must be undertaken to assess the conservation status of the site interest features and to assess the effectiveness of management; • Management of the site must take into account the economic, social, cultural and recreational needs of the local people. 	No

Projects

7.10. The following projects are proposed within or adjacent to the Borough and have undergone assessment for their potential to affect the integrity of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site. The projects have undergone Appropriate Assessment for their potential effects on the interest features of the SPA and Ramsar site and have required, or are requiring, the application of mitigation measures.

- **Northern Gateway Container Terminal.** A deep-sea container terminal has been approved for the south bank of the River Tees on the site of the existing Teesport Container Terminal 1, the redundant former Shell jetty and the Riverside Ro-Ro no 3 at Teesport. The conclusion of the Appropriate Assessment (September 2006) carried out for this project was that the proposal would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the SPA.
- **Norsea/ConocoPhillips CHP and LNG Facility.** Approval has been granted for a 800MW combined heat and power plant at Seal Sands. The proposal is part of a scheme to establish facilities for the importation of liquefied natural gas (LNG) at ConocoPhillips’ Teesside Oil Terminal. The CHP plant will be constructed along with an export gas pipeline, modifications to Jetty No.5, LNG delivery pipelines, an LNG storage and regasification facility

and a temporary construction area. The potential effects of the development on the SPA/Ramsar site include:

- Disturbance and displacement impacts on SPA bird interests, from both construction and operation;
- Disturbance and collision mortality impacts from proposed electricity grid infrastructure;
- Increased NO₂ deposition, in combination with other projects.

Mitigation measures were incorporated into the proposals to prevent the identified potential effects and to ensure that there will not be a significant impact from the development upon the integrity of the SPA/Ramsar site. However, there is potential for an increase in the deposition of nitrogen in combination with the proposals of the Regeneration and Environment LDD.

• **Gaia Power Biomass Power Station, Billingham Reach and Biomass Power Station, Port Clarence Road.** Approval has been granted for two 45-50 MW biomass fuelled power stations in at Billingham Reach and Port Clarence Road. The Environmental Statements concluded that neither plant on its own is likely to have a significant impact upon the integrity of designated sites through either the construction or operation phases. However, in both cases it is considered that there is potential to contribute to a cumulative, in combination, impact upon air quality with future developments.

• **Air Products Renewable Energy Facility, Reclamation Pond, Seal Sands.** A 49MW renewable energy facility employing plasma gasification technology with handling facilities and an oxygen production unit and power generation plant is under construction. The Appropriate Assessment accompanying the approved planning application found that there was potential for an impact upon the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site without mitigation measures. The application was approved with a requirement to implement a number of mitigation measures including the submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan.

Consideration of In-Combination Effects

- 7.11. All of the projects and plans listed above have been assessed as not having an impact upon Natura 2000 on their own but their potential impacts must be considered in combination with the RELP. It is considered that the potential in combination impacts from these plans and projects relate to an increase in air pollution from the cumulative level of development within the area.
- 7.12. Due to the impacts of air pollution being localised to within 200 m of the road side, only Castle Eden Dene SAC has the potential to be impacted upon from this level of growth. However, this impact will be de minimis, as only a very small percentage of the SAC would be subject to a slight increase in air pollution

8. Conclusions

- 8.1. The Regeneration and Environment Local Plan is the second document to be produced within the Local Plan (formerly the LDF) and contains site specific policies and allocations, and some non site specific policies and designations, to deliver the Spatial Strategy and other policies set out within the Council's adopted Core Strategy. These policies and allocations have been assessed for the potential to have a likely significant effect on internationally designated sites.
- 8.2. Where it had been considered that an option for allocation could result in an impact on a designated site, such as was the case with employment allocations in the Seal Sands and North Tees areas, these allocations were not carried forward into policy and instead a specific policy to protect the integrity of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site has been included in the RELP, which will apply to all future development in the area
- 8.3. In addition, policies within the RELP need to be read alongside other policies contained within the Stockton Local Plan. Developments supported by the RELP must, therefore, also comply with the Core Strategy policies, including CS10 – Environmental Protection and Enhancement, which states:

“In taking forward development in the plan area, particularly along the river corridor, in the North Tees Pools and Seal Sands areas, proposals will need to demonstrate that there will be no adverse impact on the integrity of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site, or other European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans, programmes or projects. Any mitigation measures must meet the requirements of the Habitat Regulations.”
- 8.4. The consideration of all policies and their potential in-combination effects with other relevant plans and projects has identified only one potential impact upon a designated site. This is the impact of air pollution on the Castle Eden Dene SAC and this impact has been identified as being de minimis. As a result, the Regeneration and Environment Local Plan has not been assessed as having an adverse impact upon the integrity of a designated site.

Appendix 1: Favourable Condition Table – Teesmouth Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar Site.

Feature	Sub-Feature	Attribute	Measure	Target	Comments
Internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex 1 bird species (little tern, Sandwich tern)		Disturbance	Reduction or displacement of birds.	No significant reduction in numbers or displacement of wintering birds attributable to disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	Significant disturbance attributable to human activities can result in increased energy expenditure (light and/or reduced food intake, displacement to areas of poorer feeding conditions).
		Extent and distribution of habitat	Area (ha) measured once during reporting cycle.	No decrease in extent from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	These habitats provide both breeding and roosting sites for terns.
	Sand and shingle	Vegetation characteristics	Predominantly open ground with sparse/short vegetation and bare surfaces (colonial nesting).	Vegetation height and density at nesting sites should not deviate significantly from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	Vegetation cover <10% required throughout the areas used for nesting by little tern.
	Intertidal sand and mudflats	Absence of obstructions to bird sight lines.	Openness of terrain unrestricted by obstructions.	No increase in obstructions to existing bird sight lines, subject to natural change.	Sandwich terns require views >200m to allow early detection of predators at roost sites.
	Shallow coastal waters	Food availability	Presence and abundances of marine fish, crustaceans, worms and molluscs. Measured periodically (frequency to be determined).	Presence and abundance of prey species should not deviate significantly from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	Crustacea, annelids, sand eel, and sprats are important for feeding little and Sandwich terns.

Feature	Sub-Feature	Attribute	Measure	Target	Comments
Internationally important populations of regularly occurring migratory species (knot (winter), redshank (autumn)) and of the internationally important assemblage of waterbirds		Disturbance	Reduction or displacement of birds.	No significant reduction in numbers or displacement of wintering birds attributable to disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	Significant disturbance attributable to human activities can result in reduced food intake and/or increased energy expenditure
		Extent and distribution of habitat	Area (ha) measured once during reporting cycle.	No decrease in extent from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	Rocky shores have particular significance for feeding knot at Teesmouth. Existing saltmarsh habitats are mere remnants of those of the original Tees Estuary.
	Rocky shores	Absence of obstructions to bird sight lines.	Openness of terrain unrestricted by obstructions.	No increase in obstructions to existing bird sight lines, subject to natural change.	Waders require views over >200m to allow early detection of predators when feeding and roosting during the non-breeding season (at Teesmouth July-March inclusive)
		Food availability	Presence and abundances of marine fish, crustaceans, worms and molluscs. Measured periodically (frequency to be determined).	Presence and abundance of prey species should not deviate significantly from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	Mytilus spat are important prey for Knot.
	Intertidal sand and mudflats	Absence of obstructions to bird sight lines.	Openness of terrain unrestricted by obstructions.	No increase in obstructions to existing bird sight lines, subject to natural change.	Waders require views over >200m to allow early detection of predators when feeding and roosting.

Feature	Sub-Feature	Attribute	Measure	Target	Comments
		Food availability	Presence and abundances of marine fish, crustaceans, worms and molluscs. Measured periodically (frequency to be determined).	Presence and abundance of prey species should not deviate significantly from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	Prey items include Hydrobia, Macoma, Corophium, Nereis (redshank and shelduck), Macoma, Mytilus/Cerastoderma spat, Hydrobia (knot), Bathyporeia, Nerine, Mytilus, wrack flies, sanhoppers (sanderling).
	Saltmarsh	Absence of obstructions to bird sight lines.	Openness of terrain unrestricted by obstructions.	No increase in obstructions to existing bird sight lines, subject to natural change.	Waders require views over >200m to allow early detection of predators when feeding and roosting
		Vegetation characteristics	Open, short vegetation or bare ground predominating (feeding and roosting)	Vegetation height throughout areas used for roosting should not deviate significantly from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	Vegetation of <10cm is required throughout area used for roosting.
		Food availability	Presence and abundance of aquatic invertebrates. Measured periodically (frequency to be determined).	Presence and abundance of prey species should not deviate significantly from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	Hydrobia, Corophium are important for redshank, shelduck and teal. These habitats provide supplementary feeding opportunities especially at high water.
			Presence and abundance of seed-bearing plants. Measured periodically (frequency to be determined).	Presence and abundance of prey species should not deviate significantly from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	Salicornia and Atriplex are important for teal during the non-breeding season (November – March), while Salicornia seeds may be taken by Shelduck.
NB Extreme events (such as storms reducing or increasing salinities, exceptionally cold winters or warm summers) also need to be recorded as they may be critical in influencing ecological issues on the Teesmouth and Cleveland coast and may well be missed by routine monitoring.					

Appendix 2: Favourable Condition Table –North York Moors SAC and SPA Site.

Operational Feature	Criteria Feature	Attribute	Measure	Target	Comments
Upland Heath	European dry heath	Extent	Total area mapped in relation to baseline	No reduction in area and any consequent fragmentation	Small losses related to management may be acceptable (eg - footpaths).
		Dwarf shrub cover	% of dwarf shrub cover	Minimum of 75% cover of dwarf shrubs	Excluding recently burnt stands. Includes all H10 (<i>Calluna vulgaris-Erica cinerea</i> heath) and H12 (<i>Calluna vulgaris – Vaccinium myrtillus</i> heath).
		Dwarf shrub diversity	Number of different species of dwarf shrubs and frequency in sward	At least two species of dwarf shrub species should be widespread and frequent in the sward	Aim is for diversity of shrubs especially along valleys and steeper slopes, but also on some of the flatter land. Merlin are believed to favour the upper parts of the catchment/ valleys so taller heather here would be preferable.
		Age structure	Presence of age classes of Calluna	All age classes present with at least 25% of the management unit in the late mature/degenerate age class or excluded from the burning rotation.	Stand which are never burnt should be present on level or gently sloping ground, not entirely confined to steep slopes.
		Grazing impact	Indicators of light grazing	A maximum of 5% of the grazing unit may show signs of current moderate or heavy grazing. Foddering sites should be no greater in their immediate impact of 30 metres of heather lost to grass.	See guidance notes for indicators.
Upland Heath	Northern Atlantic wet dwarf shrub	Extent	Total area mapped in relation to baseline	No reduction in area and any consequent fragmentation	Small losses related to management may be acceptable (eg - footpaths).
		Dwarf shrub cover	%age of dwarf shrub cover	Minimum of 75% cover of dwarf shrubs	

Operational Feature	Criteria Feature	Attribute	Measure	Target	Comments
	heath	Dwarf shrub diversity	Number of different species of dwarf shrubs and frequency in sward	At least two species of dwarf shrub species should be widespread and frequent in the sward	Much of the dry and wet heath forms an intimate mosaic which is currently managed as one by moorland owner/ occupiers. It is very difficult delineating distinct zones of each habitat type on the moors.
		Bryophyte/ lichen abundance	Frequency of bryophytes and lichens in the sward	Bryophytes (excluding Polytrichum spp. and/or Campylopus spp.) and/or Cladonia spp. Lichens should be occasional to frequent and forming patches below, or in more open swards, between the dwarf shrubs	Bryophyte levels have been found to be only occasional in some areas.
		Age structure	Presence of age classes of Calluna	All age classes present with at least 33% of the management unit in the late mature/degenerate age class or excluded from the burning cycle.	Stand which are never burnt should be present on level or gently sloping ground , not entirely confined to steep slopes.
Upland bog	Blanket and upland raised mire	Extent	Total area mapped in relation to baseline	No reduction in area and any consequent fragmentation	Small losses/ flux in surface vegetation may be acceptable, esp. for management (eg-footpaths).
		Bryophyte abundance	Bryophyte cover especially Sphagnum spp	Bryophytes (excluding Polytrichum spp., Campylopus spp. and Racomitrium lanuginosum on bare ground) should be abundant and must include Sphagnum spp	Sphagnum spp must be both frequent and widespread in the stand and restricted to hollows, forming at least occasional lawns or hummocks. Pleurocarpous mosses may make up a significant proportion of the bryophyte layer in the Moors. Reference level of bryophytes needs to be determined.
		Dwarf shrub cover	%age of dwarf shrub cover	Cover of dwarf shrubs must be greater than 33%	Less than 33% cover is acceptable in wetter areas where Sphagnum spp are abundant and forming lawns although this wetness is not a general feature of the Moors.

Operational Feature	Criteria Feature	Attribute	Measure	Target	Comments
		Dwarf shrub diversity	Number of different species and frequent within sward	At least two species of dwarf shrub species should be widespread and frequent in the sward	
		Graminoid cover	% cover of grasses and related species	Total cover of graminoids/ Eriophorum should not exceed 50% unless Sphagnum spp are abundant/co-dominant and forming lawns below the grasslands i.e. in waterlogged conditions	Eriophorum tends to be favoured over dwarf shrubs where burning is relatively intense.
		Extent of bare ground covered by algal mats	Amount of bare ground or ground covered by algal mats	Little or no ground, or bare ground carpeted by Polytrichum spp, Campylopus spp crust forming lichens or algal mats	Bare ground present rather than eroded surfaces. Some areas have remained as bare ground since previous severe fires, some dating back to the 1930's.
		Erosion features associated with human impacts	Presence of erosion features	No artificial drains/ grips or erosion associated with human impacts eg fires, vehicles, livestock grazing, recreational activities	See notes. Except very localised - eg - around tracks, footpaths, grouse butts, etc.
		Active peat extraction	Presence of active peat extraction	Large scale (commercial) peat extraction absent. Some small-scale hand-cut peat. turve cutting may be acceptable provided that it does not make up more than 2% of the moorland area Acceptable levels to be defined	Many areas which have been cut in the past have now revegetated with good mire vegetation which meets the other attributes for favourable vegetation. Many farms retain their rights to cut peat/ turves. The numbers carrying out this activity is a key element to acceptability. Recovery times are thought to be 20 years plus.
		Grazing impact	Indicators of light grazing	A maximum of 5% of the grazing unit may show signs of current moderate or heavy grazing	See guidance notes.

SPA Features

Operational Feature	Criteria Feature	Attribute	Measure	Target	Comments
Moorland (For Birds)	Annex 1 and migratory populations of European Importance: golden plover, merlin	Disturbance	Reduction or displacement of birds, measured periodically (frequency to be determined).	No significant displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance in relation to reference level.	Potential sources of disturbance include heather burning, heather cutting, vehicles, stock, dogs and walkers, especially from April to mid-July. Disturbance caused by predation and the effects on the qualifying bird species is an area that requires further assessment. Reference level to be determined. Methodology for assessing target to be determined.
		Extent and distribution of habitat	Area (ha), measured periodically (frequency to be determined).	No significant decrease from reference level.	Reference level to be determined. Methodology for assessing target to be determined.
	Annex 1 and migratory populations of European Importance: golden plover	Landscape	Open terrain relatively free of obstructions (feeding, anti-predator, roosting), measured periodically (frequency to be determined).	No significant reduction in view-lines in feeding and roosting areas.	Golden Plover require views over 200m At least 80% of current moorland area (and all flatter plateaux) open, e.g. without new walls or trees. New fences only where essential for conservation land management. Some loss of view, to trees and shrubs, acceptable in low density breeding areas to benefit other bird and habitat interests. Methodology for assessing target to be determined.

Operational Feature	Criteria Feature	Attribute	Measure	Target	Comments
	Annex 1 populations of European Importance: merlin	Food Availability	Abundance of birds, day flying moths and mammals, measured periodically (frequency to be determined).	No significant reduction in presence and abundance of prey species in relation to reference level.	Small birds - pipits to waders and moths are important for Merlin. Effects of bracken spraying on meadow pipit abundance not fully assessed but needs to be quantified. Reference level to be determined. Methodology for assessing target to be determined. Data from Merlin Group suggests that male and female may hunt in different areas and on different types of prey during the breeding (incubation period) season, the female taking larger prey, more widely afield, post hatching, but this has yet to be confirmed.
Moorland [For Birds]	Annex 1 and migratory populations of European Importance: golden plover, merlin	Vegetation Characteristics	Extent and proportions of short, medium and tall vegetation, measured periodically (frequency to be determined).	xxx% of moorland with short vegetation with patches of taller vegetation for nesting (short grassland, grasslands with bracken, tall heather, low trees/scrub) for merlin. Once a reference level has been established then there should be no significant reduction in extent from that level.	Using SAC targets, at least 75% of the shorter vegetation currently used by golden plovers can be retained. The requirement for 25% taller vegetation could be met away from high density breeding areas. Scattered tree/shrub is acceptable to meet other SPA and SAC objectives. Vegetation height require for golden plover: mix of short (feeding) (less than 5cm) and patches of taller (up to 15 cm for nesting) during the breeding season. Burnt are favoured over cut area. Nesting appears to be largely just below the plateau between catchments, on the tops of moors and centred on blanket bog areas. Burning management on grouse moors, which currently produces much of the short vegetation providing suitable habitat for golden plover, is considered unlikely to be compatible with achieving favourable condition on blanket bog or for other interest features of the SPA. Retention of small areas of acidic grassland can provide valuable nesting habitat, compatible with SAC targets (eg 5% of area) as currently

Operational Feature	Criteria Feature	Attribute	Measure	Target	Comments
					<p>defined.</p> <p>Vegetation height required for merlin: a ground layer of heather at > 20cm height with >80% heather cover, in a minimum of 15m x 15m heather 'blocks' and with burns (for feeding/ plucking) within a minimum of 5 metres of the nest site (average 10 metres). Heather in late mature to degenerate stages of growth. Nest site preference is generally on the level up to a 10 degree slope (though 20-30 degrees are recorded). No preference for aspect has been recorded. There is no evidence of tree nesting in the Moors despite intense ornithological work. All gills with some trees and shrub (variable densities). Some patches of trees at moor boundary. Aim to increase areas of tall heather in locations suitable for merlin nesting (eg tops of catchments).</p> <p>Methodology for assessing target to be determined. Reference levels (i.e. proportion of moorland with appropriate vegetation heights) to be determined.</p> <p>xxx% of moorland with short vegetation with patches of taller vegetation for nesting (short grassland, grasslands with bracken, burnt heather) for golden plover.</p> <p>xxx% of moorland with short vegetation for feeding and patches of longer vegetation for nesting for curlew.</p> <p>xxx% of moorland with medium to tall ground vegetation plus scattered (tall heather, low trees/scrub) for Merlin.</p> <p>xxx% of moorland with tall heather/young forestry (nesting and roosting), plus grasslands, bracken or low trees/scrub (feeding) for Hen Harrier</p>
Moorland	Annex 1 and	Food	Abundance of soil and	No significant reduction in	Earthworm, leatherjackets, beetles, spiders

Operational Feature	Criteria Feature	Attribute	Measure	Target	Comments
and adjacent wet pastures [For Birds]	migratory populations of European golden plover	Availability	ground surface invertebrates, measured periodically (frequency to be determined).	presence and abundance of food species in relation to reference level.	<p>are important for Golden plover. Maintain or increase existing areas of grassland (within 10-15km) without pesticide use (effective field size should be at least 10ha).</p> <p>Although important to the condition of the site, it may not prove possible to obtain a meaningful measure of prey availability by directly sampling invertebrate prey populations.</p> <p>Reference level to be determined.</p> <p>Methodology for assessing target to be determined.</p>

Appendix 3: Favourable Condition Table – Castle Eden Dene SAC.

Operational Feature	Criteria Feature	Attribute	Measure	Target	Comments
Semi-natural woodland	Taxus baccata woodland (National Vegetation Classification W13)	Area	Extent/location of stands	<p>No loss of ancient semi-natural stands</p> <p>At least current area of recent semi-natural stands maintained, although their location may alter.</p> <p>At least the area of ancient woodland retained (Details of stands contained in National Nature Reserve plan)</p>	<p>Stand loss due to natural processes e.g. in minimum intervention stands may be acceptable.</p> <p>Stand destruction may occur if the understorey and ground flora are irretrievably damaged even if the canopy remains intact.</p> <p>20% canopy cover is conventionally taken as the lower limit for an area to be considered as woodland.</p> <p>Area and location of stands may be assessed remotely or by site visit.</p>
		Natural processes and structural development	Age/size class variation within and between stands; presence of open space and old trees; dead wood lying on the ground; standing dead trees	<p>At least the current level of structural diversity maintained. (See NNR plan for current state)</p> <p>Canopy cover present over 30-90 % of stand area</p> <p>A minimum of 3 fallen lying trees less than 20 cm diameter per ha. At least 20 trees per ha left to grow on to become veterans¹².</p>	<p>Any changes leading to exceeding these limits due to natural processes are likely to be acceptable.</p> <p>There is generally a good structural variety in these stands.</p> <p>The ground flora and shrub layer are frequently totally absent over most of the stand, so no target is set for them.</p> <p>See JNCC guidance note for the sorts of age structure likely to be appropriate for different types of management regime. Compared to other woodland types the degree of variation in structure may be very low.</p> <p>Much of the interest in yew woods is in the very old trees - hence a higher figure is set than for other types for trees to grow on to become veterans.</p> <p>Assess this attribute by field survey.</p>
		Regeneration potential	Successful establishment of young stems in gaps or on the edge of a stand	Signs of seedlings growing through to saplings to young trees at sufficient density to	A proportion of gaps at any one time may develop into permanent open space; equally some current permanent open space/glades

¹² Veteran trees are trees, which, because of their great age, size and condition, are of exceptional value culturally, in the landscape or for wildlife.

Operational Feature	Criteria Feature	Attribute	Measure	Target	Comments
				<p>maintain canopy density over a 20 yr period (or equivalent regrowth from coppice stumps).</p> <p>No planting except where necessary to restore former plantation areas.</p>	<p>may in time regenerate to closed canopy. Regeneration may often occur on the edges of woods rather than in gaps within it. See Joint Nature Conservation Council Guidance Note on likely desirable levels of regeneration. In yew woods the proportion of gaps is frequently lower than for other woodland types and the long-life span of the tree means that it is almost impossible to give a minimum level for regeneration. Assess this attribute by walking through the wood in spring/summer.</p>
		Composition	<p>Cover of native versus non-native species (all layers)</p> <p>Death, destruction or replacement of native woodland species through effects of non-native fauna or external unnatural factors</p>	<p>At least the current level of site-native species maintained. (Details of current composition given in management plan.)</p> <p>At least 90% of cover in any one layer of site-native or acceptable naturalised species.</p> <p>At least 50% of canopy or understorey comprised of yew</p> <p>Death, destruction or replacement of native woodland species through effects of introduced fauna or other external unnatural factors not more than 10% by number or area in a five year period.</p>	<p>In sites where there might be uncertainty as to what counts as site-native or as an acceptable naturalised species this must be made clear. Where cover in any one layer is less than 100% then the 90% target applies to the area actually covered by that layer. Factors leading to the death or replacement of woodland species could include pollution, including eutrophication from adjacent farmland; new diseases. Damage to species by non-native species that does not lead to their death or replacement by non woodland species (eg damage from squirrels to trees that none-the -less survive) is not necessarily unacceptable in nature conservation terms. Excessive browsing/grazing by even native ungulates may be considered an unnatural external factor where it leads to undesirable shifts in the composition/structure of the stand, although this may be picked up by attributes 2 or 5 anyway. Assess this attribute by a walk through the site.</p>
		Species, habitats,	Distinctive and desirable elements for a given site	Distinctive elements maintained at current levels	Changes leading to these targets not being met may be acceptable where this is due to natural

Operational Feature	Criteria Feature	Attribute	Measure	Target	Comments
		structures characteristic of the site.	Patches of associated habitats and transitions eg to ash woodland, or to species-rich grassland	and in current locations (where appropriate). Transitions to other woodland types (ash-elm, acid oak) and open space maintained in extent and where appropriate location. (See NNR plan for current state).	processes. Distinctive elements and patches should be marked on maps for ease of checking in the field wherever possible. If there are species groups/assemblages that cannot be assessed directly on a general site visit then surrogate features should be given where possible, eg dead wood concentrations for associated invertebrates.

Appendix 4: Favourable Condition Table – Thrislington SAC.

Operational Feature	Criteria Feature	Attribute	Measure	Target	Comments
Unimproved calcareous grassland	CG8	Extent	Total Area (ha), mapped in relation to reference level, in period mid May to end July, measured annually if possible.	No reduction in area and any consequent fragmentation without prior consent.	Reference Level to be determined.
		Sward composition: grass/herb ratio	Proportion of non-Graminae (herbs) in period mid May to end July measured annually if possible.	30%-90%	Low proportion outside target indicates eutrophication, usually from fertilisers, or insufficient removal of biomass, leading to dominance by grasses.
		*Sward composition: Positive indicator species	Record the frequency of positive indicator species in the period mid May to end of July, measured annually if possible. <i>Sesleria albicans</i> , <i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> , <i>Gallium Verum</i> , <i>Gentianella spp.</i> , <i>Helianthemum nummularium</i> , <i>Hypericum Pulchrum</i> , <i>Linum Cartharticum</i> , <i>Listeria Ovata</i> , <i>Lotus Corniculatus</i> , <i>Pimpinella Saxifragum</i> , <i>Plantago Media</i> , <i>Polygala spp.</i> , <i>Primula Verus</i> , <i>Sanguisorba minor</i> , <i>Scabiosa columbaria</i> , <i>Stachys Officinalis</i> , <i>Succisa pratensis</i> , <i>Thymus polythricus</i> , <i>Viola hirta</i> .	<i>Sesleria albicans</i> frequent plus at least two species frequent and four occasional throughout sward.	Choice of species related to NVC type and restriction to unimproved grassland, considered satisfactory when inside target. Among possible species that could be used, choice further restricted by ease of identification, visibility in recording period.
		*Sward composition: Negative indicator species	Record the frequency and % cover of negative indicator species. Record in period mid May to end July, measured annually if possible.	No species/taxa more than occasional throughout the sward on singly or together more than 5% cover.	Invasive species chosen to indicate problems of eutrophication and disturbance from various sources when outside target, e.g. poaching, stock feeding.

Operational Feature	Criteria Feature	Attribute	Measure	Target	Comments
			possible. <i>Chamerion Angustifolium</i> , <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> , <i>Galium Aparine</i> , <i>Sonchus spp.</i> , <i>Senecio Jacobaea</i> , <i>Urtica Dioica</i> .		
		*Sward composition: Negative indicator species	Record the frequency and % cover of all tree and scrub species, except <i>Rosa spp.</i> , consider together, measured annually if possible. Nb, if scrub/tree species are more than occasional throughout the sward but less than 5%, they are soon likely to become a problem if grazing levels are not sufficient or if scrub control is not being carried out.	No more than 5% cover.	Invasive species outside target shows that habitat is not being managed sufficiently e.g. under grazed.
		*Sward composition: negative indicator species	Record % cover of <i>Rosa spp.</i> , Measure annually if possible.	No more than 10% cover.	<i>Rosa</i> species are often an important component of the habitat, although they can out compete grassland plants if management is insufficient e.g. under grazing.
		Sward Composition: Rare and scarce species.	Record community rare/scarce species (specific to site, maybe none), In period mid May to end July, measured annually if possible. <i>Antennaria dioica</i> , <i>Epipacdis atrorubens</i> , <i>Linum anglicum</i> , <i>Hypericum montanum</i> , <i>Parnassia palustris</i> , <i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i> , <i>Plantago maritima</i> ,	One or more present.	Some sites have rare and scarce species, often with very small populations. Continued presence gives an indication that conditions e.g. grazing levels, remain suitable.

Operational Feature	Criteria Feature	Attribute	Measure	Target	Comments
			<i>Primula farinose</i> , <i>Selaginella selaginoides</i> , <i>Trollius europaeus</i> .		
		Sward structure: Average Height	Record sward height in period Mid May to end July, measured annually if possible.	Sward 2-15cm	Outside target indicates insufficient grazing or overgrazing.
		Sward structure: litter	Record cover of litter where a more or less continuous layer distributed either in patches or in one larger area. Measured annually if possible.	Total extent no more than 25% of the sward.	Outside target indicates biomass removal is insufficient e.g. undergrazed.
		Sward structure: Bare ground	Record extent of bare ground (not rock) distributed through the sward, noticeable without disturbing the vegetation. Measure in period end mid May to end July, annually if possible.	No more than 10% of the sward	Outside target indicates management problems, e.g. over grazing.

Appendix 5: Favourable Condition Table – Durham Coast SAC.

Operational Feature	Criteria Feature	Attribute	Measure	Target	Comments
Maritime Cliff	Vegetated sea cliffs on the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts	Extent of cliff	Approximately 30% of sea cliff supporting or capable of supporting vegetated sea cliff communities. (Baseline figure taken from survey maps) Measure at least once per reporting cycle.	The overall length and /or area of the cliff habitat of the site is maintained taking into account natural variation.	Requires up to date NVC mapping to provide accurate base line. This attribute will be important for all cliff types. On near vertical cliffs it may be difficult to assess area, and a length measurement may be more appropriate. On less steep cliffs area may be measurable. Area of suitable habitat behind a receding cliff line may also be important.
		Mobility	Percentage of linear extent and area of cliff structure and geomorphological processes not immediately constrained by introduced structures or landforms. Measured once per reporting cycle.	No increase in linear extent or area constrained by introduced structures or landforms.	An important aspect of this habitat is the modification of vegetation patterns in response to natural and geomorphological coastal processes without constraints. Introduction of or increase in physical constraints would reduce the mobility of the cliff and reduce the range of communities which represent this interest feature. Information on existing coast protection should be available from the SMP.
		Physical features supporting vegetation patterns/ zonation	Assessment of distribution of main zones in relation to cliff behavioural units and distance from maritime influence. Measured once per reporting cycle.	Maintain the range of physical conditions arising from variation in geology and geomorphology, profile, stability, degree of maritime exposure, drainage, aspect, geographical location and history of management. Local targets will need to be established. Physical conditions should be able to support the full range of vegetation communities characteristic of the site.	Changes in patterns are reflected in changes to the profile and stability of the supporting cliff face which will vary from site to site and vary over time. Some cliffs exhibit long term stability, with episodic landslide movement, others erode more continually. Changes to patterns are to be expected, especially in dynamic systems. Can be assessed from air photographs and site based surveys and will need information on geomorphological aspect of cliffs.
		Vegetation composition maritime grassland communities	Presence of vegetation communities characteristic of maritime grassland. These are likely to consist of NVC communities MC8-MC12	Maintain range of maritime grassland communities, taking account of natural variation.	Individual sites will exhibit different patterns and range of vegetation types depending on site characteristic and management history. Surveys may be needed to establish the full range for each site. Reference should be made to dates

Operational Feature	Criteria Feature	Attribute	Measure	Target	Comments
		characteristic of the site.	characterised by the dominance of <i>Festuca rubra</i> , with <i>Armeria maritima</i> , <i>Silene Vulgaris maritima</i> , <i>Holcus lanatus</i> , <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> , <i>P. maritima</i> , <i>P. coronopus</i> , <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> , <i>Daucus carota</i> , <i>Rumex acetosa</i> , <i>Hyacinthoides non-scriptus</i> . Assess at least one reporting cycle.		of previous surveys to assess which communities have been previously recorded on the site. Some of these communities can be difficult to assess because of their inaccessibility.
		Vegetation of soft cliffs and other communities characteristic of the site	Vegetation composition of other communities forming a complex pattern reflecting different degrees and stages of instability, drainage and other physical characteristics. The components of this pattern may include wet flush/seepage/mire communities, scrub/woodland communities, ruderal and bracken communities. Assess at least once per recording cycle.	Maintain range of transitions and other communities previously recorded on the site, taking account of natural variation. Targets will need to be set locally, taking account of the maritime influence and coastal processes.	Vegetated sea cliff sites on soft geology in more sheltered locations are likely to support variants of wet flush/seepage/mire communities, scrub/woodland communities, ruderal and bracken communities, which may be subject to maritime influence. Some or all of these may also occur on relatively hard rock cliffs with a less extreme maritime influence. The diversity of habitats on sea cliffs is promoted by the inherent instability of the substrata which maintains a range of successional stages. Reference should be made to dates of previous surveys to assess which communities have been previously recorded on the site.
		Vegetation negative indicators	Presence of negative indicator species including non native species, invasive species indicative of changes in nutrient status and species not characteristic of typical communities. Assess at least once per reporting cycle.	No further increase in species not typically associated with the communities that define the feature. Local targets will need to be defined. These will vary from site to site and locally-significant species will need to be defined.	Changes in the extent and cover of invasive species usually indicate a change in conditions on a site, often as a result of anthropogenic activities, which may promote rapid expansion or increase in cover. Such species may include those identified as negative indicators for grass lands e.g. <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , <i>Senecio jacobaea</i> , <i>Urtica dioica</i> . Together with non native species. Some tall ruderal communities may be present naturally on a cliff site.

Appendix 6: Favourable Condition Table – Northumbria Coast SPA and Ramsar Site.

Feature	Sub-Feature	Attribute	Measure	Target	Comments
Internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex 1 and migratory bird species	All habitats	Disturbance	Reduction or displacement of birds	No significant reduction in numbers or displacement of wintering birds attributable to disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	Significant disturbance attributable to human activities can result in reduced food intake and/or increased energy expenditure. Disturbance is minimised through wardening of the tern breeding colony.
Internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex 1 bird species	Shallow inshore waters	Extent of habitat	Area (ha) measured once during the reporting cycle.	No decrease in extent from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	Little terns feed in the shallow inshore waters and the Long Nanny estuary near the Low Newton colony.
		Food availability	Presence and abundance of marine fish, crustaceans, worms, and molluscs. Measured periodically (frequency to be determined).	Presence and abundance of food species during the breeding period should not deviate significantly from established baseline, subject to natural change.	Crustaceans, annelids, sandeel and clupeidae are important for Little Tern.

