

Stockton-on-Tees Draft Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment

Regulation 18 Consultation - November 2016

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Where field investigations have been carried out, these have been restricted to the agreed scope of works and carried out to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives of the services. Natural habitats and species distributions may change over time and further data should be sought following any significant delay from the publication of this document.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

1. Baker Consultants Ltd has been appointed by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (the Council) to assist in carrying out the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the emerging Local Plan Draft. The Local Plan sets out the overall strategy and policies for the development and use of land across the Borough, including the location and scale of future residential development, allocation of areas for new industry and policies that will direct transport and infrastructure. The Local Plan also includes a raft of policies that aim to protect and improve the environment within the Borough, including issues such as air quality, protection of rivers and oceans and the preservation of wildlife and habitats.
2. The Local Plan Draft has now been completed and, as part of the process of preparing the policies, the Local Plan has been the subject of a Habitat Regulations Assessment which assesses the potential for the Local Plan to have an impact upon the Natura 2000 network and Ramsar sites (collectively and hereafter referred to as European sites). The HRA process is, by necessity, an iterative one and, following the early stages of the assessment, changes have already been incorporated into the Local Plan Draft.
3. This document sets out the record of the HRA and presents the findings of the assessment. Following consultation, it is very likely that further changes will be made to the Local Plan and these changes will then be subjected to further HRA, and this record will be updated accordingly.

1.2 Legislative Framework

4. The need for HRA arises from Case C-6/04, when the European Court of Justice ruled that Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of Directive 92/43/EEC of the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (known as the 'Habitats Directive') applied to land use plans.
5. The Habitats Directive affords protection to European sites where it is stated that *"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public."*
6. The Habitats Directive goes on to state that *"If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative*

solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.”

7. With reference to plans and projects, this part of the Habitats Directive has been transposed into English law under regulations 102 - 106 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).
8. In this report, the term HRA is used to describe the entire process set out in Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. Appropriate Assessment (AA) is the assessment that must be carried out should a 'likely significant effect' be identified.

1.3 Methodology

9. The European Commission has published guidance on the interpretation of Article 6 (3 and 4) with reference to Appropriate Assessment. There is also a considerable volume of case law that has added to our understanding of how these provision must be interpreted.
10. The first step under the HRA procedure is commonly referred to as the screening test (also known as the Likely Significant Effect (“LSE”) test). Under this test, the competent authority, before adopting a land use plan, must consider whether the plan is likely to have a significant effect on any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
11. Where the Council decides that the proposed development at the Site *is not* likely to have a significant effect on any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, then the HRA procedure is complete and the HRA procedure imposes no further constraint to the adoption of the plan. Where the Council decides that a plan *is* likely to have a significant effect on any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, then a further HRA procedure step must be addressed.
12. This next step is to conduct an Appropriate Assessment of the implications of the proposed plan on the relevant European site(s) in view of the site's conservation objectives. The competent authority may then agree to the proposed development only if it has ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site. If it cannot ascertain this, then the plan may only proceed if further derogation tests are met. The test that must be met is that the plan must proceed for imperative reasons of overriding public interest and there must be no alternative solutions to the plan.
13. Case law has assisted in interpreting the meaning of the first step in the HRA procedure, i.e. the LSE test. It was established in the Court of Justice of the European Union case C-127/02, known as *Waddenzee* (dated 7th September 2004), that a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (i.e. the project fails the LSE test so that appropriate assessment is required) where “*it cannot be excluded on the basis of objective information*

that the plan or project will have significant effects on the site concerned” (paragraph 44).

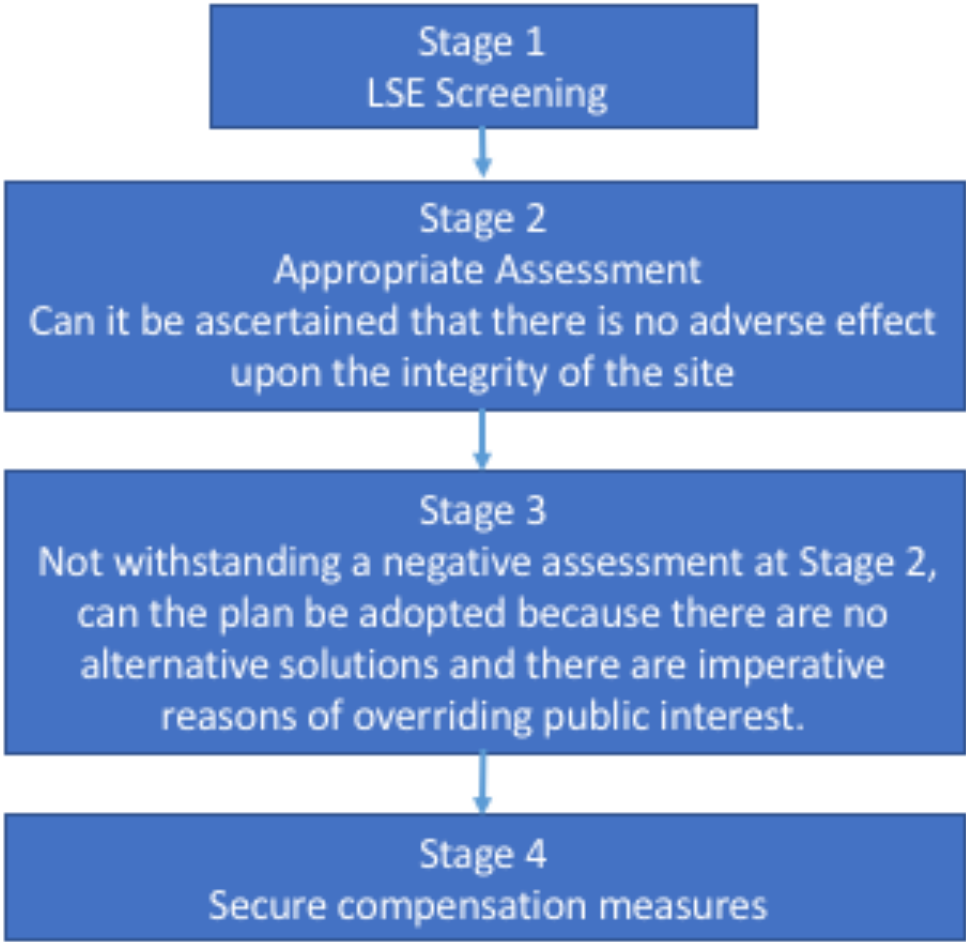
14. In the Scottish case of *Bagmoor Wind Limited v The Scottish Ministers* Court of Session [2012] CSIH 93, this point was emphasised where it was stated that: *“The requirement for objective information at the preliminary examination is not to be equated with a need for scientific knowledge...”* (paragraph 45).
15. It has also been established that for a project to fail the LSE test, and thereby trigger the need for an AA, there must be a real, rather than a hypothetical, risk of LSE, based on (as already set out above) objective evidence. This has been confirmed in the case of *Peter Charles Boggis, Easton Bavents Conservation v Natural England v Waveney District Council* [2009] EWCA Civ 1061 (paragraph 37).
16. Mitigation measures associated with a proposed project should be taken into account at the outset when applying the LSE screening test. This was established in the case of *R (on the application of Hart District Council) v The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government* [2008] EWHC 1204 (Admin). In this case, it was held that it is lawful for the competent authority to take mitigation measures into account at the LSE test stage. It was stated that: *“The competent authority is required to consider whether the project, as a whole, including such measures, if they are part of the project, is likely to have a significant effect on the SPA”* (paragraph 76). It was also stated that *“as a matter of common sense, anything which encourages the proponents of plans and projects to incorporate mitigation measures at the earliest possible stage in the evolution of their plan or project is surely to be encouraged”* (paragraph 61).
17. Mitigation measures can be characterised as avoidance, cancellation or reduction measures. In the Court of Justice of the European Union case of *C-521/12 T.C. Briels and Others* Judgment, 15th May 2014, the Court of Justice referred to mitigation measures as *“the protective measures forming part of that project aimed at avoiding or reducing any direct adverse effects for the site”*. In the Court of Appeal case of *Smyth v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government* [2015] EWCA Civ 174 which considered *Briels* and which also approved *Hart*, Sales LJ drew a clear distinction between *“preventive safeguarding measures”* (which are relevant to assessing the LSE test) and *“off-setting measures where the competent authority is asked to allow harm to a protected site to occur, on the basis that this harm will be counter-balanced and offset by other measures to enhance the environment elsewhere or in other ways”* (which are not relevant to assessing the LSE test). Sales LJ stated (at paragraph 75) *“Since it is clear from the relevant case law that preventive safeguarding measures are relevant matters to be taken into account under an “appropriate assessment” under the second limb (see discussion above), there is in my view a compelling logic to say that they are relevant and may properly be taken into account in an appropriate case under the first limb of Article 6(3) [i.e. the LSE test] as well”*.
18. The LSE test requires an assessment of the project *“alone and in combination with other plans or projects”*. When taking into account the mitigation measures when applying the LSE test, if a project alone is judged as having a

neutral effect on a European site then there is no need for any other plans or projects to be considered because there is no effect of the subject project with which effects of other plans or projects can combine.

19. Where an LSE cannot be ruled out on the basis of objective information it is necessary to then move onto the AA stage and ascertain that the plan will not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of a European site. The Waddenzee judgement established that the competent authority must be certain that the plan will not affect the integrity of the site, the judgement stating that “*That is the case where no reasonable scientific doubt remains as to the absence of such effects*”
20. It is also necessary to bear in mind that the assessment must be appropriate for the plan. A strategic plan, such as the one under consideration here, does not contain the level of detail that would define the precise level of impacts that each policy may present. However, where there are uncertainties on the extent of impacts that may arise at this strategic level it is appropriate for an assessment to be carried out at a smaller scale, more detailed level (e.g. detailed planning application stage), once the full nature of the project is known. It is however essential that the plan and the necessary checks in place ensure that the protection of European sites is addressed so that it can be certain that impacts upon integrity can be ruled out with the level of certainty that is required by the Waddenzee judgement.
21. The integrity of the site is defined as “*the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified*”¹. This definition has also been adopted by the European Commission guidance (albeit slightly modified).
22. If a plan is considered to have adverse effect on the integrity of a European site, and the plan must be adopted because there are no alternative solutions AND there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, then the competent authority must secure compensatory measures to ‘*ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected*’.
23. The HRA process as set out in Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, and described above is summarised in Figure 1 below.

¹ ODPM Circular 06/2005 Government Circular. *Biodiversity and Geological Conservation. Statutory Obligations and their impacts upon the planning system.*

Figure 1. HRA Process Summary



1.4 Evidence Base

- 24. Natural England was consulted in the process of gathering European site designation citations for the sites likely to be affected by the Local Plan. Natural England’s European Site Conservation Objectives, published in 2014 or 2016, list Natural England’s interpretation of the most recent European site citations, which were consulted over prior to the original designation. The Conservation Objectives list the legally-qualifying features, or in other words, the reason for designation as a European Site (see Appendix 1).
- 25. Natural England has also advised the Council on the provisional list of qualifying features for two Ramsar sites likely to be affected by the Local Plan. These are detailed in Section 3.4. Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS), compiled by the Joint Nature Conservation Council (JNCC), are provided in Appendix 2 for each Ramsar site, but include a wider set of information including other notable but non-qualifying features not within the scope of this HRA.
- 26. The HRA as a whole has been informed by a number of documents listed below. These documents include an evidence base collected from neighbouring local authorities as well as nationally published evidence, to

ensure that the entire process considers plans or projects that could give rise to in-combination effects. Wherever possible, the reference is cited within the text but the following list sets out the key documents that have been referred to.

- *Addendum to the Habitat Regulations Assessment of the County Durham Plan Pre-Submission* (2014). The County Durham Plan [Online]. Available at: <http://durhamcc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/file/2889744>
- Air Pollution Information System (2016). *Site Relevant Critical Loads and Source Attribution* [Online]. Available at: <http://www.apis.ac.uk/src/>
- Association of North East Councils. *Wind Farm Development and Landscape Capacity Studies: East Durham Limestone and Tees Plain ADDENDUM* (2009). [Online]. North East Regional Assembly. Available at: <http://www.darlington.gov.uk/media/98736/tees-plain-final.pdf>
- Barber, G. (2011). *Use of land at Seal Sands and North Tees by birds of the SPA*. [Online]. Industry Nature Conservation Association. Available at: https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/2914/45-seal_sands-north_tees_spa_birds_-2011.pdf
- *ClientEarth v Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs* (2016). Claim No: CO/1508/2016
- *European Site Conservation Objectives: Draft Supplementary Advice on Conserving and Restoring Site Features* (2016). [Online]. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk>
- *Hartlepool Habitat Regulations Consultation Document* (2016). Hartlepool Borough Council [Online]. Available at: https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/20209/local_plan/312/local_plan
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2015). *Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)* [Online]. Available at: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1389>
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee. *Natura 2000 Standard Data Form* [Online]. Available at: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1458>
- McLaughlin, R. & Souter, A. (2010). *Sustainability Appraisal of the Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents* [Online]. Entec UK Limited. Available at: https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/20209/local_plan/317/tees_valley_minerals_and_waste_development_plan_documents_for_the_tees_valley
- Meteo Blue (2016). *Climate Stockton-on-Tees* [Online]. Available from: <https://www.meteoblue.com/en/weather/forecast/modelclimate/stockton-on-tees-united-kingdom-2636876>
- *National Planning Policy Framework* (2012). [Online]. Department for Communities and Local Government. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf
- Natural England (2015). *Technical Information Note TIN172. A possible extension to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area* [Online]. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5987326182293504>
- Natural England (2000). *English Nature's advice for European marine site given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.)*

- Regulations 1994 [Online] Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4528018>
- *Natural England Conservation Objectives* (2016). [Online]. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk>
 - Natural England. *Coastal Access - Newport Bridge to North Gare: Access and Sensitive Features Appraisal* (2016). [Online]. Available at: *Natural England Supplementary Advice* (2016). [Online]. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/509690/newportbridge-northgare-access-sensitive-features.pdf
 - ODPM Circular 06/2005 Government Circular. Biodiversity and Geological Conservation. Statutory Obligations and their impacts upon the planning system.
 - Regeneration and Environment Local Plan Habitat Regulation Assessment (2015). Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.
 - RSPB: Get Involved (2016). *Are cats causing bird declines?* [Online]. Available from: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/community-and-advice/garden-advice/unwantedvisitors/cats/birddeclines.aspx>
 - Site Improvement Plan: Castle Eden Dene (2014). [Online]. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk>
 - *Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council - Stockton Renewables Study: Wind Study* (2009). [Online]. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. Available at: <http://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/images/att11467.pdf>
 - *Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council: 2016 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR)* (2016). [Online]. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. Available at: <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/7259/stockton-air-quality-annual-status-report-2016.pdf>
 - Tees Valley Environmental Protection Group (2016). *Air Quality in the Tees Valley 2012 – 2015* [Online]. Available at: <http://www.darlington.gov.uk/media/1233805/Tees-Valley-Annual-Report-2016.pdf>
 - *Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents: Core Strategy DPD* (2011). [Online]. Available at: https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/20209/local_plan/317/tees_valley_minerals_and_waste_development_plan_documents_for_the_tees_valley
 - *Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents: Policies and Sites DPD* (2011). [Online]. Available at: https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/20209/local_plan/317/tees_valley_minerals_and_waste_development_plan_documents_for_the_tees_valley
 - *Tees Valley Water Cycle Study: Outline Report* (2012). [Online]. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. Available at: http://www.darlington.gov.uk/media/106615/tv_wcs_final.pdf
 - *Tees Valley Water Cycle Study: Scoping Report* (2012). [Online]. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. Available at: https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/2908/37-tees_valley_water_cycle_study_scoping_report_-2012.pdf
 - *The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) (Volume 11 Section 3 Part 1 HA 207/07)* (2007). [Online] Available at: <http://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/ha/standards/dmr/b/vol11/section3.htm>

- *Views About Management, Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000* (2005). [Online]. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk>
- *Wind Farm Development and Landscape Capacity Studies: East Durham Limestone and Tees Plain; Addendum* (2009). Available at: <http://durhamcc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/file/2896751>

1.5 In-combination Effects

27. It is a requirement of the Regulations that the impacts and effects of any land use plan being assessed are not considered in isolation, but in combination with other plans and projects that may also be affecting the European site(s) in question. Consideration of this is given in Section 3 of this report, with further assessment for each impact pathway discussed in the Appropriate Assessment in Section 4.

2 Screening Test

2.1 Identification of relevant European sites

28. The first step of the HRA process is to establish the impact pathways that may arise from the draft Local Plan policies and to ascertain over what distance those potential impacts may be manifest.
29. While the policies set out in the plans only affect the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees, impacts arising from the policies may give rise to trans-boundary effects that could result in effects upon European sites outwith the Borough. In relation to this, Government advice states that: *“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”*.
30. On consultation with Natural England, the LSE screening has been carried out on all sites within 15 km of the boundary of the Borough.
31. Two types of European site are involved in this screening assessment, and are collectively referred to as the ‘Natura 2000’ network of European sites:

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) - designated under the 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.

32. In addition, the UK Government’s National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012 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 (1971).
33. The Borough of Stockton-on-Tees contains one internationally designated site - the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA. The site has also been recognised as a wetland of international importance for nature conservation, under the Ramsar Convention. A potential extension to the SPA (pSPA) is currently being considered by Natural England but has not been formally consulted upon. At this stage therefore the ‘potential’ pSPA is not legally protected under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations Assessment. It is anticipated that a formal consultation will be forthcoming in the near future at which point it is Government policy that the pSPA should be afforded the

same level of protection as if it were classified (NPPF paragraph 118)². Nonetheless this HRA considers the potential impacts of the Local Plan Draft upon the potential pSPA but further amendments may be required once the formal consultation commences and the details of the citation are known.

34. Figure 2 shows the borough of Stockton-on-Tees in relation to the relevant European Sites potentially affected by the Local Plan. Table 1 details the European sites, their locations and their Primary Reason for Designation, as per the Conservation Objectives published by Natural England³.

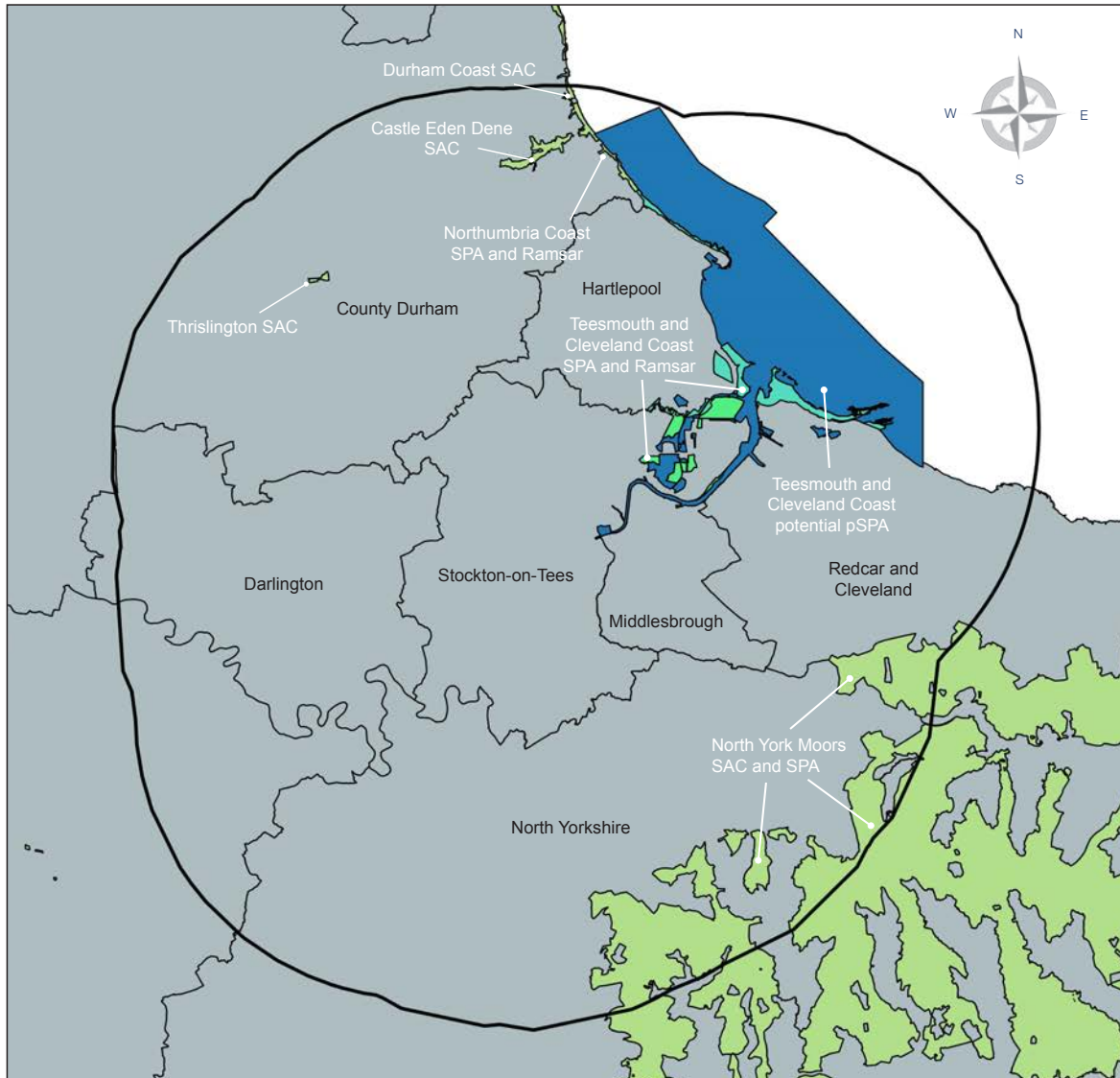
² *National Planning Policy Framework* (2012). [Online]. Department for Communities and Local Government. Available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

³ *Natural England Conservation Objectives* (2016). [Online]. Available at:

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk>

Figure 2. Stockton-on-Tees and European Sites potentially affected by the Local Plan Draft.



Legend

- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Potential extension to SPA (potential pSPA)
- Ramsar Site
- Unitary boundaries
- Stockton on Tees
15km boundary radius

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ECOLOGY DESIGN SUSTAINABILITY

Project Name & No.
863 Stockton-on-Tees HRA

Production Date
11 November 2016

Project Owner
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Table I. European sites potentially affected by the Local Plan Draft

Site Name, Status and Code	Location	Proximity to borough	Primary Reason for Designation
Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA (UK9006061)	Stockton on Tees, Hartlepool, Redcar and Cleveland	North-east. Partly within borough.	<i>Calidris canutus</i> ; Red knot (Non-breeding), <i>Tringa totanus</i> ; Common redshank (Non-breeding), <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> ; Sandwich tern (Non-breeding), <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ; Little tern (Breeding), and Water bird assemblage
Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast RAMSAR (RIS:UK11068)	Stockton on Tees, Hartlepool, Redcar and Cleveland	North-east. Partly within borough.	Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> Spring/Autumn), Red knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> Winter), Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> and Water bird assemblage
Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast potential pSPA	Stockton on Tees, Hartlepool, Redcar and Cleveland	North-east. Partly within borough.	Avocet* <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> (Breeding), and Common tern* <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Breeding) – see TIN172 in Appendix 2
North York Moors SAC (UK0030228)	North Yorkshire Moors National Park	South-east by approximately 9 km	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> : Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, European dry heaths, Blanket bogs*
North York Moors SPA (UK9006161)	North Yorkshire Moors National Park	South-east by approximately 9km	<i>Falco columbarius</i> ; Merlin (breeding), and <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> : European golden plover (breeding)
Thrislington SAC (UK0012838)	Sedgefield	North by approximately 9 km	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalis</i>); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone
Castle Eden Dene SAC (UK0012768)	Easington	North east by approximately 10 km	<i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles; Yew dominated woodland*
Durham Coast SAC (UK0030140)	Easington	The southern-most extent is approximately 10 km to the north east	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts
Northumbria Coast SPA (UK9006131), and pSPA	Much of the coastline between the Tees and Tweed Estuaries	The southern-most extent is approximately 10 km to the north east	<i>Calidris maritima</i> ; Purple sandpiper (non-breeding), <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ; Ruddy turnstone (non-breeding), <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ; Little tern (breeding), and Additional pSPA qualifying feature: <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ; Arctic tern (breeding)
Northumbria Coast RAMSAR (RIS:UK11049)	Much of the coastline between the Tees and Tweed Estuaries	The southern-most extent is approximately 10 km to the north east	Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> (breeding), Purple sandpiper <i>Calidris maritima</i> (wintering), and Ruddy turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> (wintering)

*Annex I/II Habitats are priority natural habitats and species of the Directive

2.2 European Sites Features and Conservation Objectives

35. The status of the six European sites are listed in Table 2 below with details provided of their:
- Qualifying Features⁴,
 - Natural England Conservation Objectives, Supplementary Advice⁵,
 - Conservation Advice for European Marine Sites (EMS)⁶,
 - Threats, pressures and vulnerabilities⁷, and
 - Views About Management (VAM)⁸.
36. Natural England Supplementary advice is available and included for Castle Eden Dene SAC, as well as threats listed in the Castle Eden Dene SAC Site Improvement Plan⁹.
37. JNCC's assessments of 'Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the sites' are included to demonstrate the particular issues each site was facing at the time of designation.
38. The 2005 VAMs list the management aims for the legally underpinning Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the European Sites. These are included as management is required to conserve or enhance the favourable conservation status of the sites, and ultimately, the maintenance of their integrity.
39. Refer to Appendices 1 and 2 for the Conservation Objectives and Site Designation Citations for each European Site.

⁴ Joint Nature Conservation Committee. Natura 2000 Standard Data Form [Online]. Available at: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1458> and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2015). *Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)* [Online]. Available at: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1389>

⁵ *European Site Conservation Objectives: Draft Supplementary Advice on Conserving and Restoring Site Features* (2016). [Online]. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk>

⁶ Natural England (2000). *English Nature's advice for European marine site given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994* [Online] Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4528018>

⁷ as for footnote 3

⁸ *Views About Management, Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000* (2005). [Online]. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk>

⁹ Site Improvement Plan: Castle Eden Dene (2014). [Online]. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk>

Table 2. European Sites Features and Conservation Objectives

Site Name and Designation	Qualifying features	Natural England Conservation Objectives / Supplementary Advice / Conservation Advice for European Marine Sites EMS	Views about Management	Threats and Pressures / 'Adverse factors'
<p>Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA/RAMSAR (and potential pSPA), and part of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast EMS</p>	<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 species.</p> <p>Teesmouth and 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 water bird assemblage.</p>	<p>SPA: Subject to natural change, ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained ^or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive^o, by maintaining or restoring set objectives*</p> <p>Marine site: Subject to natural change, maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex 1 bird species (little tern and sandwich tern), regularly occurring migratory bird species and internationally important assemblage of water birds, in particular sand and shingle, rocky shores, intertidal sandflat and mudflat, shallow coastal waters and saltmarsh.</p>	<p>Grazing to maintain a short sward, care to not overgraze and avoid trampling. Do not introduce grazing if no historical precedent</p> <p>Maintain (or restore) natural process and dynamic dune development and succession</p> <p>Selective scrub management</p> <p>Manage recreational pressures and install boardwalks if trampling is severe</p> <p>Good water quality and sediment quality</p> <p>Saltmarsh management to consider coastal erosion, rising sea levels variations in sediment deposition and land claim for development</p> <p>Minimise human activities / disturbance with control of recreational activities & access</p> <p>No fertiliser or pesticide input,</p>	<p>High negative impacts from inside the SAC from outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, and fishing and harvesting aquatic resources.</p> <p>High negative impacts from outside the SAC from industrial or commercial areas.</p> <p>High negative impacts from both inside and outside the SAC from pollution to surface waters (limnic and terrestrial, marine & brackish), and human induced changes in hydraulic conditions</p>

Site Name and Designation	Qualifying features	Natural England Conservation Objectives / Supplementary Advice / Conservation Advice for European Marine Sites EMS	Views about Management	Threats and Pressures / 'Adverse factors'
	The potential pSPA recommends the addition of Avocet* <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> (Breeding), and Common tern* <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Breeding) – see TIN172 in Appendix 2.		care taken with herbicides. Carefully timed and an appropriate level of grazing of grassy marshland	
North York Moors SPA/SAC	<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 wet heathland, with cross-</p>	<p>SPA: Subject to natural change, ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained⁺ or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive^o, by maintaining or restoring set objectives*</p> <p>SAC: Subject to natural change, ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained⁺ or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring set objectives*</p>	<p>Blanket bog: no new drainage or deepening of existing drains</p> <p>Blocking may be required for any eroding drains</p> <p>Carefully timed and an appropriate level of light grazing may be beneficial</p> <p>'Cool' burning for areas without pools and with historical regimes, no over burning</p> <p>Firebreaks in areas where accidental fires are likely</p> <p>Wet and dry heathland: prevent scrub invasion through light grazing or periodic and rotational winter burning, or seasonal cutting</p> <p>Avoid artificial drainage</p>	<p>High negative impacts from inside the SAC from fire and fire suppression and interspecific floral relationships.</p> <p>High negative impacts from both inside and outside the SAC from invasive non-native species, air pollution and air-borne pollutants and changes in abiotic conditions.</p>

Site Name and Designation	Qualifying features	Natural England Conservation Objectives / Supplementary Advice / Conservation Advice for European Marine Sites EMS	Views about Management	Threats and Pressures / 'Adverse factors'
	leaved heath which are listed in Annex 1.		<p>No fertiliser or pesticide input, care taken with herbicides.</p> <p>Control of recreational activities and access</p> <p>No improvement to enclosed land</p> <p>Bracken control in patches</p> <p>Retain or restore wetland and riparian habitats</p>	
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.	Subject to natural change, ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained ⁺ or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring set objectives*	<p>Continuous management by seasonally adjusted grazing</p> <p>No fertiliser or pesticide input</p> <p>Control of invasive features</p>	<p>High negative impacts outside the SAC from unknown threats or pressures.</p> <p>High negative impacts from both inside and outside the SAC from air pollution and air-borne pollutants and changes in abiotic conditions</p>
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	Subject to natural change, ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained ⁺ or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site	Site management to maintain current level of structural diversity (age/size class variation within and between	High negative impacts inside the SAC from forest and plantation management and use.

Site Name and Designation	Qualifying features	Natural England Conservation Objectives / Supplementary Advice / Conservation Advice for European Marine Sites EMS	Views about Management	Threats and Pressures / 'Adverse factors'
	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.	contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring set objectives* Natural England Draft Supplementary Advice lists targets to achieve the conservation objectives, when site attributes are safeguarded. Targets are to maintain the total extent, distribution structure and function, including typical species, of the yew woodland, and supporting processes on which the woodland relies.	stands; presence of open space and old trees; dead wood lying on the ground; standing dead trees) Successive felling, thinning or coppicing with non-native and shrub removal, with natural regeneration and some areas left unmanaged Limited light grazing and non-native species control No fertiliser or pesticide input with minimal herbicide use Control access and recreational activities	High negative impacts from both inside and outside the SAC from invasive non-native species, air pollution and air-borne pollutants and problematic native species Natural England's 2014 Site Improvement Plan lists four pressures or threats to the SAC; invasive species, forestry and woodland management, deer and air pollution (impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition)
Durham Coast SAC	Designated in 2005 for its Annex 1 habitat. It is the 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	Subject to natural change, ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained^ or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring set	Limestone grassland: natural exposure and slippage processes manage the steep cliffs, but some continuous management by seasonally adjusted light grazing is necessary. No fertiliser or pesticide input,	High negative impacts inside the SAC from abiotic (slow) natural processes and other human intrusions and disturbances. High negative impacts from both inside and

Site Name and Designation	Qualifying features	Natural England Conservation Objectives / Supplementary Advice / Conservation Advice for European Marine Sites EMS	Views about Management	Threats and Pressures / 'Adverse factors'
	phytogeographic distributions often grow together forming unusual and species-rich communities of high scientific interest.	objectives*	<p>care taken with herbicides.</p> <p>Control of recreational activities and access</p> <p>Neutral grassland: Biannual cutting or light grazing with occasional/periodic fertilization may be acceptable.</p> <p>Surface drainage may be necessary and deepening of surface drainage avoided</p>	outside the SAC from invasive non-native species, human-induced changes in hydraulic conditions and fertilisation.
Northumbria Coast SPA/RAMSAR (and pSPA), and part of the Northumbria Coast EMS	<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</p>	<p>SPA: Subject to natural change, ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained[^] or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive^o, by maintaining or restoring the Qualifying and Additional Qualifying Features by set objectives*</p> <p>Marine site: Subject to natural change, maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex 1 bird species (little tern) – in particular</p>	<p>Good water quality and sediment quality</p> <p>Allow natural processes to proceed freely</p> <p>Avoid inorganic fertilisers and pesticides, care with herbicides</p> <p>Control access and recreational activities</p> <p>Avoidance of dredging and pipe construction/harmful anthropogenic activities</p> <p>Maintain the provision of man-made roosting structures, i.e.</p>	<p>Large-scale general disturbance from human activities on and off-site</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 (JNCC, 2004)</p>

Site Name and Designation	Qualifying features	Natural England Conservation Objectives / Supplementary Advice / Conservation Advice for European Marine Sites EMS	Views about Management	Threats and Pressures / 'Adverse factors'
	<p>of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species: 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> <p>Additional pSPA qualifying feature: <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>; Arctic tern (breeding)</p>	<p>sandy beaches and shallow inshore waters at Low Newton, and regularly occurring migratory bird species (purple sandpiper and turnstone) – in particular rocky shores with associated boulder and cobble beaches, and artificial high tide roost sites</p>	<p>wooden piers at Blyth</p>	

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

°The Wild Birds Directive' is the Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 2009/147/EC

*See Appendix 1 for full Natural England Conservation Objectives

2.3 Identifying Impact Pathways

40. The Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan has the potential to impact upon the European sites in the ways listed below. These impact pathways have been determined by reference to the HRA of the 2015 Stockton-on-Tees Regeneration and Environment Local Plan (RELP)¹⁰, the site VAMs and the 'Threats, pressures and vulnerabilities'.
- *Impacts caused by changes to air quality from industrial process, traffic, energy generation*
 - *Impacts caused by changes in water quantity and quality e.g. increased water demand and discharge*
 - *Direct habitat loss and supporting habitat loss from land take for development, including coastal squeeze, fragmentation and isolation effects*
 - *Recreational impacts including cyclists, walkers, dogs, visitor disturbance*
 - *Disturbance from noise and/or light increases*
 - *Urban edge effects; increased predation, invasive species, fly-tipping, wild-fire*
 - *Collision mortality from wind energy developments and expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport*

2.4 Site Vulnerability

41. Initial screening of the impact pathways to determine possible impacts upon the European sites highlights several potential vulnerabilities. This screening has also identified that there will be no likely significant effect upon European sites for several pathways, and reasons for their inclusion or omission from the rest of this report are given below.

Impacts Caused by Changes in Air Quality

42. Impacts of air quality are explored in more detail because an LSE could not be screened out (as shown below in Section 2.5). All sites are considered to be at risk from a reduction in air quality, and some sites may be geographically closer to sources of air pollution than others. Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA/RAMSAR/potential pSPA, Castle Eden Dene SAC and coastal sites are considered to be potentially at greater risk of air quality impacts.

¹⁰ *Regeneration and Environment Local Plan Habitat Regulation Assessment (2015)*. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

Impacts Caused by Changes in Water Quality

43. The Tees Valley Water Cycle Study (2012)¹¹, prepared for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council by URS Infrastructure and Environment UK Ltd ('URS') identified constraints on housing and employment growth planned for the area up to 2026, that may be imposed by abstraction, treated effluent discharge and flood risk. The Water Cycle Study provided resolutions and strategies to address any constraints. It identified the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA/RAMSAR site as being water dependent, and theoretically linked to proposed development in the Tees Valley region.
44. Stockton-on-Tees Borough is supplied by the Kielder Water Resource Zone, and has been assessed by the Northumbrian Water Management Plan as remaining "*in surplus of supply to the forecast demands over the whole of the planning horizon.*" It is therefore considered that there is no constraint from the supply of water in meeting the demands of the Local Plan.
45. The study concluded that increased development within the catchment for which Graythorpe Waste Water Treatment Works (WwTW) treats discharge from industrial processes, will not lead to any adverse effects on the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA/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 fact that 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.
46. In light of this, water quantity and quality impact pathways are not considered beyond this point in this report, as the impacts of increased water demand and discharge are not considered to have a likely significant effect on the European sites.

Habitat Loss

47. No policies of the Local Plan Draft would cause direct habitat loss. The precise location of the Portrack Relief Road (policy T11 (6bi) is currently unknown but may encroach upon the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast potential pSPA, the boundary of which is also unknown at this stage. If these boundaries do coincide then there is the potential for this policy to result in habitat loss and a likely significant effect.
48. A 2011¹² study of the use of land at Seal Sands and North Tees by birds of the SPA (hereafter referred to as the INCA report) was commissioned by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council in order to identify and determine the use

¹¹ *Tees Valley Water Cycle Study: Outline Report* (2012). [Online]. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. Available at: http://www.darlington.gov.uk/media/106615/tv_wcs_final.pdf

¹² Barber, G. (2011). *Use of land at Seal Sands and North Tees by birds of the SPA*. [Online]. Industry Nature Conservation Association. Available at: https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/2914/45-seal_sands- north tees spa_birds -2011.pdf

of the functional land within the land to be safeguarded by the LDF for chemical and processing industries. The INCA report has assessed land at Seal Sands and North Tees, and a potential conflict between the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and the allocation of land for industrial use. Land that was considered critical for the SPA has been highlighted and avoided for allocation where possible. Where allocation does coincide with land that is considered to be functional for the SPA, mitigation will be secured through policy EG4. The protection of land under the potential pSPA covers the majority of the functional land that has been identified in the INCA report. The potential pSPA will therefore mean that the majority of land that could be critical for the European site, including land that may be needed to accommodate coastal squeeze, will be protected. Under the same mechanism, any fragmentation or isolation is also avoided.

Recreational and Urban Edge Effects

49. Recreational impacts from additional visitor pressure, dogs, walkers and cyclists are not considered to impact upon the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA as access to the site is largely currently restricted and likely to remain so, or, is already possible via established foot/cycle paths.
50. Proposed new access to the England Coastal Path route between Newport Bridge and North Gare has been subject to an HRA undertaken by Natural England in 2016, as part of the 'Access and Sensitive Features Appraisal for the North East Coast' report¹³. The HRA concluded that the proposed new access is not likely to have a significant effect upon the European site. The report details measures to reduce disturbance and minimise access near sensitive areas.
51. The Coastal Path route follows the north-west section of the Sustrans cycle route which is safeguarded in policy TI1.4, and which is located closer to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA/RAMSAR than the western section of Sustrans route. A significant effect from recreational disturbance upon the SPA/RAMSAR is therefore considered unlikely in the 2016 report.
52. In addition to this, recreational disturbance impacts from allocations for new housing and specialist employment developments close to the River Tees are not considered to have a likely significant effect upon the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast potential pSPA. The reason for this is that common tern, a species recommended for inclusion in the potential pSPA as they may use the river corridor for foraging, is not considered susceptible to disturbance while feeding. As such, recreational impacts are not considered further in this report as no significant effect is likely.

¹³ Natural England. *Coastal Access - Newport Bridge to North Gare: Access and Sensitive Features Appraisal* (2016). [Online]. Available at: *Natural England Supplementary Advice* (2016). [Online]. Available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/509690/newportbridge-northgare-access-sensitive-features.pdf

53. Urban edge effects (invasive species, fly-tipping and wildfire) are generally manifest for residential development close to European sites (<400m). The majority of the sites facilitated by the policies are more than 400m away from European sites. Two development areas (The Tees Marshalling Yard and Navigation Way) are within this distance for the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast potential pSPA. However, these are considered to be effectively buffered from urban edge effects due to the presence of major roads and other land use that would prevent these impacts.
54. Increases in predation from, for example, domestic cats are unproven and there is no evidence that such predation has an impact at the population level¹⁴.

Disturbance from Noise and/or Light

55. There is a potential for noise and light disturbance on the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA/RAMSAR/pPSA site caused by construction and operations on development land allocations nearby.
56. The precise impacts are unknown, however, at the planning application stage for individual developments, proposals will have to be subject to appropriate assessment under policies ENV5 and EG4. As a result, any likely significant effect of the policies through this impact pathway can be ruled out.

Collision Mortality

57. The RELP HRA identified an impact pathway of bird collision mortality from the policies that facilitate the expansion of the Durham Tees Valley Airport. Having examined this pathway, we do not consider this a significant risk given the safeguarding measures (bird scaring, etc.) that will be already in place at the airport. This is not considered to be a relevant impact pathway.
58. The LPD policies do not explicitly allocate land for wind energy developments, and recognise considerable constraints (refer to the Addendum Study¹⁵) for future developments. Proposals would only be supported where they meet the requirements of ENV2 and would also be subject to Appropriate Assessment under ENV5. It is therefore considered that the policies would not lead to a likely significant effect upon European sites.
59. Table 3 provides a vulnerability matrix of potential impacts upon European sites from the pathways identified in Section 2.3.

¹⁴ RSPB: Get Involved (2016). *Are cats causing bird declines?* [Online]. Available from: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/community-and-advice/garden-advice/unwantedvisitors/cats/birddeclines.aspx>

¹⁵ Association of North East Councils. *Wind Farm Development and Landscape Capacity Studies: East Durham Limestone and Tees Plain ADDENDUM* (2009). [Online]. North East Regional Assembly. Available at: <http://www.darlington.gov.uk/media/98736/tees-plain-final.pdf>

Table 3. Vulnerability Matrix

Site name and status	Air quality impacts	Water quality & quantity impacts	Habitat loss	Recreational impacts	Noise/ light disturbance	Urban edge effects	Collision mortality
Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x
Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Ramsar	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x
Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast potential pSPA	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x
North York Moors SAC	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x
North York Moors SPA	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x
Thrislington SAC	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x
Castle Eden Dene SAC	✓	x	✓	x	x	x	x
Durham Coast SAC	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x
Northumbria Coast SPA/pSPA	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x
Northumbria Coast Ramsar	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x

2.5 Screening Analysis of the Local Plan Draft

60. The policies of the Local Plan have been assessed against each of the possible impact pathways identified in Section 2.3. The following Tables 4 to 13 show a tabulated analysis of the potential for a likely significant effect (LSE) upon each European site that falls within the Stockton-on-Tees Borough, and within a radius of 15km from the site boundary. The analysis is colour-coded to indicate a likely significant effect (red), and no likely significant effect (green).

Table 4. Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA

Policy	Policy Description	Likely Significant Effect	Further Assessment Required?
SD1	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	This policy is based upon the NPPF, which includes protection for European sites. The policy will not have a significant impact on the SPA.	No
SD2	Strategic Development Needs	The policy identifies the need to build over 11,000 new homes and provide land for economic growth. The policy mentions land for expansion near Durham Tees Valley Airport, and land to benefit the North and South Tees Cluster. A cumulative reduction in <u>air quality</u> from the impacts of developments may have a likely significant effect on the SPA.	Yes
SD3	Housing Strategy	The policy seeks to deliver sustainable housing options in part through prioritising new development and extensions. Where the policy has the potential to increase traffic to affected routes (within 200m of a European Site) a likely significant effect upon the SPA cannot be ruled out, but will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5. The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD4	Economic Growth Strategy	Seal Sands, North Tees, Billingham Chemical Complex and Billingham Riverside areas are identified as the main growth locations for specialist uses. Expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and the growth of airport employment uses has the potential to lead to a reduction in air quality. The cumulative impact of employment allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD5	Environment and Climate Change Strategy	The policy sets out conservation, enhancement and protection of the environment measures the Council will adopt in meeting the challenge of climate change. The policy specifically mentions	No

		the SPA. The policy will not have a significant adverse impact on the SPA.	
SD6	Transport and Infrastructure Strategy	The policy supports improvements to public transport networks and infrastructure. The policy does not, in itself allocate land or detail locations for improvements however it does encourage improvements to the road network that may generate additional traffic and therefore have local effects upon <u>air quality</u> issues.	Yes
SD7	Infrastructure Delivery and Viability	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and secure infrastructure contributions, and does not, in itself, allocate land for development. However, new infrastructure may have adverse effects on <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD8	Sustainable Design Principles	The policy sets out the principles new developments will consider, including the ecological value and importance of a site. It is unlikely the policy will have adverse impacts on the SPA, but rather is likely to be beneficial.	No
H1	Housing Commitment and Allocations	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H2	West Stockton Strategic Urban Extension	The individual housing sites are remote from the SPA but may generate additional traffic and therefore have local effects upon <u>air quality</u> issues.	Yes
H3	Wynyard Sustainable Settlement	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H4	Meeting Housing Needs	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H5	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation	No allocations are proposed for new accommodation sites. There is no likely impact on the SPA.	No
EG1	Strategic Growth Sites	The policy directs economic growth sites to existing premises and newly allocated sites. Development proposals will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5, and no likely significant effect is likely.	No
EG2	Managing Town Centres	The policy outlines development requirements to maintain and enhance the retail function of Stockton Town Centre and District Centres, and does not, in itself, allocate land for these	No

		developments. Locations mentioned in the policy are distant from the SPA, and it is unlikely the policy will have an impact on the SPA.	
EG3	Protecting Town Centres	The policy aims to direct development firstly to the Stockton Town Centre, and then the District Town Centres. Town centres are more likely to be accessed by people using public transport rather than private vehicles and as such this policy is likely to be neutral in term of air quality or even beneficial	No
EG4	North Tees and Billingham	The policy allocates land for specialist development, including hazardous installations, uses related to the process industries or emerging specialist sectors, within areas close to the SPA. The policy includes specific mitigation to ensure the protection of the SPA. However there is the potential for the policy to facilitate industries that could result in reductions in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
EG5	Durham Tees Valley Airport	Expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and the growth of employment uses has the potential to lead to reduced <u>air quality</u> from diffuse air pollution and have an impact on the SPA. A likely significant effect cannot be ruled out.	Yes
EG6	Small Scale Convenience Facilities	The policy aims to protect existing neighbourhood centres and local facilities and places restrictions on developments outside the centres. It will not impact upon the SPA.	No
EG7	Farm Diversification & Horticultural Nurseries	The policy relates to small scale developments within existing working farms and seeks to limit the scale of farm diversification developments.	No
EG8	Agricultural, Forestry and Other Rural Based Enterprise Dwellings	The policy places restrictions in its support of new permanent or temporary dwellings on established and functioning agricultural or forestry units. It is unlikely to impact upon the SPA.	No
TI1	Transport Infrastructure	<p>A 'New Tees Crossing' is of potential impact to the SPA, but its location has not yet been determined. Common tern is not susceptible to disturbance while feeding and a new crossing is not anticipated to have a likely significant effect on the SPA.</p> <p>A safeguarded cycleway/footway follows existing roads adjacent to sections of the SPA, and the route of the England Coastal Path, but any impact is likely to be localised and the route will need to be assessed at the project stage. This has been subject to Appropriate Assessment by Natural England and the impact is not likely to be significant.</p>	Yes

		<p>Where the policy has the potential to increase traffic to affected routes (within 200m of a European Site) a likely significant effect upon the SPA cannot be ruled out, but will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5.</p> <p>Improvements to the A19 have the potential to reduce <u>air quality</u> and is likely to have a significant impact on the SPA.</p> <p>The policy safeguards the creation of public transport options to support growth of the Durham Tees Valley Airport infrastructure. A reduction in <u>air quality</u> has the potential to impact upon the SPA.</p>	
TI2	Community Infrastructure	The policy relates to the delivery of community infrastructure that is not likely to have an impact upon the SPA.	No
TI3	Communications Infrastructure	The policy outlines Council support for the expansion and enhancement of communications networks, and aims to keep new masts and base stations to a minimum. The policy is unlikely to result in effects upon the SPA. No likely significant effect..	No
ENV1	Energy Efficiency	The policy outlines pro-active strategies for developments to minimise the effects of climate change, and requires developments to demonstrate measures to become more energy efficient. The policy will not have an impact upon the SPA.	No
ENV2	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	The policy indicates support for renewable energy schemes, with the provision of impact assessments and a sustainable design. Wind energy proposals will be considered against findings of an Addendum Study, and it is recognised that many constraints and limitations exist, and not all developments will be able to be accommodated. The policy does not facilitate any future wind energy projects or land allocations and any future developments likely to affect European Sites will need to be assessed against policy ENV5. No likely significant effects are anticipated.	No
ENV3	Decentralised Energy Generation and Supply	The policy seeks to decentralise energy generation and supply by capturing surplus waste heat and electricity from existing companies in the borough, and supplying customers who would usually purchase gas and electricity from the grid. The policy does not specify the route the heat and power network would take, but the construction of the infrastructure could have disturbance impacts upon the SPA. However, the future project will have to be subject to the legal	No

		tests that protect European Sites in accordance with ENV5, therefore no likely significant effect is anticipated.	
ENV4	Reducing and Mitigating Flood Risk	The policy directs new developments to areas of low flood risk, and requires developers to avoid, reduce, manage and mitigate flood risk. The policy is not likely to have an impact upon the SPA, as the SPA is located within high flood risk areas.	No
ENV5	Preserve, Protect and Enhance Biodiversity and Geodiversity	The policy seeks to protect and where possible enhance locally, nationally and internationally designated sites of nature or geological interest. The policy stipulates that development proposals likely to affect European sites will be refused if the relevant assessment finds the development would result in a significant adverse effect upon the integrity of the site, having taken account of proposed mitigation . An impact upon the SPA is not likely.	No
ENV6	Green Infrastructure and Ecological Networks	The policy seeks to protect, enhance, extend and create areas of green infrastructure and does not propose developments. No likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
ENV7	Ground, Air and Water Quality	The policy seeks to ensure the location, design and management of new developments does not give rise to unacceptable effects on sensitive land uses or features. Mitigation measures must ensure no adverse impact upon the environment from developments where contamination may present a risk to the water environment. No likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
HE1	Conservation and Enjoyment of the Historic Environment	The policy places responsibility on the Council to monitor and review the historic landscape, and pro-actively improve conservation viability of heritage assets. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the SPA.	No
HE2	Conserving and Enhancing Stockton's Heritage Assets	The policy seeks to place restrictions on development proposals that do not conserve and enhance heritage assets. Proposals need to take into account sustainable design principles and require assessment of the assets before consideration. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the SPA.	No
HE3	Stockton and Darlington Railway	The policy seeks to preserve and maintain the existing historic railway route, with restrictions placed on any developments on or adjacent to the line. The policy is unlikely to impact upon the SPA.	No

Table 5. Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast RAMSAR

Policy	Policy Description	Likely Significant Effect	Further Assessment Required?
SD1	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	This policy is based upon the NPPF, which includes protection for European sites. The policy will not have a significant impact on the RAMSAR site.	No
SD2	Strategic Development Needs	The policy identifies the need to build over 11,000 new homes and provide land for economic growth. The policy mentions land for expansion near Durham Tees Valley Airport, and land to benefit the North and South Tees Cluster. A cumulative reduction in <u>air quality</u> from the impacts of developments could have an impact on the RAMSAR site.	Yes
SD3	Housing Strategy	The policy seeks to deliver sustainable housing options in part through prioritising new development and extensions. Where the policy has the potential to increase traffic to affected routes (within 200m of a European Site) a likely significant effect upon the RAMSAR site cannot be ruled out, but will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5. The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD4	Economic Growth Strategy	Seal Sands, North Tees, Billingham Chemical Complex and Billingham Riverside areas are identified as the main growth locations for specialist uses. Expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and the growth of airport employment uses has the potential to lead to reduced <u>air quality</u> . The cumulative impact of employment allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD5	Environment and Climate Change Strategy	The policy sets out conservation, enhancement and protection of the environment measures the Council will adopt in meeting the challenge of climate change. The policy specifically mentions the RAMSAR site. The policy will not have a significant adverse impact on the RAMSAR site.	No
SD6	Transport and Infrastructure Strategy	The policy supports improvements to public transport networks and infrastructure. The policy does not, in itself allocate land or detail locations for improvements however it does encourage improvements to the road network that may generate additional traffic and therefore have local effects upon <u>air quality</u> issues.	Yes

SD7	Infrastructure Delivery and Viability	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and secure infrastructure contributions, and does not, in itself, allocate land for development. However, new infrastructure may have adverse effects on <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD8	Sustainable Design Principles	The policy sets out the principles new developments will consider, including the ecological value and importance of a site. It is unlikely the policy will have adverse impacts on the RAMSAR site, but rather is likely to be beneficial.	No
H1	Housing Commitment and Allocations	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H2	West Stockton Strategic Urban Extension	The individual housing sites are remote from the RAMSAR site but may generate additional traffic and therefore have local effects upon <u>air quality</u> issues.	Yes
H3	Wynyard Sustainable Settlement	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H4	Meeting Housing Needs	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H5	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation	No allocations are proposed for new accommodation sites. There is no likely impact on the RAMSAR site.	No
EG1	Strategic Growth Sites	The policy directs economic growth sites to existing premises and newly allocated sites. Development proposals will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5, and no likely significant effect is likely.	No
EG2	Managing Town Centres	The policy outlines development requirements to maintain and enhance the retail function of Stockton Town Centre and District Centres, and does not, in itself, allocate land for these developments. Locations mentioned in the policy are distant from the RAMSAR site, and it is unlikely the policy will have an impact on the RAMSAR site.	No
EG3	Protecting Town Centres	The policy aims to direct development firstly to the Stockton Town Centre, and then the District Town Centres. Town centres are more likely to be accessed by people using public transport rather than private vehicles and as such this policy is likely to be neutral in term of air quality	No

		or even beneficial	
EG4	North Tees and Billingham	The policy allocates land for specialist development, including hazardous installations, uses related to the process industries or emerging specialist sectors, within areas close to the RAMSAR site. The policy includes specific mitigation to ensure the protection of the RAMSAR site. However there is the potential for the policy to facilitate industries that could result in reductions in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
EG5	Durham Tees Valley Airport	Expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and the growth of employment uses has the potential to lead to reduced <u>air quality</u> from diffuse air pollution and have an impact on the RAMSAR site. A likely significant effect cannot be ruled out.	Yes
EG6	Small Scale Convenience Facilities	The policy aims to protect existing neighbourhood centres and local facilities and places restrictions on developments outside the centres. It will not impact upon the RAMSAR site.	No
EG7	Farm Diversification & Horticultural Nurseries	The policy relates to small scale developments within existing working farms and seeks to limit the scale of farm diversification developments. There is no likely significant effect upon the RAMSAR site.	No
EG8	Agricultural, Forestry and Other Rural Based Enterprise Dwellings	The policy places restrictions in its support of new permanent or temporary dwellings on established and functioning agricultural or forestry units. It is unlikely to impact upon the RAMSAR site.	No
TI1	Transport Infrastructure	<p>A 'New Tees Crossing' is of potential impact to the RAMSAR site, but its location has not yet been determined. Common tern is not susceptible to disturbance while feeding and a new crossing is not anticipated to have a likely significant effect on the SPA.</p> <p>A safeguarded cycleway/footway follows existing roads adjacent to sections of the SPA, and the route of the England Coastal Path, but any impact is likely to be localised and the route will need to be assessed at the project stage. This has been subject to Appropriate Assessment by Natural England and the impact is not likely to be significant.</p> <p>Where the policy has the potential to increase traffic to affected routes (within 200m of a European Site) a likely significant effect upon the RAMSAR site cannot be ruled out, but will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5.</p>	Yes

		<p>Improvements to the A19 have the potential to reduce <u>air quality</u> and is likely to have a significant impact on the RAMSAR site.</p> <p>The policy safeguards the creation of public transport options to support growth of the Durham Tees Valley Airport infrastructure. A reduction in <u>air quality</u> has the potential to impact upon the RAMSAR site.</p>	
T12	Community Infrastructure	The policy relates to the delivery of community infrastructure that is not likely to have an impact upon the RAMSAR site.	No
T13	Communications Infrastructure	The policy outlines Council support for the expansion and enhancement of communications networks, and aims to keep new masts and base stations to a minimum. This is unlikely to result in any significant effects.	No
ENV1	Energy Efficiency	The policy outlines pro-active strategies for developments to minimise the effects of climate change, and requires developments to demonstrate measures to become more energy efficient. The policy will not have an impact upon the RAMSAR site.	No
ENV2	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	The policy indicates support for renewable energy schemes, with the provision of impact assessments and a sustainable design. Wind energy proposals will be considered against findings of an Addendum Study, and it is recognised that many constraints and limitations exist, and not all developments will be able to be accommodated. The policy does not facilitate any future wind energy projects or land allocations and any future developments likely to affect European Sites will need to be assessed against policy ENV5. No likely significant effects are anticipated.	No
ENV3	Decentralised Energy Generation and Supply	The policy seeks to decentralise energy generation and supply by capturing surplus waste heat and electricity from existing companies in the borough, and supplying customers who would usually purchase gas and electricity from the grid. The policy does not specify the route the heat and power network would take, but the construction of the infrastructure could have disturbance impacts upon the SPA. However the future project will have to be subject to the legal tests that protect European Sites in accordance with ENV5, therefore no likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
ENV4	Reducing and	The policy directs new developments to areas of low flood risk, and requires developers to avoid,	No

	Mitigating Flood Risk	reduce, manage and mitigate flood risk. The policy is not likely to have an impact upon the RAMSAR site, as the site is located within high flood risk areas.	
ENV5	Preserve, Protect and Enhance Biodiversity and Geodiversity	The policy seeks to protect and where possible enhance locally, nationally and internationally designated sites of nature or geological interest. The policy stipulates that development proposals likely to affect European sites will be refused if the relevant assessment finds the development would result in a significant adverse effect upon the integrity of the site, having taken account of proposed mitigation . There will not be an impact upon the RAMSAR site.	No
ENV6	Green Infrastructure and Ecological Networks	The policy seeks to protect, enhance, extend and create areas of green infrastructure and does not propose developments. No likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
ENV7	Ground, Air and Water Quality	The policy seeks to ensure the location, design and management of new developments does not give rise to unacceptable effects on sensitive land uses or features. Mitigation measures must ensure no adverse impact upon the environment from developments where contamination may present a risk to the water environment. No likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
HE1	Conservation and Enjoyment of the Historic Environment	The policy places responsibility on the Council to monitor and review the historic landscape, and pro-actively improve conservation viability of heritage assets. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the RAMSAR site.	No
HE2	Conserving and Enhancing Stockton's Heritage Assets	The policy seeks to place restrictions on development proposals that do not conserve and enhance heritage assets. Proposals need to take into account sustainable design principles and require assessment of the assets before consideration. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the RAMSAR site.	No
HE3	Stockton and Darlington Railway	The policy seeks to preserve and maintain the existing historic railway route, with restrictions placed on any developments on or adjacent to the line. The policy is unlikely to impact upon the RAMSAR site.	No

Table 6. Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast potential pSPA

Policy	Policy Description	Likely Significant Effect	Further Assessment Required?
SD1	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	This policy is based upon the NPPF, which includes protection for European sites. The policy will not have a significant impact on the potential pSPA.	No
SD2	Strategic Development Needs	The policy identifies the need to build over 11,000 new homes and provide land for economic growth. The policy mentions land for expansion near Durham Tees Valley Airport, and land to benefit the North and South Tees Cluster. A cumulative reduction in <u>air quality</u> from the impacts of developments could have an impact on the potential pSPA.	Yes
SD3	Housing Strategy	The policy seeks to deliver sustainable housing options in part through prioritising new development and extensions. Where the policy has the potential to increase traffic to affected routes (within 200m of a European Site) a likely significant effect upon the potential pSPA cannot be ruled out, but will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5. The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD4	Economic Growth Strategy	Seal Sands, North Tees, Billingham Chemical Complex and Billingham Riverside areas are identified as the main growth locations for specialist uses. Expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and the growth of airport employment uses has the potential to lead a reduction in <u>air quality</u> . The cumulative impact of employment allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD5	Environment and Climate Change Strategy	The policy sets out conservation, enhancement and protection of the environment measures the Council will adopt in meeting the challenge of climate change. The policy will not have a significant adverse impact on the potential pSPA.	No
SD6	Transport and Infrastructure Strategy	The policy supports improvements to public transport networks and infrastructure. The policy does not, in itself allocate land or detail locations for improvements however it does encourage improvements to the road network that may generate additional traffic and therefore have local effects upon <u>air quality</u> issues.	Yes

SD7	Infrastructure Delivery and Viability	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and secure infrastructure contributions, and does not, in itself, allocate land for development. However, new infrastructure may have adverse effects on <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD8	Sustainable Design Principles	The policy sets out the principles new developments will consider, including the ecological value and importance of a site. It is unlikely the policy will have adverse impacts on the potential pSPA, but rather is likely to be beneficial.	No
H1	Housing Commitment and Allocations	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H2	West Stockton Strategic Urban Extension	The individual housing sites are remote from the potential pSPA but may generate additional traffic and therefore have local effects upon <u>air quality</u> issues.	Yes
H3	Wynyard Sustainable Settlement	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H4	Meeting Housing Needs	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H5	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation	No allocations are proposed for new accommodation sites. There is no likely impact on the potential pSPA.	No
EG1	Strategic Growth Sites	The policy directs economic growth sites to existing premises and newly allocated sites. Development proposals will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5, and no likely significant effect is likely.	No
EG2	Managing Town Centres	The policy outlines development requirements to maintain and enhance the retail function of Stockton Town Centre and District Centres, and does not, in itself, allocate land for these developments. Locations mentioned in the policy are distant from the potential pSPA, and it is unlikely the policy will have an impact on the potential pSPA.	No
EG3	Protecting Town Centres	The policy aims to direct development firstly to the Stockton Town Centre, and then the District Town Centres. Town centres are more likely to be accessed by people using public transport rather than private vehicles and as such this policy is likely to be neutral in term of air quality	No

		or even beneficial	
EG4	North Tees and Billingham	The policy allocates land for specialist development, including hazardous installations, uses related to the process industries or emerging specialist sectors, within areas close to the potential pSPA. The policy includes specific mitigation to ensure the protection of the potential pSPA. However there is the potential for the policy to facilitate industries that could result in reductions in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
EG5	Durham Tees Valley Airport	Expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and the growth of employment uses has the potential to lead to reduced <u>air quality</u> from diffuse air pollution and have an impact on the potential pSPA. A likely significant effect cannot be ruled out.	Yes
EG6	Small Scale Convenience Facilities	The policy aims to protect existing neighbourhood centres and local facilities and places restrictions on developments outside the centres. It will not impact upon the potential pSPA.	No
EG7	Farm Diversification & Horticultural Nurseries	The policy relates to small scale developments within existing working farms and seeks to limit the scale of farm diversification developments. There is no likely significant effect upon the potential pSPA.	No
EG8	Agricultural, Forestry and Other Rural Based Enterprise Dwellings	The policy places restrictions in its support of new permanent or temporary dwellings on established and functioning agricultural or forestry units. It is unlikely to impact upon the potential pSPA.	No
TI1	Transport Infrastructure	<p>Improvements to key road network points include the A1046 Portrack Relief Road (TI1 6b:i) which is located immediately within 200m of the potential pSPA, and could impact the site with a reduction in <u>air quality</u> as a result of traffic increases. <u>Habitat loss</u> due to land take is also a likely significant effect.</p> <p>A 'New Tees Crossing' is of potential impact to the SPA, but its location has not yet been determined. Common tern is not susceptible to disturbance while feeding and a new crossing is not anticipated to have a likely significant effect on the potential pSPA.</p> <p>A safeguarded cycleway/footway follows existing roads adjacent to sections of the SPA, and the route of the England Coastal Path, but any impact is likely to be localised and the route will need to be assessed at the project stage. This has been subject to Appropriate Assessment by Natural England and the impact is not likely to be</p>	Yes

		<p>significant.</p> <p>Where the policy has the potential to increase traffic to affected routes (within 200m of a European Site) a likely significant effect upon the potential pSPA cannot be ruled out, but will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5.</p> <p>Improvements to the A19 have the potential to reduce <u>air quality</u> and is likely to have a significant impact on the potential pSPA.</p> <p>The policy safeguards the creation of public transport options to support growth of the Durham Tees Valley Airport infrastructure. A reduction in <u>air quality</u> has the potential to impact upon the potential pSPA.</p>	
T12	Community Infrastructure	The policy relates to the delivery of community infrastructure that will include an increase in leisure use of the River Tees at Bowesfield. The location is upstream from the River Tees barrage and potential pSPA, and is not likely to impact the site.	No
T13	Communications Infrastructure	The policy outlines Council support for the expansion and enhancement of communications networks, and aims to keep new masts and base stations to a minimum. No likely significant effect.	No
ENV1	Energy Efficiency	The policy outlines pro-active strategies for developments to minimise the effects of climate change, and requires developments to demonstrate measures to become more energy efficient. The policy will not have an impact upon the potential pSPA.	No
ENV2	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	The policy indicates support for renewable energy schemes, with the provision of impact assessments and a sustainable design. Wind energy proposals will be considered against findings of an Addendum Study, and it is recognised that many constraints and limitations exist, and not all developments will be able to be accommodated. The policy does not facilitate any future wind energy projects or land allocations and any future developments likely to affect European Sites will need to be assessed against policy ENV5. No likely significant effects are anticipated.	No
ENV3	Decentralised Energy Generation and Supply	The policy seeks to decentralise energy generation and supply by capturing surplus waste heat and electricity from existing companies in the borough, and supplying customers who would usually purchase gas and electricity from the grid. The policy does not specify the route the heat	No

		and power network would take, but the construction of the infrastructure could have disturbance impacts upon the potential pSPA. However the future project will have to be subject to the legal tests that protect European Sites in accordance with ENV5, therefore no likely significant effect is anticipated.	
ENV4	Reducing and Mitigating Flood Risk	The policy directs new developments to areas of low flood risk, and requires developers to avoid, reduce, manage and mitigate flood risk. The policy is not likely to have an impact upon the potential pSPA, as the potential pSPA is located within high flood risk areas.	No
ENV5	Preserve, Protect and Enhance Biodiversity and Geodiversity	The policy seeks to protect and where possible enhance locally, nationally and internationally designated sites of nature or geological interest. The policy stipulates that development proposals likely to affect European sites will be refused if the relevant assessment finds the development would result in a significant adverse effect upon the integrity of the site, having taken account of proposed mitigation . There will not be an impact upon the potential pSPA.	No
ENV6	Green Infrastructure and Ecological Networks	The policy seeks to protect, enhance, extend and create areas of green infrastructure and does not propose developments. No likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
ENV7	Ground, Air and Water Quality	The policy seeks to ensure the location, design and management of new developments does not give rise to unacceptable effects on sensitive land uses or features. Mitigation measures must ensure no adverse impact upon the environment from developments where contamination may present a risk to the water environment. No likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
HE1	Conservation and Enjoyment of the Historic Environment	The policy places responsibility on the Council to monitor and review the historic landscape, and pro-actively improve conservation viability of heritage assets. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the potential pSPA.	No
HE2	Conserving and Enhancing Stockton's Heritage Assets	The policy seeks to place restrictions on development proposals that do not conserve and enhance heritage assets. Proposals need to take into account sustainable design principles and require assessment of the assets before consideration. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the potential pSPA.	No
HE3	Stockton and Darlington Railway	The policy seeks to preserve and maintain the existing historic railway route, with restrictions placed on any developments on or adjacent to	No

		the line. The policy is unlikely to impact upon the potential pSPA.	
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Table 7. Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon North Yorkshire Moors SAC

Policy	Policy Description	Likely Significant Effect	Further Assessment Required?
SD1	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	This policy is based upon the NPPF, which includes protection for European sites. The policy will not have a significant impact on the SAC.	No
SD2	Strategic Development Needs	The policy identifies the need to build over 11,000 new homes and provide land for economic growth. The policy mentions land for expansion near Durham Tees Valley Airport. A cumulative reduction in <u>air quality</u> from the impacts of developments could have an impact on the SAC.	Yes
SD3	Housing Strategy	The policy seeks to deliver sustainable housing options in part through prioritising new development and extensions. Where the policy has the potential to increase traffic to affected routes (within 200m of a European Site) a likely significant effect upon the SAC cannot be ruled out, but will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5. The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD4	Economic Growth Strategy	Seal Sands, North Tees, Billingham Chemical Complex and Billingham Riverside areas are identified as the main growth locations for specialist uses. Expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and the growth of airport employment uses has the potential to lead to a reduction in <u>air quality</u> . The cumulative impact of employment allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD5	Environment and Climate Change Strategy	The policy sets out conservation, enhancement and protection of the environment measures the Council will adopt in meeting the challenge of climate change. The policy will not have a significant adverse impact on the SAC.	No
SD6	Transport and Infrastructure Strategy	The policy supports improvements to public transport networks and infrastructure. The policy does not, in itself allocate land or detail locations for improvements however it does encourage improvements to the road network that may generate additional traffic and therefore have local effects upon <u>air quality</u> issues.	Yes
SD7	Infrastructure Delivery and Viability	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and secure infrastructure contributions, and does	Yes

		not, in itself, allocate land for development. However, new infrastructure may have adverse effects on <u>air quality</u> .	
SD8	Sustainable Design Principles	The policy sets out the principles new developments will consider, including the ecological value and importance of a site. It is unlikely the policy will have adverse impacts on the SAC, but rather is likely to be beneficial.	No
H1	Housing Commitment and Allocations	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H2	West Stockton Strategic Urban Extension	The individual housing sites are remote from the SAC but may generate additional traffic and therefore have local effects upon <u>air quality</u> issues.	Yes
H3	Wynyard Sustainable Settlement	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H4	Meeting Housing Needs	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H5	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation	No allocations are proposed for new accommodation sites. There is no likely impact on the SAC.	No
EG1	Strategic Growth Sites	The policy directs economic growth sites to existing premises and newly allocated sites. Development proposals will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5, and no likely significant effect is likely.	No
EG2	Managing Town Centres	The policy outlines development requirements to maintain and enhance the retail function of Stockton Town Centre and District Centres, and does not, in itself, allocate land for these developments. Locations mentioned in the policy are distant from the SAC, and it is unlikely the policy will have an impact on the SAC.	No
EG3	Protecting Town Centres	The policy aims to direct development firstly to the Stockton Town Centre, and then the District Town Centres. Town centres are more likely to be accessed by people using public transport rather than private vehicles and as such this policy is likely to be neutral in term of air quality or even beneficial	No
EG4	North Tees and Billingham	Policy allocations are remote from the site which is upwind of the allocations. There is no likely significant effect upon the site.	No

EG5	Durham Tees Valley Airport	Expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and the growth of employment uses has the potential to lead to reduced <u>air quality</u> from diffuse air pollution and have an impact on the SAC. A likely significant effect cannot be ruled out.	Yes
EG6	Small Scale Convenience Facilities	The policy aims to protect existing neighbourhood centres and local facilities and places restrictions on developments outside the centres. It will not impact upon the SAC.	No
EG7	Farm Diversification & Horticultural Nurseries	The policy relates to small scale developments within existing working farms and seeks to limit the scale of farm diversification developments. There is no likely significant effect upon the SAC.	No
EG8	Agricultural, Forestry and Other Rural Based Enterprise Dwellings	The policy places restrictions in its support of new permanent or temporary dwellings on established and functioning agricultural or forestry units. It is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
T11	Transport Infrastructure	The policy safeguards the creation of public transport options to support growth of the Durham Tees Valley Airport infrastructure. A reduction in <u>air quality</u> has the potential to impact upon the SAC.	Yes
T12	Community Infrastructure	The policy relates to the delivery of community infrastructure that is not likely to have an impact upon the SAC.	No
T13	Communications Infrastructure	The policy outlines Council support for the expansion and enhancement of communications networks, and aims to keep new masts and base stations to a minimum. No likely significant effect.	No
ENV1	Energy Efficiency	The policy outlines pro-active strategies for developments to minimise the effects of climate change, and requires developments to demonstrate measures to become more energy efficient. The policy will not have an impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV2	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	The policy indicates support for renewable energy schemes, with the provision of impact assessments and a sustainable design. Wind energy proposals will be considered against findings of an Addendum Study, and it is recognised that many constraints and limitations exist, and not all developments will be able to be accommodated. The policy does not facilitate any future wind energy projects or land allocations and any future developments likely to affect European Sites will need to be assessed against policy ENV5. No likely significant effects are	No

		anticipated.	
ENV3	Decentralised Energy Generation and Supply	The policy seeks to decentralise energy generation and supply by capturing surplus waste heat and electricity from existing companies in the borough, and supplying customers who would usually purchase gas and electricity from the grid. The policy does not specify the route the heat and power network would take, but the construction of the infrastructure could have disturbance impacts upon the SAC. However the future project will have to be subject to the legal tests that protect European Sites in accordance with ENV5, therefore no likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
ENV4	Reducing and Mitigating Flood Risk	The policy directs new developments to areas of low flood risk, and requires developers to avoid, reduce, manage and mitigate flood risk. The policy is not likely to have an impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV5	Preserve, Protect and Enhance Biodiversity and Geodiversity	The policy seeks to protect and where possible enhance locally, nationally and internationally designated sites of nature or geological interest. The policy stipulates that development proposals likely to affect European sites will be refused if the relevant assessment finds the development would result in a significant adverse effect upon the integrity of the site, having taken account of proposed mitigation . There will not be an impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV6	Green Infrastructure and Ecological Networks	The policy seeks to protect, enhance, extend and create areas of green infrastructure and does not propose developments. No likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
ENV7	Ground, Air and Water Quality	The policy seeks to ensure the location, design and management of new developments does not give rise to unacceptable effects on sensitive land uses or features. Mitigation measures must ensure no adverse impact upon the environment from developments where contamination may present a risk to the water environment. No likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
HE1	Conservation and Enjoyment of the Historic Environment	The policy places responsibility on the Council to monitor and review the historic landscape, and pro-actively improve conservation viability of heritage assets. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the SAC.	No
HE2	Conserving and Enhancing Stockton's Heritage	The policy seeks to place restrictions on development proposals that do not conserve and enhance heritage assets. Proposals need to take into account sustainable design principles and	No

	Assets	require assessment of the assets before consideration. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the SAC.	
HE3	Stockton and Darlington Railway	The policy seeks to preserve and maintain the existing historic railway route, with restrictions placed on any developments on or adjacent to the line. The policy is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No

Table 8. Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon North Yorkshire Moors SPA

Policy	Policy Description	Likely Significant Effect	Further Assessment Required?
SD1	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	This policy is based upon the NPPF, which includes protection for European sites. The policy will not have a significant impact on the SPA.	No
SD2	Strategic Development Needs	The policy identifies the need to build over 11,000 new homes and provide land for economic growth. The policy mentions land for expansion near Durham Tees Valley Airport. A cumulative reduction in <u>air quality</u> from the impacts of developments could have an impact on the SPA.	Yes
SD3	Housing Strategy	The policy seeks to deliver sustainable housing options in part through prioritising new development and extensions. Where the policy has the potential to increase traffic to affected routes (within 200m of a European Site) a likely significant effect upon the SPA cannot be ruled out, but will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5. The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD4	Economic Growth Strategy	Seal Sands, North Tees, Billingham Chemical Complex and Billingham Riverside areas are identified as the main growth locations for specialist uses. Expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and the growth of airport employment uses has the potential to lead to a reduction in air quality. The cumulative impact of employment allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD5	Environment and Climate Change Strategy	The policy sets out conservation, enhancement and protection of the environment measures the Council will adopt in meeting the challenge of climate change. The policy will not have a significant adverse impact on the SPA.	No
SD6	Transport and Infrastructure Strategy	The policy supports improvements to public transport networks and infrastructure. The policy does not, in itself allocate land or detail locations for improvements however it does encourage improvements to the road network that may generate additional traffic and therefore have local effects upon <u>air quality</u> issues.	Yes
SD7	Infrastructure Delivery and Viability	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and secure infrastructure contributions, and does	Yes

		not, in itself, allocate land for development. However, new infrastructure may have adverse effects on <u>air quality</u> .	
SD8	Sustainable Design Principles	The policy sets out the principles new developments will consider, including the ecological value and importance of a site. It is unlikely the policy will have adverse impacts on the SPA, but rather is likely to be beneficial.	No
H1	Housing Commitment and Allocations	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H2	West Stockton Strategic Urban Extension	The individual housing sites are remote from the SPA but may generate additional traffic and therefore have local effects upon <u>air quality</u> issues.	Yes
H3	Wynyard Sustainable Settlement	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H4	Meeting Housing Needs	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H5	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation	No allocations are proposed for new accommodation sites. There is no likely impact on the SPA.	No
EG1	Strategic Growth Sites	The policy directs economic growth sites to existing premises and newly allocated sites. Development proposals will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5, and no likely significant effect is likely.	No
EG2	Managing Town Centres	The policy outlines development requirements to maintain and enhance the retail function of Stockton Town Centre and District Centres, and does not, in itself, allocate land for these developments. Locations mentioned in the policy are distant from the SPA, and it is unlikely the policy will have an impact on the SPA.	No
EG3	Protecting Town Centres	The policy aims to direct development firstly to the Stockton Town Centre, and then the District Town Centres. Town centres are more likely to be accessed by people using public transport rather than private vehicles and as such this policy is likely to be neutral in term of air quality or even beneficial	No
EG4	North Tees and Billingham	Policy allocations are remote from the site which is upwind of the allocations. There is no likely significant effect upon the site.	No

EG5	Durham Tees Valley Airport	Expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and the growth of employment uses has the potential to lead to reduced <u>air quality</u> from diffuse air pollution and have an impact on the SPA. A likely significant effect cannot be ruled out.	Yes
EG6	Small Scale Convenience Facilities	The policy aims to protect existing neighbourhood centres and local facilities and places restrictions on developments outside the centres. It will not impact upon the SPA.	No
EG7	Farm Diversification & Horticultural Nurseries	The policy relates to small scale developments within existing working farms and seeks to limit the scale of farm diversification developments. There is no likely significant effect upon the SPA.	No
EG8	Agricultural, Forestry and Other Rural Based Enterprise Dwellings	The policy places restrictions in its support of new permanent or temporary dwellings on established and functioning agricultural or forestry units. It is unlikely to impact upon the SPA.	No
T11	Transport Infrastructure	Where the policy has the potential to increase traffic to affected routes (within 200m of a European Site) a likely significant effect upon the SPA cannot be ruled out, but will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5. The policy safeguards the creation of public transport options to support growth of the Durham Tees Valley Airport infrastructure. A reduction in <u>air quality</u> has the potential to impact upon the SPA.	Yes
T12	Community Infrastructure	The policy relates to the delivery of community infrastructure that is not likely to have an impact upon the SPA.	No
T13	Communications Infrastructure	The policy outlines Council support for the expansion and enhancement of communications networks, and aims to keep new masts and base stations to a minimum. No likely significant effect.	No
ENV1	Energy Efficiency	The policy outlines pro-active strategies for developments to minimise the effects of climate change, and requires developments to demonstrate measures to become more energy efficient. The policy will not have an impact upon the SPA.	No
ENV2	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	The policy indicates support for renewable energy schemes, with the provision of impact assessments and a sustainable design. Wind energy proposals will be considered against findings of an Addendum Study, and it is recognised that many constraints and limitations	No

		exist, and not all developments will be able to be accommodated. The policy does not facilitate any future wind energy projects or land allocations and any future developments likely to affect European Sites will need to be assessed against policy ENV5. No likely significant effects are anticipated.	
ENV3	Decentralised Energy Generation and Supply	The policy seeks to decentralise energy generation and supply by capturing surplus waste heat and electricity from existing companies in the borough, and supplying customers who would usually purchase gas and electricity from the grid. The policy does not specify the route the heat and power network would take, but the construction of the infrastructure could have disturbance impacts upon the SPA. However the future project will have to be subject to the legal tests that protect European Sites in accordance with ENV5, therefore no likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
ENV4	Reducing and Mitigating Flood Risk	The policy directs new developments to areas of low flood risk, and requires developers to avoid, reduce, manage and mitigate flood risk. The policy is not likely to have an impact upon the SPA.	No
ENV5	Preserve, Protect and Enhance Biodiversity and Geodiversity	The policy seeks to protect and where possible enhance locally, nationally and internationally designated sites of nature or geological interest. The policy stipulates that development proposals likely to affect European sites will be refused if the relevant assessment finds the development would result in a significant adverse effect upon the integrity of the site, having taken account of proposed mitigation . There will not be an impact upon the SPA.	No
ENV6	Green Infrastructure and Ecological Networks	The policy seeks to protect, enhance, extend and create areas of green infrastructure and does not propose developments. No likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
ENV7	Ground, Air and Water Quality	The policy seeks to ensure the location, design and management of new developments does not give rise to unacceptable effects on sensitive land uses or features. Mitigation measures must ensure no adverse impact upon the environment from developments where contamination may present a risk to the water environment. No likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
HE1	Conservation and Enjoyment of the Historic Environment	The policy places responsibility on the Council to monitor and review the historic landscape, and pro-actively improve conservation viability of heritage assets. The policy is unlikely to have an	No

		impact on the SPA.	
HE2	Conserving and Enhancing Stockton's Heritage Assets	The policy seeks to place restrictions on development proposals that do not conserve and enhance heritage assets. Proposals need to take into account sustainable design principles and require assessment of the assets before consideration. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the SPA.	No
HE3	Stockton and Darlington Railway	The policy seeks to preserve and maintain the existing historic railway route, with restrictions placed on any developments on or adjacent to the line. The policy is unlikely to impact upon the SPA.	No

Table 9. Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon Thrislington SAC

Policy	Policy Description	Likely Significant Effect	Further Assessment Required?
SD1	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	This policy is based upon the NPPF, which includes protection for European sites. The policy will not have a significant impact on the SAC.	No
SD2	Strategic Development Needs	The policy identifies the need to build over 11,000 new homes and provide land for economic growth. A cumulative reduction in <u>air quality</u> from the impacts of developments could have an impact on the SAC.	Yes
SD3	Housing Strategy	The policy seeks to deliver sustainable housing options in part through prioritising new development and extensions. Where the policy has the potential to increase traffic to affected routes (within 200m of a European Site) a likely significant effect upon the SAC cannot be ruled out, but will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5. The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD4	Economic Growth Strategy	Seal Sands, North Tees, Billingham Chemical Complex and Billingham Riverside areas are identified as the main growth locations for specialist uses. Expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and the growth of airport employment uses has the potential to lead to reduced air quality. The cumulative impact of employment allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD5	Environment and Climate Change Strategy	The policy sets out conservation, enhancement and protection of the environment measures the Council will adopt in meeting the challenge of climate change. The policy will not have a significant adverse impact on the SAC.	No
SD6	Transport and Infrastructure Strategy	The policy supports improvements to public transport networks and infrastructure. The policy does not, in itself allocate land or detail locations for improvements however it does encourage improvements to the road network that may generate additional traffic and therefore have local effects upon <u>air quality</u> issues.	Yes
SD7	Infrastructure Delivery and Viability	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and secure infrastructure contributions, and does not, in itself, allocate land for development. However, new infrastructure may have adverse	Yes

		effects on <u>air quality</u> .	
SD8	Sustainable Design Principles	The policy sets out the principles new developments will consider, including the ecological value and importance of a site. It is unlikely the policy will have adverse impacts on the SAC, but rather is likely to be beneficial.	No
H1	Housing Commitment and Allocations	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H2	West Stockton Strategic Urban Extension	The individual housing sites are remote from the SAC but may generate additional traffic and therefore have local effects upon <u>air quality</u> issues.	Yes
H3	Wynyard Sustainable Settlement	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H4	Meeting Housing Needs	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H5	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation	No allocations are proposed for new accommodation sites. There is no likely impact on the SAC.	No
EG1	Strategic Growth Sites	The policy directs economic growth sites to existing premises and newly allocated sites. Development proposals will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5, and no likely significant effect is likely.	No
EG2	Managing Town Centres	The policy outlines development requirements to maintain and enhance the retail function of Stockton Town Centre and District Centres, and does not, in itself, allocate land for these developments. Locations mentioned in the policy are distant from the SAC, and it is unlikely the policy will have an impact on the SAC.	No
EG3	Protecting Town Centres	The policy aims to direct development firstly to the Stockton Town Centre, and then the District Town Centres. Town centres are more likely to be accessed by people using public transport rather than private vehicles and as such this policy is likely to be neutral in term of air quality or even beneficial	No
EG4	North Tees and Billingham	Policy allocations are remote from the site which is upwind of the allocations. There is no likely significant effect upon the site.	No
EG5	Durham Tees Valley	Expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and the growth of employment uses has the potential	Yes

	Airport	to lead to reduced <u>air quality</u> from diffuse air pollution and have an impact on the SAC. A likely significant effect cannot be ruled out.	
EG6	Small Scale Convenience Facilities	The policy aims to protect existing neighbourhood centres and local facilities and places restrictions on developments outside the centres. It will not impact upon the SAC.	No
EG7	Farm Diversification & Horticultural Nurseries	The policy relates to small scale developments within existing working farms and seeks to limit the scale of farm diversification developments. There is no likely significant effect upon the SAC.	No
EG8	Agricultural, Forestry and Other Rural Based Enterprise Dwellings	The policy places restrictions in its support of new permanent or temporary dwellings on established and functioning agricultural or forestry units. It is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
TI1	Transport Infrastructure	Where the policy has the potential to increase traffic to affected routes (within 200m of a European Site) a likely significant effect upon the SAC cannot be ruled out, but will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5. The policy safeguards the creation of public transport options to support growth of the Durham Tees Valley Airport infrastructure. A reduction in <u>air quality</u> has the potential to impact upon the SAC.	Yes
TI2	Community Infrastructure	The policy relates to the delivery of community infrastructure that is not likely to have an impact upon the SAC.	No
TI3	Communications Infrastructure	The policy outlines Council support for the expansion and enhancement of communications networks, and aims to keep new masts and base stations to a minimum. No likely significant effect.	No
ENV1	Energy Efficiency	The policy outlines pro-active strategies for developments to minimise the effects of climate change, and requires developments to demonstrate measures to become more energy efficient. The policy will not have an impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV2	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	The policy indicates support for renewable energy schemes, with the provision of impact assessments and a sustainable design. Wind energy proposals will be considered against findings of an Addendum Study, and it is recognised that many constraints and limitations exist, and not all developments will be able to be accommodated. The policy does not facilitate any	No

		future wind energy projects or land allocations and any future developments likely to affect European Sites will need to be assessed against policy ENV5. No likely significant effects are anticipated.	
ENV3	Decentralised Energy Generation and Supply	The policy seeks to decentralise energy generation and supply by capturing surplus waste heat and electricity from existing companies in the borough, and supplying customers who would usually purchase gas and electricity from the grid. The policy does not specify the route the heat and power network would take, but the construction of the infrastructure could have disturbance impacts upon the SAC. However the future project will have to be subject to the legal tests that protect European Sites in accordance with ENV5, therefore no likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
ENV4	Reducing and Mitigating Flood Risk	The policy directs new developments to areas of low flood risk, and requires developers to avoid, reduce, manage and mitigate flood risk. The policy is not likely to have an impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV5	Preserve, Protect and Enhance Biodiversity and Geodiversity	The policy seeks to protect and where possible enhance locally, nationally and internationally designated sites of nature or geological interest. The policy stipulates that development proposals likely to affect European sites will be refused if the relevant assessment finds the development would result in a significant adverse effect upon the integrity of the site, having taken account of proposed mitigation . There will not be an impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV6	Green Infrastructure and Ecological Networks	The policy seeks to protect, enhance, extend and create areas of green infrastructure and does not propose developments. No likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
ENV7	Ground, Air and Water Quality	The policy seeks to ensure the location, design and management of new developments does not give rise to unacceptable effects on sensitive land uses or features. Mitigation measures must ensure no adverse impact upon the environment from developments where contamination may present a risk to the water environment. No likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
HE1	Conservation and Enjoyment of the Historic Environment	The policy places responsibility on the Council to monitor and review the historic landscape, and pro-actively improve conservation viability of heritage assets. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the SAC.	No

HE2	Conserving and Enhancing Stockton's Heritage Assets	The policy seeks to place restrictions on development proposals that do not conserve and enhance heritage assets. Proposals need to take into account sustainable design principles and require assessment of the assets before consideration. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the SAC.	No
HE3	Stockton and Darlington Railway	The policy seeks to preserve and maintain the existing historic railway route, with restrictions placed on any developments on or adjacent to the line. The policy is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No

Table 10. Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon Castle Eden Dene SAC

Policy	Policy Description	Likely Significant Effect	Further Assessment Required?
SD1	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	This policy is based upon the NPPF, which includes protection for European sites. The policy will not have a significant impact on the SAC.	No
SD2	Strategic Development Needs	The policy identifies the need to build over 11,000 new homes and provide land for economic growth. The policy mentions land for expansion near Durham Tees Valley Airport, and land to benefit the North and South Tees Cluster. A cumulative reduction in <u>air quality</u> from the impacts of developments could have an impact on the SAC.	Yes
SD3	Housing Strategy	The policy seeks to deliver sustainable housing options in part through prioritising new development and extensions. Where the policy has the potential to increase traffic to affected routes (within 200m of a European Site) a likely significant effect upon the SAC cannot be ruled out, but will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5. The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD4	Economic Growth Strategy	Seal Sands, North Tees, Billingham Chemical Complex and Billingham Riverside areas are identified as the main growth locations for specialist uses. Expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and the growth of airport employment uses has the potential to lead to reduced air quality. The cumulative impact of employment allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD5	Environment and Climate Change Strategy	The policy sets out conservation, enhancement and protection of the environment measures the Council will adopt in meeting the challenge of climate change. The policy will not have a significant adverse impact on the SAC.	No
SD6	Transport and Infrastructure Strategy	The policy supports improvements to public transport networks and infrastructure. The policy does not, in itself allocate land or detail locations for improvements however it does encourage improvements to the road network that may generate additional traffic and therefore have local effects upon <u>air quality</u> issues.	yes
SD7	Infrastructure	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments	Yes

	Delivery and Viability	and secure infrastructure contributions, and does not, in itself, allocate land for development. However, new infrastructure may have adverse effects on <u>air quality</u> .	
SD8	Sustainable Design Principles	The policy sets out the principles new developments will consider, including the ecological value and importance of a site. It is unlikely the policy will have adverse impacts on the SAC, but rather is likely to be beneficial.	No
H1	Housing Commitment and Allocations	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H2	West Stockton Strategic Urban Extension	The individual housing sites are remote from the SAC but may generate additional traffic and therefore have local effects upon <u>air quality</u> issues.	Yes
H3	Wynyard Sustainable Settlement	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H4	Meeting Housing Needs	Cumulative air quality impacts are likely due to increases in housing sites. Allocations in the Wynyard area will contribute to an <u>increase in traffic</u> on the A19, and potentially lead to an impact on <u>air quality</u> for the SAC.	Yes
H5	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation	No allocations are proposed for new accommodation sites. There is no likely impact on the SAC.	No
EG1	Strategic Growth Sites	The policy directs strategic growth sites to existing premises including Wynyard that and could result in increased A19 traffic and a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
EG2	Managing Town Centres	The policy outlines development requirements to maintain and enhance the retail function of Stockton Town Centre and District Centres, and does not, in itself, allocate land for these developments. Locations mentioned in the policy are distant from the SAC, and it is unlikely the policy will have an impact on the SAC.	No
EG3	Protecting Town Centres	The policy aims to direct development firstly to the Stockton Town Centre, and then the District Town Centres. Town centres are more likely to be accessed by people using public transport rather than private vehicles and as such this policy is likely to be neutral in term of air quality or even beneficial	No
EG4	North Tees and	Policy allocations are remote from the site which is upwind of the allocations. There is no likely	No

	Billingham	significant effect upon the site.	
EG5	Durham Tees Valley Airport	Expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and the growth of employment uses has the potential to lead to reduced <u>air quality</u> from diffuse air pollution and have an impact on the SAC. A likely significant effect cannot be ruled out.	Yes
EG6	Small Scale Convenience Facilities	The policy aims to protect existing neighbourhood centres and local facilities and places restrictions on developments outside the centres. It will not impact upon the SAC.	No
EG7	Farm Diversification & Horticultural Nurseries	The policy relates to small scale developments within existing working farms and seeks to limit the scale of farm diversification developments. There is no likely significant effect upon the SAC.	No
EG8	Agricultural, Forestry and Other Rural Based Enterprise Dwellings	The policy places restrictions in its support of new permanent or temporary dwellings on established and functioning agricultural or forestry units. It is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
T11	Transport Infrastructure	Where the policy has the potential to increase traffic to affected routes (within 200m of a European Site) a likely significant effect upon the SAC cannot be ruled out, but will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5. Improvements to the A19 have the potential to reduce <u>air quality</u> and is likely to have a significant impact on the SAC. The policy safeguards the creation of public transport options to support growth of the Durham Tees Valley Airport infrastructure. A reduction in <u>air quality</u> has the potential to impact upon the SAC.	Yes
T12	Community Infrastructure	The policy relates to the delivery of community infrastructure that includes inclusion in the Wynyard area which could lead to increased use of the A19, and have an impact upon the SAC.	Yes
T13	Communications Infrastructure	The policy outlines Council support for the expansion and enhancement of communications networks, and aims to keep new masts and base stations to a minimum. No likely significant effect.	No
ENV1	Energy Efficiency	The policy outlines pro-active strategies for developments to minimise the effects of climate change, and requires developments to demonstrate measures to become more energy efficient. The policy will not have an impact upon	No

		the SAC.	
ENV2	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	The policy indicates support for renewable energy schemes, with the provision of impact assessments and a sustainable design. Wind energy proposals will be considered against findings of an Addendum Study, and it is recognised that many constraints and limitations exist, and not all developments will be able to be accommodated. The policy does not facilitate any future wind energy projects or land allocations and any future developments likely to affect European Sites will need to be assessed against policy ENV5. No likely significant effects are anticipated.	No
ENV3	Decentralised Energy Generation and Supply	The policy seeks to decentralise energy generation and supply by capturing surplus waste heat and electricity from existing companies in the borough, and supplying customers who would usually purchase gas and electricity from the grid. The policy does not specify the route the heat and power network would take, but the construction of the infrastructure could have disturbance impacts upon the SAC. However the future project will have to be subject to the legal tests that protect European Sites in accordance with ENV5, therefore no likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
ENV4	Reducing and Mitigating Flood Risk	The policy directs new developments to areas of low flood risk, and requires developers to avoid, reduce, manage and mitigate flood risk. The policy is not likely to have an impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV5	Preserve, Protect and Enhance Biodiversity and Geodiversity	The policy seeks to protect and where possible enhance locally, nationally and internationally designated sites of nature or geological interest. The policy stipulates that development proposals likely to affect European sites will be refused if the relevant assessment finds the development would result in a significant adverse effect upon the integrity of the site, having taken account of proposed mitigation . There will not be an impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV6	Green Infrastructure and Ecological Networks	The policy seeks to protect, enhance, extend and create areas of green infrastructure and does not propose developments. No likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
ENV7	Ground, Air and Water Quality	The policy seeks to ensure the location, design and management of new developments does not give rise to unacceptable effects on sensitive land uses or features. Mitigation measures must ensure no adverse impact upon the environment	No

		from developments where contamination may present a risk to the water environment. No likely significant effect is anticipated.	
HE1	Conservation and Enjoyment of the Historic Environment	The policy places responsibility on the Council to monitor and review the historic landscape, and pro-actively improve conservation viability of heritage assets. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the SAC.	No
HE2	Conserving and Enhancing Stockton's Heritage Assets	The policy seeks to place restrictions on development proposals that do not conserve and enhance heritage assets. Proposals need to take into account sustainable design principles and require assessment of the assets before consideration. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the SAC.	No
HE3	Stockton and Darlington Railway	The policy seeks to preserve and maintain the existing historic railway route, with restrictions placed on any developments on or adjacent to the line. The policy is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No

Table 11. Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon Durham Coast SAC

Policy	Policy Description	Likely Significant Effect	Further Assessment Required?
SD1	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	This policy is based upon the NPPF, which includes protection for European sites. The policy will not have a significant impact on the SAC.	No
SD2	Strategic Development Needs	The policy identifies the need to build over 11,000 new homes and provide land for economic growth. A cumulative reduction in <u>air quality</u> from the impacts of developments could have an impact on the SAC.	Yes
SD3	Housing Strategy	The policy seeks to deliver sustainable housing options in part through prioritising new development and extensions. Where the policy has the potential to increase traffic to affected routes (within 200m of a European Site) a likely significant effect upon the SAC cannot be ruled out, but will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5. The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD4	Economic Growth Strategy	Seal Sands, North Tees, Billingham Chemical Complex and Billingham Riverside areas are identified as the main growth locations for specialist uses. Expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and the growth of airport employment uses has the potential to lead to reduced air quality. The cumulative impact of employment allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD5	Environment and Climate Change Strategy	The policy sets out conservation, enhancement and protection of the environment measures the Council will adopt in meeting the challenge of climate change. The policy will not have a significant adverse impact on the SAC.	No
SD6	Transport and Infrastructure Strategy	The policy supports improvements to public transport networks and infrastructure. The policy does not, in itself allocate land or detail locations for improvements however it does encourage improvements to the road network that may generate additional traffic and therefore have local effects upon <u>air quality</u> issues.	Yes
SD7	Infrastructure Delivery and Viability	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and secure infrastructure contributions, and does not, in itself, allocate land for development. However, new infrastructure may have adverse	Yes

		effects on <u>air quality</u> .	
SD8	Sustainable Design Principles	The policy sets out the principles new developments will consider, including the ecological value and importance of a site. It is unlikely the policy will have adverse impacts on the SAC, but rather is likely to be beneficial.	No
H1	Housing Commitment and Allocations	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H2	West Stockton Strategic Urban Extension	The individual housing sites are remote from the SAC but may generate additional traffic and therefore have local effects upon <u>air quality</u> issues.	Yes
H3	Wynyard Sustainable Settlement	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H4	Meeting Housing Needs	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H5	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation	No allocations are proposed for new accommodation sites. There is no likely impact on the SAC.	No
EG1	Strategic Growth Sites	The policy directs economic growth sites to existing premises and newly allocated sites. Development proposals will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5, and no likely significant effect is likely.	No
EG2	Managing Town Centres	The policy outlines development requirements to maintain and enhance the retail function of Stockton Town Centre and District Centres, and does not, in itself, allocate land for these developments. Locations mentioned in the policy are distant from the SAC, and it is unlikely the policy will have an impact on the SAC.	No
EG3	Protecting Town Centres	The policy aims to direct development firstly to the Stockton Town Centre, and then the District Town Centres. Town centres are more likely to be accessed by people using public transport rather than private vehicles and as such this policy is likely to be neutral in term of air quality or even beneficial	No
EG4	North Tees and Billingham	Policy allocations are remote from the site which is upwind of the allocations. There is no likely significant effect upon the site.	No
EG5	Durham Tees Valley	Expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and the growth of employment uses has the potential	Yes

	Airport	to lead to reduced <u>air quality</u> from diffuse air pollution and have an impact on the SAC. A likely significant effect cannot be ruled out.	
EG6	Small Scale Convenience Facilities	The policy aims to protect existing neighbourhood centres and local facilities and places restrictions on developments outside the centres. It will not impact upon the SAC.	No
EG7	Farm Diversification & Horticultural Nurseries	The policy relates to small scale developments within existing working farms and seeks to limit the scale of farm diversification developments. There is no likely significant effect upon the SAC.	No
EG8	Agricultural, Forestry and Other Rural Based Enterprise Dwellings	The policy places restrictions in its support of new permanent or temporary dwellings on established and functioning agricultural or forestry units. It is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No
TI1	Transport Infrastructure	Where the policy has the potential to increase traffic to affected routes (within 200m of a European Site) a likely significant effect upon the SAC cannot be ruled out, but will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5. The policy safeguards the creation of public transport options to support growth of the Durham Tees Valley Airport infrastructure. A reduction in <u>air quality</u> has the potential to impact upon the SPA.	Yes
TI2	Community Infrastructure	The policy relates to the delivery of community infrastructure that is not likely to have an impact upon the SAC.	No
TI3	Communications Infrastructure	The policy outlines Council support for the expansion and enhancement of communications networks, and aims to keep new masts and base stations to a minimum. No likely significant effect.	No
ENV1	Energy Efficiency	The policy outlines pro-active strategies for developments to minimise the effects of climate change, and requires developments to demonstrate measures to become more energy efficient. The policy will not have an impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV2	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	The policy indicates support for renewable energy schemes, with the provision of impact assessments and a sustainable design. Wind energy proposals will be considered against findings of an Addendum Study, and it is recognised that many constraints and limitations exist, and not all developments will be able to be accommodated. The policy does not facilitate any	No

		future wind energy projects or land allocations and any future developments likely to affect European Sites will need to be assessed against policy ENV5. No likely significant effects are anticipated.	
ENV3	Decentralised Energy Generation and Supply	The policy seeks to decentralise energy generation and supply by capturing surplus waste heat and electricity from existing companies in the borough, and supplying customers who would usually purchase gas and electricity from the grid. The policy does not specify the route the heat and power network would take, but the construction of the infrastructure could have disturbance impacts upon the SAC. However the future project will have to be subject to the legal tests that protect European Sites in accordance with ENV5, therefore no likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
ENV4	Reducing and Mitigating Flood Risk	The policy directs new developments to areas of low flood risk, and requires developers to avoid, reduce, manage and mitigate flood risk. The policy is not likely to have an impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV5	Preserve, Protect and Enhance Biodiversity and Geodiversity	The policy seeks to protect and where possible enhance locally, nationally and internationally designated sites of nature or geological interest. The policy stipulates that development proposals likely to affect European sites will be refused if the relevant assessment finds the development would result in a significant adverse effect upon the integrity of the site, having taken account of proposed mitigation . There will not be an impact upon the SAC.	No
ENV6	Green Infrastructure and Ecological Networks	The policy seeks to protect, enhance, extend and create areas of green infrastructure and does not propose developments. No likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
ENV7	Ground, Air and Water Quality	The policy seeks to ensure the location, design and management of new developments does not give rise to unacceptable effects on sensitive land uses or features. Mitigation measures must ensure no adverse impact upon the environment from developments where contamination may present a risk to the water environment. No likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
HE1	Conservation and Enjoyment of the Historic Environment	The policy places responsibility on the Council to monitor and review the historic landscape, and pro-actively improve conservation viability of heritage assets. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the SAC.	No

HE2	Conserving and Enhancing Stockton's Heritage Assets	The policy seeks to place restrictions on development proposals that do not conserve and enhance heritage assets. Proposals need to take into account sustainable design principles and require assessment of the assets before consideration. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the SAC.	No
HE3	Stockton and Darlington Railway	The policy seeks to preserve and maintain the existing historic railway route, with restrictions placed on any developments on or adjacent to the line. The policy is unlikely to impact upon the SAC.	No

Table 12. Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon Northumbria Coast SPA/pSPA

Policy	Policy Description	Likely Significant Effect	Further Assessment Required?
SD1	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	This policy is based upon the NPPF, which includes protection for European sites. The policy will not have a significant impact on the SPA.	No
SD2	Strategic Development Needs	The policy identifies the need to build over 11,000 new homes and provide land for economic growth. A cumulative reduction in <u>air quality</u> from the impacts of developments could have an impact on the SPA.	Yes
SD3	Housing Strategy	The policy seeks to deliver sustainable housing options in part through prioritising new development and extensions. Where the policy has the potential to increase traffic to affected routes (within 200m of a European Site) a likely significant effect upon the SPA cannot be ruled out, but will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5. The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD4	Economic Growth Strategy	Seal Sands, North Tees, Billingham Chemical Complex and Billingham Riverside areas are identified as the main growth locations for specialist uses. Expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and the growth of airport employment uses has the potential to lead to reduced air quality. The cumulative impact of employment allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD5	Environment and Climate Change Strategy	The policy sets out conservation, enhancement and protection of the environment measures the Council will adopt in meeting the challenge of climate change. The policy will not have a significant adverse impact on the SPA.	No
SD6	Transport and Infrastructure Strategy	The policy supports improvements to public transport networks and infrastructure. The policy does not, in itself allocate land or detail locations for improvements however it does encourage improvements to the road network that may generate additional traffic and therefore have local effects upon <u>air quality</u> issues.	Yes
SD7	Infrastructure Delivery and Viability	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and secure infrastructure contributions, and does	Yes

		not, in itself, allocate land for development. However, new infrastructure may have adverse effects on <u>air quality</u> .	
SD8	Sustainable Design Principles	The policy sets out the principles new developments will consider, including the ecological value and importance of a site. It is unlikely the policy will have adverse impacts on the SPA, but rather is likely to be beneficial.	No
H1	Housing Commitment and Allocations	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H2	West Stockton Strategic Urban Extension	The individual housing sites are remote from the SPA but may generate additional traffic and therefore have local effects upon <u>air quality</u> issues.	Yes
H3	Wynyard Sustainable Settlement	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H4	Meeting Housing Needs	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H5	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation	No allocations are proposed for new accommodation sites. There is no likely impact on the SPA.	No
EG1	Strategic Growth Sites	The policy directs economic growth sites to existing premises and newly allocated sites. Development proposals will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5, and no likely significant effect is likely.	No
EG2	Managing Town Centres	The policy outlines development requirements to maintain and enhance the retail function of Stockton Town Centre and District Centres, and does not, in itself, allocate land for these developments. Locations mentioned in the policy are distant from the SPA, and it is unlikely the policy will have an impact on the SPA.	No
EG3	Protecting Town Centres	The policy aims to direct development firstly to the Stockton Town Centre, and then the District Town Centres. Town centres are more likely to be accessed by people using public transport rather than private vehicles and as such this policy is likely to be neutral in term of air quality or even beneficial	No
EG4	North Tees and Billingham	Policy allocations are remote from the site which is upwind of the allocations. There is no likely significant effect upon the site.	No

EG5	Durham Tees Valley Airport	Expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and the growth of employment uses has the potential to lead to reduced <u>air quality</u> from diffuse air pollution and have an impact on the SPA. A likely significant effect cannot be ruled out.	Yes
EG6	Small Scale Convenience Facilities	The policy aims to protect existing neighbourhood centres and local facilities and places restrictions on developments outside the centres. It will not impact upon the SPA.	No
EG7	Farm Diversification & Horticultural Nurseries	The policy relates to small scale developments within existing working farms and seeks to limit the scale of farm diversification developments. There is no likely significant effect upon the SPA.	No
EG8	Agricultural, Forestry and Other Rural Based Enterprise Dwellings	The policy places restrictions in its support of new permanent or temporary dwellings on established and functioning agricultural or forestry units. It is unlikely to impact upon the SPA.	No
TI1	Transport Infrastructure	Where the policy has the potential to increase traffic to affected routes (within 200m of a European Site) a likely significant effect upon the SPA cannot be ruled out, but will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5. The policy safeguards the creation of public transport options to support growth of the Durham Tees Valley Airport infrastructure. A reduction in <u>air quality</u> has the potential to impact upon the SPA.	Yes
TI2	Community Infrastructure	The policy relates to the delivery of community infrastructure that is not likely to have an impact upon the SPA.	No
TI3	Communications Infrastructure	The policy outlines Council support for the expansion and enhancement of communications networks, and aims to keep new masts and base stations to a minimum. No likely significant effect.	No
ENV1	Energy Efficiency	The policy outlines pro-active strategies for developments to minimise the effects of climate change, and requires developments to demonstrate measures to become more energy efficient. The policy will not have an impact upon the SPA.	No
ENV2	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	The policy indicates support for renewable energy schemes, with the provision of impact assessments and a sustainable design. Wind energy proposals will be considered against findings of an Addendum Study, and it is recognised that many constraints and limitations	No

		exist, and not all developments will be able to be accommodated. The policy does not facilitate any future wind energy projects or land allocations and any future developments likely to affect European Sites will need to be assessed against policy ENV5. No likely significant effects are anticipated.	
ENV3	Decentralised Energy Generation and Supply	The policy seeks to decentralise energy generation and supply by capturing surplus waste heat and electricity from existing companies in the borough, and supplying customers who would usually purchase gas and electricity from the grid. The policy does not specify the route the heat and power network would take, but the construction of the infrastructure could have disturbance impacts upon the SPA. However the future project will have to be subject to the legal tests that protect European Sites in accordance with ENV5, therefore no likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
ENV4	Reducing and Mitigating Flood Risk	The policy directs new developments to areas of low flood risk, and requires developers to avoid, reduce, manage and mitigate flood risk. The policy is not likely to have an impact upon the SPA.	No
ENV5	Preserve, Protect and Enhance Biodiversity and Geodiversity	The policy seeks to protect and where possible enhance locally, nationally and internationally designated sites of nature or geological interest. The policy stipulates that development proposals likely to affect European sites will be refused if the relevant assessment finds the development would result in a significant adverse effect upon the integrity of the site, having taken account of proposed mitigation . There will not be an impact upon the SPA.	No
ENV6	Green Infrastructure and Ecological Networks	The policy seeks to protect, enhance, extend and create areas of green infrastructure and does not propose developments. No likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
ENV7	Ground, Air and Water Quality	The policy seeks to ensure the location, design and management of new developments does not give rise to unacceptable effects on sensitive land uses or features. Mitigation measures must ensure no adverse impact upon the environment from developments where contamination may present a risk to the water environment. No likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
HE1	Conservation and Enjoyment of the Historic Environment	The policy places responsibility on the Council to monitor and review the historic landscape, and pro-actively improve conservation viability of heritage assets. The policy is unlikely to have an	No

		impact on the SPA.	
HE2	Conserving and Enhancing Stockton's Heritage Assets	The policy seeks to place restrictions on development proposals that do not conserve and enhance heritage assets. Proposals need to take into account sustainable design principles and require assessment of the assets before consideration. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the SPA.	No
HE3	Stockton and Darlington Railway	The policy seeks to preserve and maintain the existing historic railway route, with restrictions placed on any developments on or adjacent to the line. The policy is unlikely to impact upon the SPA.	No

Table 13. Analysis of the Potential for Impacts upon Northumbria Coast RAMSAR

Policy	Policy Description	Likely Significant Effect	Further Assessment Required?
SD1	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	This policy is based upon the NPPF, which includes protection for European sites. The policy will not have a significant impact on the RAMSAR.	No
SD2	Strategic Development Needs	The policy identifies the need to build over 11,000 new homes and provide land for economic growth. A cumulative reduction in <u>air quality</u> from the impacts of developments could have an impact on the RAMSAR site.	Yes
SD3	Housing Strategy	The policy seeks to deliver sustainable housing options in part through prioritising new development and extensions. Where the policy has the potential to increase traffic to affected routes (within 200m of a European Site) a likely significant effect upon the RAMSAR site cannot be ruled out, but will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5. The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD4	Economic Growth Strategy	Seal Sands, North Tees, Billingham Chemical Complex and Billingham Riverside areas are identified as the main growth locations for specialist uses. Expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and the growth of airport employment uses has the potential to lead to reduced air quality. The cumulative impact of employment allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
SD5	Environment and Climate Change Strategy	The policy sets out conservation, enhancement and protection of the environment measures the Council will adopt in meeting the challenge of climate change. The policy will not have a significant adverse impact on the RAMSAR site.	No
SD6	Transport and Infrastructure Strategy	The policy supports improvements to public transport networks and infrastructure. The policy does not, in itself allocate land or detail locations for improvements however it does encourage improvements to the road network that may generate additional traffic and therefore have local effects upon <u>air quality</u> issues.	Yes
SD7	Infrastructure Delivery and Viability	The policy sets out the delivery mechanism for infrastructure required to deliver developments and secure infrastructure contributions, and does not, in itself, allocate land for development. However, new infrastructure may have adverse	Yes

		effects on <u>air quality</u> .	
SD8	Sustainable Design Principles	The policy sets out the principles new developments will consider, including the ecological value and importance of a site. It is unlikely the policy will have adverse impacts on the RAMSAR site, but rather is likely to be beneficial.	No
H1	Housing Commitment and Allocations	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H2	West Stockton Strategic Urban Extension	The individual housing sites are remote from the RAMSAR site but may generate additional traffic and therefore have local effects upon <u>air quality</u> issues.	Yes
H3	Wynyard Sustainable Settlement	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H4	Meeting Housing Needs	The cumulative impact of housing allocations could result in a reduction in <u>air quality</u> .	Yes
H5	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation	No allocations are proposed for new accommodation sites. There is no likely impact on the RAMSAR site.	No
EG1	Strategic Growth Sites	The policy directs economic growth sites to existing premises and newly allocated sites. Development proposals will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5, and no likely significant effect is likely.	No
EG2	Managing Town Centres	The policy outlines development requirements to maintain and enhance the retail function of Stockton Town Centre and District Centres, and does not, in itself, allocate land for these developments. Locations mentioned in the policy are distant from the RAMSAR site, and it is unlikely the policy will have an impact on the RAMSAR site.	No
EG3	Protecting Town Centres	The policy aims to direct development firstly to the Stockton Town Centre, and then the District Town Centres. Town centres are more likely to be accessed by people using public transport rather than private vehicles and as such this policy is likely to be neutral in term of air quality or even beneficial.	No
EG4	North Tees and Billingham	Policy allocations are remote from the site which is upwind of the allocations. There is no likely significant effect upon the site.	No

EG5	Durham Tees Valley Airport	Expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport and the growth of employment uses has the potential to lead to reduced <u>air quality</u> from diffuse air pollution and have an impact on the RAMSAR site. A likely significant effect cannot be ruled out.	Yes
EG6	Small Scale Convenience Facilities	The policy aims to protect existing neighbourhood centres and local facilities and places restrictions on developments outside the centres. It will not impact upon the RAMSAR site.	No
EG7	Farm Diversification & Horticultural Nurseries	The policy relates to small scale developments within existing working farms and seeks to limit the scale of farm diversification developments. There is no likely significant effect upon the RAMSAR site.	No
EG8	Agricultural, Forestry and Other Rural Based Enterprise Dwellings	The policy places restrictions in its support of new permanent or temporary dwellings on established and functioning agricultural or forestry units. It is unlikely to impact upon the RAMSAR site.	No
T11	Transport Infrastructure	Where the policy has the potential to increase traffic to affected routes (within 200m of a European Site) a likely significant effect upon the RAMSAR site cannot be ruled out, but will be subject to appropriate assessment through policy ENV5. The policy safeguards the creation of public transport options to support growth of the Durham Tees Valley Airport infrastructure. A reduction in <u>air quality</u> has the potential to impact upon the RAMSAR site.	Yes
T12	Community Infrastructure	The policy relates to the delivery of community infrastructure that is not likely to have an impact upon the RAMSAR site.	No
T13	Communications Infrastructure	The policy outlines Council support for the expansion and enhancement of communications networks, and aims to keep new masts and base stations to a minimum. No likely significant effect.	No
ENV1	Energy Efficiency	The policy outlines pro-active strategies for developments to minimise the effects of climate change, and requires developments to demonstrate measures to become more energy efficient. The policy will not have an impact upon the RAMSAR site.	No
ENV2	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	The policy indicates support for renewable energy schemes, with the provision of impact assessments and a sustainable design. Wind energy proposals will be considered against	No

		findings of an Addendum Study, and it is recognised that many constraints and limitations exist, and not all developments will be able to be accommodated. The policy does not facilitate any future wind energy projects or land allocations and any future developments likely to affect European Sites will need to be assessed against policy ENV5. No likely significant effects are anticipated.	
ENV3	Decentralised Energy Generation and Supply	The policy seeks to decentralise energy generation and supply by capturing surplus waste heat and electricity from existing companies in the borough, and supplying customers who would usually purchase gas and electricity from the grid. The policy does not specify the route the heat and power network would take, but the construction of the infrastructure could have disturbance impacts upon the RAMSAR site. However the future project will have to be subject to the legal tests that protect European Sites in accordance with ENV5, therefore no likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
ENV4	Reducing and Mitigating Flood Risk	The policy directs new developments to areas of low flood risk, and requires developers to avoid, reduce, manage and mitigate flood risk. The policy is not likely to have an impact upon the RAMSAR site.	No
ENV5	Preserve, Protect and Enhance Biodiversity and Geodiversity	The policy seeks to protect and where possible enhance locally, nationally and internationally designated sites of nature or geological interest. The policy stipulates that development proposals likely to affect European sites will be refused if the relevant assessment finds the development would result in a significant adverse effect upon the integrity of the site, having taken account of proposed mitigation . There will not be an impact upon the RAMSAR site.	No
ENV6	Green Infrastructure and Ecological Networks	The policy seeks to protect, enhance, extend and create areas of green infrastructure and does not propose developments. No likely significant effect is anticipated.	No
ENV7	Ground, Air and Water Quality	The policy seeks to ensure the location, design and management of new developments does not give rise to unacceptable effects on sensitive land uses or features. Mitigation measures must ensure no adverse impact upon the environment from developments where contamination may present a risk to the water environment. No LSE.	No
HE1	Conservation and Enjoyment of the	The policy places responsibility on the Council to monitor and review the historic landscape, and	No

	Historic Environment	pro-actively improve conservation viability of heritage assets. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the RAMSAR site.	
HE2	Conserving and Enhancing Stockton's Heritage Assets	The policy seeks to place restrictions on development proposals that do not conserve and enhance heritage assets. Proposals need to take into account sustainable design principles and require assessment of the assets before consideration. The policy is unlikely to have an impact on the RAMSAR site.	No
HE3	Stockton and Darlington Railway	The policy seeks to preserve and maintain the existing historic railway route, with restrictions placed on any developments on or adjacent to the line. The policy is unlikely to impact upon the RAMSAR site.	No

2.6 Detailed Policy Assessment

61. It is considered that a key likely significant impact arising from Local Plan Draft policies is the potential reduction in air quality. This may result from an increase in traffic due to future housing and economic developments, including improvements to major access into and out of Stockton Urban Districts. There is also the potential for increased diffuse pollution due to policies that facilitate expansion of the Durham Tees Valley Airport and large-scale industrial developments.
62. Policy TI1 (6bi) safeguards a new route of the A1046 Portrack Relief road which may conflict with land that has been earmarked for the proposed extension to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA (potential pSPA). There is therefore a likely significant effect arising from this policy, should the consultation include this area.
63. Table 14 summarises the relevant policies and their likely significant impact (LSE) status upon relevant European sites.

Table 14. Policy assessment of potential impacts to European Sites.

Policy	Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast SPA	Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast Ramsar	Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast potential pSPA	North York Moors SAC	North York Moors SPA	Thrislington SAC	Castle Eden Dene SAC	Durham Coast SAC	Northumbria Coast SPA and pSPA	Northumbria Coast Ramsar	Notes
SD1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Screened out
SD2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	All screened in – likely cumulative air quality impacts
SD3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	All screened in – likely cumulative air quality impacts
SD4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	All screened in – likely cumulative air quality impacts
SD5	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Screened out
SD6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	All screened in – likely cumulative air quality impacts
SD7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	All screened in – likely cumulative air quality impacts
SD8	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Screened out
H1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	All sites screened in - likely cumulative impacts on air quality
H2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	All screened in – likely cumulative air quality impacts
H3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	All screened in – likely cumulative air quality impacts
H4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	All sites screened in - likely cumulative impacts on air

Policy	Teessmouth & Cleveland Coast SPA	Teessmouth & Cleveland Coast Ramsar	Teessmouth & Cleveland Coast potential pSPA	North York Moors SAC	North York Moors SPA	Thrislington SAC	Castle Eden Dene SAC	Durham Coast SAC	Northumbria Coast SPA and pSPA	Northumbria Coast Ramsar	Notes
											quality
H5	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Screened out
EG1	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	x	x	x	Likely impacts on air quality Castle Eden Dene SAC
EG2	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Screened out
EG3	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Screened out
EG4	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Likely impacts on Teessmouth and Cleveland Coast site – air quality
EG5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Likely impacts on air quality due to the expansion of the Durham Tees Valley Airport.
EG6	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Screened out
EG7	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Screened out
EG8	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Screened out
TI1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	All sites screened in – Likely impacts on air quality from transport improvements and infrastructure provisions, and possible habitat loss at Teessmouth and Cleveland Coast potential pSPA.
TI2	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Screened out

Policy	Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast SPA	Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast Ramsar	Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast ^{potential} pSPA	North York Moors SAC	North York Moors SPA	Thrislington SAC	Castle Eden Dene SAC	Durham Coast SAC	Northumbria Coast SPA and pSPA	Northumbria Coast Ramsar	Notes
TI3	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Screened out
ENV1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Screened out
ENV2	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Screened out
ENV3	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Screened out
ENV4	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Screened out
ENV5	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Screened out
ENV6	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Screened out
ENV7	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Screened out
HE1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Screened out
HE2	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Screened out
HE3	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Screened out

2.7 Consideration of In-Combination Effects

64. Documents from across the whole of the Tees Valley have been considered, so the assessment takes into account plans and projects that could give rise to in-combination effects. The following is the consideration of other plans and projects which may interact with the Local Plan Draft (LPD) and result in an in-combination effect upon the identified European sites. In line with Government advice, only the most relevant plans and projects have been considered.

Darlington Borough Council Local Plan

65. The Darlington Borough Council is in the process of drafting its new Local Plan and, to date, the Preferred Options are not ready for consultation. Darlington's Core Strategy was adopted in 2011, and was subject to an HRA in 2009. The HRA concluded that there would be no likely significant effect upon any European site. The current 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 a cumulative reduction in air quality in combination with the LPD.

Hambleton District Council Local Plan

66. Hambleton is still developing its revised Local Plan and is about to begin consultation on Preferred Options. An HRA scoping report has been completed and a full assessment is currently being produced. The employment and housing policies and proposals of their Preferred Options document focus on five market towns for future development; Northallerton, Thirsk, Bedale, Easingwold and Stokesley. Housing dwellings outside these centres will be restricted or limited to small-scale in-fill service and secondary village housing. The Preferred Options deals with centres located away from both Stockton and the North York Moors SAC and SPA. It is not considered that there is potential for in-combination effects with the LPD.

Hartlepool Local Plan

67. 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 reduced air quality.

Middlesbrough Local Development Framework (LDF)

68. Middlesbrough's Core Strategy (2008) and Regeneration DPD (2009) have been adopted and were subject to an HRA Appropriate Assessment, which concluded there was no likely significant effect upon the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA/RAMSAR and North York Moors SAC/SPA. 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 a deterioration in air quality in combination with the Stockton-on-Tees LPD. There is potential for traffic growth to increase air pollution and there is a significant focus upon the river corridor for development, and the recent proposed extension to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA will result in some employment allocations being located close to the potential pSPA.

Redcar and Cleveland LDF

69. The Redcar and Cleveland Consultation Draft Local Plan has been the subject of an HRA process and report (Statement to Inform Appropriate Assessment Redcar and Cleveland Consultation Draft Local Plan June 2016). The report concludes that the Local Plan has the potential to have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA. However, suggested changes have been put forward to avoid this impact which may come forward in further iterations of the plan.

Durham County Council Local Plan

70. 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 (2010)¹⁶

71. The Joint Tees Valley Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and Policies and Sites DPDs 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 on Tees. Policy MWC8 identifies an area of land for the location of large waste management facilities close to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA/RAMSAR site. The Habitat Regulations Assessment for these DPD documents identifies that the policy has the potential to affect the site through disturbance from operational activity and vehicle movements, increased emissions and loss of land. However, the Habitats Regulations Assessment concludes that there is sufficient flexibility to avoid a conflict (see RELP HRA paragraph 7.9). Also, the Sustainability Appraisal¹⁷ of the DPDs

¹⁶ *Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents: Core Strategy DPD (2011)*. [Online] and *Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents: Policies and Sites DPD (2011)*. [Online]. Both available at: https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/20209/local_plan/317/tees_valley_minerals_and_waste_development_plan_documents_for_the_tees_valley

¹⁷ McLaughlin, R. & Souter, A. (2010). *Sustainability Appraisal of the Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents* [Online]. Entec UK Limited. Available at:

recommended that the potential effect of developing larger management sites, such as the proposed facility, on industrial land north and south of the River Tees upon water resources and biodiversity should be examined on a site specific/project level. The Sustainability Appraisal made the same recommendations for policies relating to recycling, composting and waste recovery facilities.

Other Plans

72. Our assessment builds upon the previous RELP assessment carried out, and the HRA of the RELP was in turn informed by a comprehensive review of other plans and projects. We agree with the conclusions of the HRA and have drawn upon that assessment.

Avoiding and/or Mitigating Impacts

73. Regulation 61(2) of the Habitats Regulations states that; “a person applying for any such consent, permission or other authorisation must provide such information as the competent authority may reasonably require for the purposes of the assessment or to enable them to determine whether an appropriate assessment is required”.
74. In order for the competent authority to determine whether an Appropriate Assessment is required, details of the project and any mitigation that counteracts potential significant effects should be applied. Where the Local Plan policies include mitigation for possible impacts on European Sites as a result of the policies, Tables 4 – 13 in Section 2.5. above make mention of mitigation measures (in bold) where an adverse impact of the policy is recognised. Specific mitigation measures are detailed below.
75. Policy EG4(2) (North Tees and Billingham) states that, “Development proposals in the Seal Sands area will recognise the cumulative importance for bird species associated with the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site. Appropriate development proposals will be encouraged at locations within the limits of the development where: a) Land has been identified to provide appropriate strategic mitigation; or; b) The applicant can demonstrate that the proposed development, in-combination with other proposals, will not adversely impact the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site.”
76. The INCA report concluded some land would not be able to be developed and other areas could be with an appropriate level of mitigation. Policy EG4(2) acknowledges this report and its findings, and provides a solid commitment to the future protection of the European site. The supporting sections of Policy EG4 also acknowledge that the Council is aware of the proposed extension to the SPA (potential pSPA) and recognise the need for an HRA assessment and the adherence to Policy ENV5 (Preserve, protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity) for any planning applications at North Tees, Seal Sands and Billingham.

77. Policy EG5(6) (Durham Tees Valley Airport) states that, “*New development proposals which are not identified within points 1 and 2 above, or which come forward from an airport masterplan, will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that: ... d. The environmental impacts of any proposal is mitigated.*”
78. Policy ENV5 (Preserve, protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity) reiterates throughout the policy the requirement to mitigate to avoid detrimental impacts to international, national and local sites, and mitigation will only be considered, with compensation measures, where avoiding harm to biodiversity cannot be achieved through relocating development. ENV5(4) also states “*Planning permission will be refused where significant harm on biodiversity cannot be avoided*”.

2.8 Conclusions of the Screening Exercise

79. The screening analysis of the Local Plan has found;
- The expansion of Durham Tees Valley Airport has the potential to impact upon all European sites, but in particular the North York Moors SAC/SPA and the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA /RAMSAR /potential pSPA sites through a deterioration in air quality.
 - The allocation of land as a key employment and housing location at Wynyard has the potential to impact upon the Castle Eden Dene SAC through increased traffic on the A19, leading to a deterioration in air quality for the site.
 - The A1046 Portrack Relief Road has the potential to conflict with the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast potential pSPA, should the boundaries coincide.
 - Cumulative air quality impacts are possible across all European sites.
80. The following policies all promote increased housing and employment, airport expansion, and transportation infrastructure improvements and provisions. As a result they cannot be screened out as not leading to likely significant effects:
- Policy SD2 (Strategic Development Needs),
 - Policy SD3 (Housing Strategy),
 - Policy SD4 (Economic Growth Strategy),
 - Policy SD6 (Transport and Infrastructure Strategy),
 - Policy SD7 (Infrastructure Delivery and Viability),
 - Policy H1 (Housing Commitment and Allocations),
 - Policy H2 (West Stockton Strategic Urban Extension),
 - Policy H3 (Wynyard Sustainable Settlement),
 - Policy H4 (Meeting Housing Needs),
 - Policy EG1 (Strategic Growth Sites),
 - Policy EG4 (North Tees and Billingham),
 - Policy EG5 (Durham Tees Valley Airport), and
 - Policy TI1 (Transport Infrastructure)

3 Appropriate Assessment

3.1 Analysis of Likely Significant Effects

81. Policies SD2, SD3, SD4, SD6, SD7, H1, H2, H3, H4, EG1, EG4, EG5 and T11 are subject to a full Appropriate Assessment (AA) in this section. Since multiple European Sites are potentially affected by similar issues, the Appropriate Assessment is organised on an 'impact by impact' basis.

3.2 Air Quality

Introduction

82. The LSE screening assessment set out in Section 2 of this HRA has identified a suite of policies that have the potential to result in the emission of pollutants to the atmosphere and a deterioration in air quality. These could result in a negative impact upon European sites within the locality. A precautionary approach has been taken to the LSE screening, as required by the legislation. This section of the AA considers the impacts of the pollutants that may be produced, considers the relevant mitigation that is built into the Local Plan and makes an assessment whether effects upon the integrity of the European sites can be ruled out.
83. The main pollutants that are of concern for European sites are oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x) (such as Nitrogen Dioxide NO₂), ammonia (NH₃) and Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂). Nitrogen oxides and Ammonia are of concern because of their toxicity to plants. They can also act as a fertilizer that can affect plant growth and change the composition of plant communities. The main source of ammonia is from agricultural processes while NO_x is mainly a product of combustion processes from motor vehicles.
84. Sulphur Dioxide is primarily a product of electricity generation and industrial and domestic fuel combustion. The main effect of Sulphur Dioxide is to increase the acidity of soils and freshwaters, causing changes to the composition of animal and plant communities. The effects of Sulphur Dioxide are exacerbated by high levels of NO_x which add to the acidification. The levels of SO₂ have dropped considerably in the UK over the past 20 years due to increased regulation of emissions from power stations and other industrial processes.

European Site Critical Levels and Loads

85. The UK Air Pollution Information System (APIS)¹⁸ provides a considerable volume of data on air quality and the levels and loads of pollution that are likely to be critical to the habitats that make up the European sites. The term 'load' applies to those pollutants, e.g. nitrogen, that are deposited on the site and may cause adverse impacts. 'Levels' refer to the concentration of pollutants in the atmosphere that may have adverse effects.
86. The table in Appendix 3 sets out the critical loads for each of the relevant pollutants for each of the European sites that are being assessed. Critical loads vary from habitat to habitat as some are more sensitive to pollutants than others.
87. The APIS website also provides data on the trends of pollutant levels on each of the European sites. In some cases, the European sites are currently receiving pollution levels that are in excess of the stated critical loads/levels, these are highlighted in red.

Current Monitoring and Trends

88. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, along with the other councils that make up the Tees Valley Environmental Protection Group (Darlington, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Hartlepool), publishes annual reports on air quality in the Tees Valley. As these boroughs are the main location for industrial and large scale settlements in the area the reports cover the main sources of air pollution within the area and therefore provide an excellent overview of the current levels of air pollution in the Tees Valley.
89. Two reports from the evidence base are of relevance; Stockton Borough Council's July 2016 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR)¹⁹ and the Air Quality in the Tees Valley 2012-2015 (Tees Valley Environmental Protection Group) July 2016²⁰. These reports are mainly concerned with the effects of air pollution on human health, however the data is relevant to this AA. The data presented in the report is often gathered from monitoring stations that are close to the major sources of pollution such as roads within urban areas. Some of the monitoring stations are however further away from point sources and they provide an indication of the background levels of air pollution that the area is currently generating. It should be noted that the air quality objectives referred to in these reports are based on the impacts upon human health which are not consistent with the critical loads/levels for habitats and species set out on the APIS website.

¹⁸ Air Pollution Information System (2016). *Site Relevant Critical Loads and Source Attribution* [Online]. Available at: <http://www.apis.ac.uk/src/>

¹⁹ *Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council: 2016 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR)* (2016). [Online]. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. Available at: <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/7259/stockton-air-quality-annual-status-report-2016.pdf>

²⁰ Tees Valley Environmental Protection Group (2016). *Air Quality in the Tees Valley 2012 – 2015* [Online]. Available at: <http://www.darlington.gov.uk/media/1233805/Tees-Valley-Annual-Report-2016.pdf>

90. The following sections set out the baseline accounts of the key pollutants.

Nitrogen Dioxide

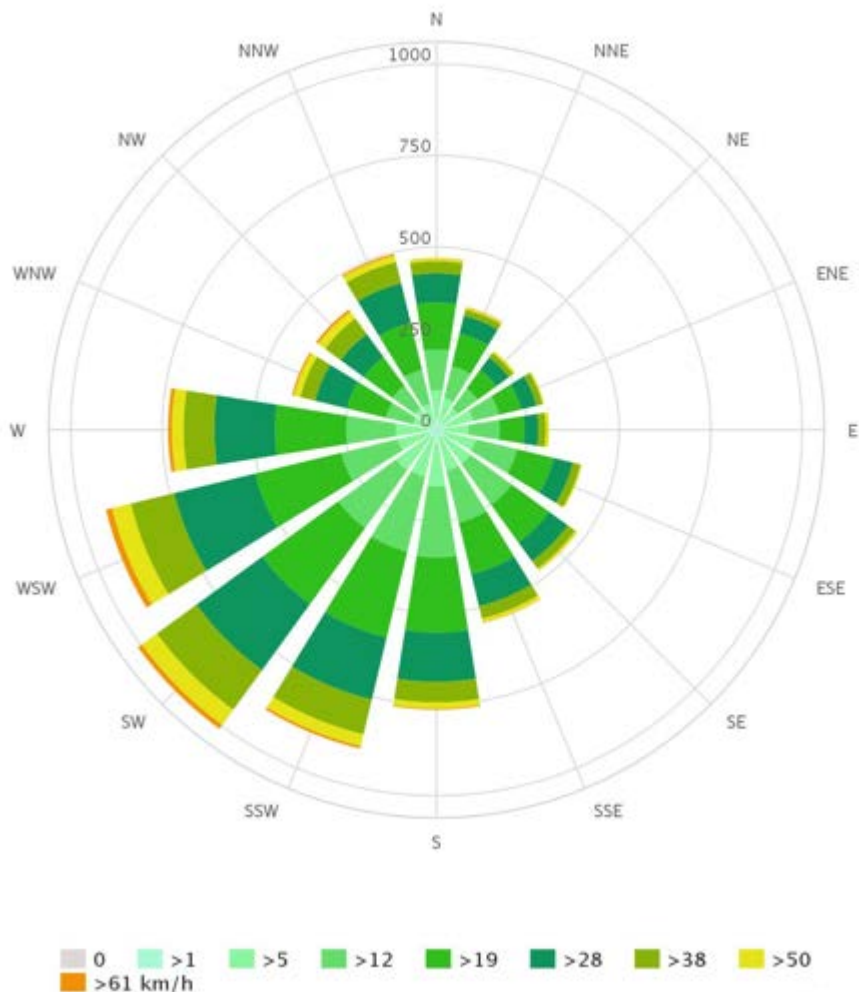
91. NO₂ is monitored at stations throughout Stockton-on-Tees Borough and in the wider Tees Valley. The measurements of annual mean concentrations are taken at three continuous monitoring stations (ARUN) at Billingham, Eaglescliffe and by the A1035. All three stations are therefore close to major sources of NO₂ pollution (i.e. roads and industry). There are also 15 non-continuous sites within the Borough, the majority of which are curbside but a proportion are some distance away. These measure background levels, albeit still within urban/suburban areas. The annual mean measurements of NO₂ show a stable level or steady decline in concentrations. The three automatic stations recorded annual means of between 14.3 and 19.2 ug/m³. The highest level of NO₂ recorded was an annual mean of 28.7 ug/m³ from a curbside station.
92. The levels of NO₂ within Stockton-on-Tees Borough were below the critical levels for this pollutant. Similar low levels were also recorded in the surrounding boroughs for sites located away from curbside locations.

Sulphur Dioxide

93. Monitoring of Sulphur Dioxide has been carried out at Billingham by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council since 1999. The main sources are from industry and these emissions have been reduced as old plant was closed and legal requirements for lower sulphur fuels were enforced. The main source of SO₂ is from coal-fired power stations to the south of the borough but this is not the prevailing wind direction²¹ (Figure 3).

²¹ Meteo Blue (2016). *Climate Stockton-on-Tees* [Online]. Available from: https://www.meteoblue.com/en/weather/forecast/modelclimate/stockton-on-tees_united-kingdom_2636876

Figure 3. Stockton-on-Tees Wind Rose



94. The air quality monitoring for the Tees Valley only reports SO₂ measurements as 24-hour means (rather than annual means) however the levels of SO₂ for 2015 are below the critical level of SO₂ of 20 ug/m³ taken from the APIS website.

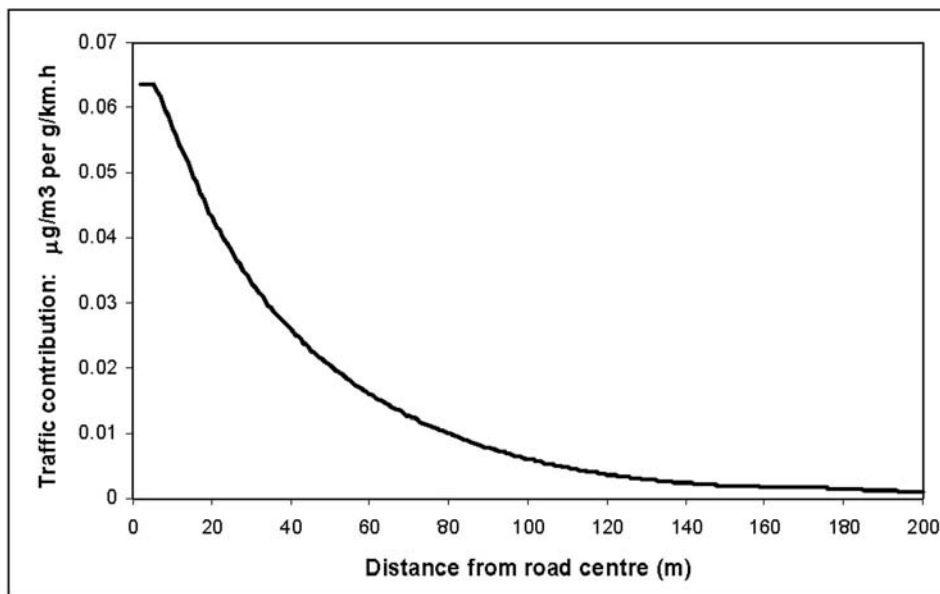
Air Quality Assessment

95. The measured air quality monitoring for Stockton and the Tees Valley shows improvements for relevant pollutants and recorded levels that are below critical levels for key habitats present within the European sites.
96. There is, however, the potential for air quality to be compromised by some of the policies set out in the local plan. In terms of pollution generated by traffic, the concentrations of pollutants diminish rapidly with distance from the road (see below). In addition, some industrial processes that require the use of chimney stacks can give rise to diffuse pollution that contributes to background levels of compounds such as NO₂. Both of these aspects are considered below.

Local Air Pollution.

97. The greatest risk of increased air pollution to the European sites is from increases in pollution arising from traffic movements. The impacts are however very localised. The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) (Volume 11 Section 3 Part 1 HA 207/07)²² sets out how pollutants decline as distance increases from the road (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Decline of pollutants with distance from source.



98. Paragraph 3.13 of this volume of the DMRB sets out the criteria for screening out impacts upon designated sites: “The Designated Sites that should be considered for this assessment are those for which the designated features are sensitive to air pollutants, either directly or indirectly, and which could be adversely affected by the effect of local air quality on vegetation within the following nature conservation sites: SACs (SCIs or cSACs), SPAs, potential pSPAs, SSSIs and Ramsar sites. Sites designated for geological purposes need not be assessed. Further information on Designated Sites is given in Annex F. Only properties and Designated Sites within 200m of roads affected by the project need be considered”.
99. It is therefore possible to screen out those policies that could result in increases in traffic movement on affected roads that are more than 200m away from the any European sites. The only European site that is located within 200m of a major road that could be affected by increases in road traffic is Castle Eden Dean SAC, next to which the A19 passes.
100. For those policies that have the potential to increase air pollution on roads within 200m of the European sites, there would be a requirement to carry out a

²² *The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) (Volume 11 Section 3 Part 1 HA 207/07) (2007).*
[Online] Available at: <http://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/ha/standards/dmr/vol11/section3.htm>

HRA at the individual project level, as set out in the DMRB and also under Policy ENV5. Any project that failed the HRA process would not be allowed to progress unless it met the further legal tests of ‘no alternative solutions’ and ‘imperative reasons of overriding public interest’ and if compensation could be secured. The Local Plan Draft therefore provides the necessary checks to ensure that localised air pollution does not arise that would result in adverse effects upon the integrity of the European sites.

Diffuse Air Pollution

101. Policies that provide for further industrial development within the Borough have the potential to result in new emissions to the atmosphere that could result in a decrease in air quality across the Borough and into neighbouring areas. Diffuse pollution source that could contribute to background levels of, for example, nitrogen, include processes such as power station combustion, gas flaring and burning of landfill gas, where the emissions are discharged into the atmosphere via a chimney stack.
102. There are, however, a range of existing protective measures that have the explicit aim of ensuring that air quality is improved and that new processes do not result in a deterioration in air quality. Such measures have been very successful and have resulted in demonstrable improvements in air quality that have been recorded in recent decades. Further improvements continue and national government will need to bring forward further measures following the ClientEarth High Court Ruling²³.
103. Any new processes arising from new industry facilitated by the Local Plan would also be the subject of various consenting processes that govern emissions and are overseen by the Council and the Environment Agency. These would be triggered at the individual project level.
104. Policy ENV5 provides further checks against new development causing declines in air quality. The policy ensures that the legal requirements of the Habitats Directive are triggered for any project that may result in an adverse effect upon European sites.

Conclusions on Air Quality

105. There is the potential for policies within the Local Plan Draft to result in lower air quality and likely significant effects upon European sites. However, there are the necessary checks (and mitigation) to ensure that increased traffic flows or new industrial processes do not result in adverse effects upon the integrity of European sites. As well as the policies contained within the LPD, the existing consenting processes for emissions to air provide further security that developments facilitated by the Local Plan Draft will not lead to reductions in air quality. The policies set out within the Local Plan Draft will therefore not lead to an adverse effect upon the integrity of the European sites.

²³ ClientEarth v Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2016). Claim No: CO/1508/2016

In-Combination Assessment

106. The Darlington 2009 Local Plan HRA concluded that there would be no likely significant effects from reductions in air quality and no in-combination effects. It is therefore possible to rule out any in-combination effects from the Darlington Local Plan.
107. The Hartlepool Local Plan Preferred Options draft has been the subject of an HRA²⁴. The assessment has concluded that, taking into account the policies that are designed to protect the European sites, there would be no likely significant effects arising from the Local Plan. There were, however, potential indirect effects from impacts on air quality and increased recreational pressure. The air quality issues identified Castle Eden Dene SAC as being at risk due to the proximity of the A19. However, in combination with other plans, the effects were considered to be '*de minimus*' in nature. Increases in recreational pressures were considered to be fully mitigated through policies proposed within the Local Plan. The HRA concluded that the Local Plan would have no adverse effect upon the integrity of the European sites.

Middlesbrough LDF Policies REG13 and REG16 ensure that planning permission for proposed general development areas at Riverside Park (within 200m of the potential pSPA) will only be granted provided that, in all cases, development does not result in damage to the biodiversity that is dependent on the River Tees - including the interest features of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA. Similarly, Policies REG12, REG14 and REG15, which include land adjacent to the River Tees and the potential pSPA, ensure that planning permission will only be granted if opportunities to maintain and enhance biodiversity are identified and taken. Policies H15(k) and CS21 include design principles which address biodiversity and specifically mention that the Greater Middlehaven and Blue-Green Heart area developments do not: "*result in damage to the biodiversity that is dependent upon the River Tees, including the interest features of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA.*"

The Middlesbrough LDF includes specific and over-arching policies (CS4 and CS21), and a spatial strategy (Core Strategy Chapter 1: 1.26 to 1.28) for protection of biodiversity and designated sites. These safeguard the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA/RAMSAR site, with any significant impacts to be avoided, mitigated against or compensated for. The LDF offers suitable protective policies which specifically list the habitats, species and environmental assets within and outside Middlesbrough, whereby the over-arching Core Strategy Policy CS4(j) states that all development will be required to contribute to achieving sustainable development principles by: "*ensuring that biodiversity assets, geodiversity assets, wildlife species, natural habitats, water resources, landscape character, green infrastructure, air quality and water quality; within and outside Middlesbrough are protected. Where possible, such assets should be enhanced.*"

²⁴ *Hartlepool Habitat Regulations Consultation Document* (2016). Hartlepool Borough Council [Online]. Available at: https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/20209/local_plan/312/local_plan

108. The Redcar and Cleveland Consultation Draft Local Plan has been the subject of an HRA process and report (Statement to Inform Appropriate Assessment Redcar and Cleveland Consultation Draft Local Plan June 2016). This report concluded that the Local Plan has the potential to have an adverse effect upon the integrity upon the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site for reasons of direct land-take, as there is a policy that allocates land within the SPA. Changes to the Local Plan have been suggested to ensure that such impacts are avoided.
109. The HRA report also identified potential adverse effects upon the integrity of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar and North York Moors SAC/SPA arising from increased recreational pressures. The report, however, pre-dates, and therefore does not seem to have taken into account, the mitigation that has been proposed for the England Coast Path. The accompanying HRA, carried out by Natural England, concluded there was no likely significant effect arising from the Coast Path. Given that the Coast Path is the only major access route to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA/Ramsar it seems safe to conclude that increased recreation pressures are being mitigated and any likely significant effect can be ruled out.
110. The HRA does not specify how the potential impacts upon the integrity of the North York Moors are to be addressed.
111. The County Durham Local Plan Preferred Options version is due to be published towards the end of 2016. It would appear that there has been some discussion between Natural England and the Council on the potential impacts of increases in population upon the European sites along the Durham Coast²⁵. The Addendum HRA that is available on the Council's website is a draft, and the measures proposed to mitigate recreational impacts have not been tested through the local plan inquiry process.
112. It is considered that the potential in-combination effects from these plans and projects relate to a deterioration in air quality from the cumulative level of development within the area. However, as the impacts of reduced air quality are generally localised to within 200m of the roadside, only Castle Eden Dene SAC has the potential to be impacted upon from this level of growth. The widening of the A19 that could have an impact upon Castle Eden Dean SAC is a Highways England project that aims to achieve traffic flows of a mile a minute. The project seeks to address current and projected traffic levels. In easing congestion, the project may result in gains in air quality over the current situation as free-flowing traffic produces lower pollution levels. The project would, in any event, need to be the subject of a Habitats Regulations Assessment as set out in the DMRB and an Appropriate Assessment will be required if the screening criteria are met.

²⁵ *Addendum to the Habitat Regulations Assessment of the County Durham Plan Pre-Submission* (2014). The County Durham Plan [Online]. Available at: <http://durhamcc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/file/2889744>

3.3 Habitat loss

113. Natural England's Technical Information Note (TIN172)²⁶ on the potential extension to Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA (potential pSPA) has earmarked land that is included in Policy T11 (6bi) for the A1046 Portrack Relief Road. As explained above, Natural England has not yet begun the formal consultation process on the potential pSPA and until such time, the areas earmarked are not protected under the Habitats Regulations. The approach adopted within this HRA has been to assume that areas highlighted in NE's Technical Information Note will become part of the potential pSPA and will therefore in time become protected.
114. Currently therefore, Policy T11 (6bi) may give rise to loss of habitat that is within the potential pSPA. Given the uncertainties of the nature of the potential pSPA it is not possible to assess whether or not the loss of the area would result in an adverse effect upon the integrity of the potential pSPA, as it is not known what interest the area to be lost supports and whether that loss would result in a reduction of the structure and function of the SPA that allows it to support the populations of species across the whole area.
115. It is necessary to adopt a precautionary approach to the AA and be certain that the Local Plan Draft will not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of the European site. Should the potential pSPA be in conflict with policy T11 it would not be possible to conclude that no adverse effect could arise.

²⁶ Natural England (2015). Technical Information Note TIN172. A possible extension to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area [Online]. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5987326182293504>

4 Conclusions

4.1 Summary

116. The Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan Draft has been the subject of a Habitat Regulations Assessment as required by the Habitats Directive. The first part of the process assessed whether the proposed policies would give rise to a Likely Significant Effect upon the European sites both within the Borough and within 15km of the Borough's boundary. The assessment identified 13 policies where a LSE upon the European sites could not be ruled out. These impacts related to two impact pathways: (i) a potential reduction in air quality both directly from traffic and impacts from diffuse pollution, and (ii) a direct loss of potential pSPA habitat. These impact pathways were then considered at the Appropriate Assessment stage.
117. The air quality assessment considered the mitigation measures built into the policies within the Local Plan Draft, and the existing consenting measures that are currently in place. The assessment also considered the likelihood of regulation continuing to improve, given recent developments in air quality litigation. While the Local Plan Draft may facilitate projects that could give rise to airborne pollutants that may have effects upon European sites, the mitigation measures that have been put in place (through policy and the current consenting legal framework) would not give rise to any adverse effects upon European sites through changes in air quality.
118. One policy, TI1 (6bi), may result in the direct loss of habitat on land that may be included in the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast potential pSPA. The area in question has been safeguarded for the A1064 Portrack Relief Road. At the time of this assessment, Natural England has not begun the formal consultation on the potential pSPA. If the consultation (once commenced) is in conflict with the potential pSPA this may give rise to an adverse effect upon the integrity of the potential pSPA. Currently however, the area is not protected and therefore the policy does not give rise to any effects.
119. This HRA has concluded that the Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan Draft does not give rise to any significant adverse effects upon any European sites and may be adopted.

4.2 Recommendations

120. It is recommended that further consultation be carried with Natural England to confirm the precise boundary of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast potential pSPA to ascertain whether or not it will be in conflict with Policy TI1. Depending upon the outcome of the consultation, this HRA may have to be amended to take into account any change.

Appendix 1: Conservation Objectives



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

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

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

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

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

Qualifying Features:

- A143 *Calidris canutus*; Red knot (Non-breeding)
- A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding)
- A191 *Sterna sandvicensis*; Sandwich tern (Non-breeding)
- A196 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)
- Waterbird assemblage

This is a European Marine Site

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

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Qualifying Features:

H4010. Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath
H4030. European dry heaths
H7130. Blanket bogs*

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

* Priority natural habitats or species

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

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Qualifying Features:

- A098 *Falco columbarius*; Merlin (Breeding)
- A140 *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (Breeding)

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

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

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

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

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



European Site Conservation Objectives for Thrislington Special Area of Conservation Site Code: UK0012838

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

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

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

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

Qualifying Features:

H6210. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

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

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

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

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



European Site Conservation Objectives for Castle Eden Dene Special Area of Conservation Site Code: UK0012768

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

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

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

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

Qualifying Features:

H91J0. *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles; Yew-dominated woodland*

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

* Priority natural habitats or species

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

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

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

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

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

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



European Site Conservation Objectives for Durham Coast Special Area of Conservation Site code: UK0030140

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

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

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

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

Qualifying Features:

H1230. Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

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

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

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

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



**European Site Conservation Objectives for
Northumbria Coast Special Protection Area
and potential Special Protection Area
Site Code: UK9006131**

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

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

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

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

Qualifying Features

- A148 *Calidris maritima*; Purple sandpiper (Non-breeding)
 A169 *Arenaria interpres*; Ruddy turnstone (Non-breeding)
 A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)

Additional Qualifying Features*

- A194 *Sterna paradisaea*; Arctic tern (Breeding)

*Government has initiated public consultation on the scientific case for the classification of these features as part of this Special Protection Area (SPA).

This is a European Marine Site

This SPA is a part of the Northumbria Coast European Marine Site (EMS). These Conservation Objectives should be used in conjunction with the current Conservation Advice document for the EMS. For further details about this please visit the Natural England website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/conservation-advice-packages-for-marine-protected-areas> or contact Natural England's enquiry service at enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk or by phone on 0845 600 3078.

This is a potential Special Protection Area (pSPA)

This is also a site on which Government has initiated public consultation on the scientific case for the classification of additional qualifying features as part of this Special Protection Area (SPA). As a matter of Government policy, potential SPAs and their features are treated as if they are formally classified. The provisions of the Habitats Regulations therefore apply to them (see below).

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

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

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

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

Publication date: 29 January 2016 (Version 3). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 30 June 2014 to include the additional qualifying features ('pSPA features') listed above.

Appendix 2: Site Designation Citations

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

Name: Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA

Unitary Authority/County: Durham County Council, Hartlepool Borough Council, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

Consultation proposal: The existing Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA was classified on 15 August 1995; an extension to that area has been recommended to enlarge the area within the Tees Estuary and along part of the foreshore to the north because of the site's European ornithological interest.

The Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area is a wetland of European importance, comprising intertidal sand and mudflats, rocky shore, saltmarsh, freshwater marsh and sand dunes. Large numbers of waterbirds feed and roost on the site in winter and during passage periods; in summer Little Terns breed on the sandy beaches within the site.

Boundary of SPA: The original SPA includes all or parts of Seal Sands SSSI; Seaton Dunes and Common SSSI; Cowpen Marsh SSSI; Redcar Rocks SSSI; and South Gare and Coatham Sands SSSI. The extended area is within or coincident with the above SSSI boundaries and will also include parts of Durham Coast SSSI and all of Tees and Hartlepool Foreshore and Wetlands SSSI. For boundary of extended SPA see map.

Size of SPA: The extension covers an area of 304.75 ha, giving a revised SPA area of 1247.31 ha.

European ornithological importance of SPA: The extended SPA is of European importance because:

- a) the site qualifies under **article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the GB populations of the following species listed on Annex I, in any season:

Annex I species	5 year peak mean	% of GB population
Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>	40 pairs – breeding (1995 - 1998)	1.7%
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	1,900 individuals – passage (1988 - 1992)	6.8%

- b) the site qualifies under **article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the biogeographical populations of the following regularly occurring migratory species (other than those listed on Annex I), in any season:

Migratory species	5 year peak mean	% of population
Knot <i>Calidris canutus islandica</i>	5,509 individuals – wintering (1991/92 - 1995/96)	1.6% NE Can/Gr/Iceland/UK
Redshank <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i>	1,648 individuals – passage (1987 - 1991)	1.1% Eastern Atlantic (wintering)

- c) the site qualifies under **article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by over 20,000 waterfowl in any season:

Period	Season	Population
1991/92 - 1995/96	Wintering	21,312 individuals

- d) The wintering waterfowl assemblage qualifying under **article 4.2** includes the wintering species of European importance, as well as the following species in numbers of national importance:

Species	5 year peak mean	% GB population
Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	140 individuals – wintering (1993/94 - 1997/98)	1.1%
Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	1,030 individuals – wintering (1993/94 - 1997/98)	1.4%
Tail <i>Anas crecca</i>	1,265 individuals – wintering (1987/88 - 1991/92)	1.3%
Shoveler <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	179 individuals – wintering (1993/94 - 1997/98)	1.3%
Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>	601 individuals – wintering (1993/94 - 1997/98)	2.6%

Non-qualifying species of interest: Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* (Annex I species) occurs on passage in small numbers and once bred (1996).

Status of SPA:

- 1) Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast was classified as a Special Protection Area on 15 August 1995.
- 2) Consultations commenced on the proposal to extend the site on 29 September 1999.
- 3) The extended area of Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA was classified on 31 March 2000.

EC Directive 92/43 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: North York Moors
Unitary Authority/County: North Yorkshire, Redcar and Cleveland
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: NZ711021
SAC EU code: UK0030228
Area (ha): 44082.25
Component SSSI: North York Moors SSSI

Site description:

This site in north-east Yorkshire within the North York Moors National Park contains the largest continuous tract of upland heather moorland in England. 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 type present is heather – wavy hair-grass (*Calluna vulgaris* – *Deschampsia flexuosa*) heath, with some heather – bell heather *Erica cinerea* heath on well-drained areas throughout the site, and large areas of heather – bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* heath on steeper slopes.


Cross-leaved heath – bog-moss (*Erica tetralix* – *Sphagnum compactum*) wet heath is the second most extensive vegetation type on the site and is predominantly found on the eastern and northern moors where the soil is less free-draining. Purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and heath rush *Juncus squarrosus* are also common within this community. In the wettest stands bog-mosses, including *Sphagnum tenellum*, occur, and the nationally scarce creeping forget-me-not *Myosotis stolonifera* can be found in acid moorland streams and shallow pools.

Blanket mire occurs in small amounts along the main watershed of the high moors where deep peat has accumulated. These areas are dominated by heather and cross-leaved heath with frequent hare's-tail cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum* and common cottongrass *E. angustifolium*.

Qualifying habitats: The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:

- Blanket bogs*
- European dry heaths
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*. (Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath)

Annex I priority habitats are denoted by an asterisk (*).

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.
 Register reference number: UK0030228
 Date of registration: 14 June 2005
 Signed: 
 On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

EC Directive 92/43 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Thrislington
Unitary Authority/County: Durham
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: NZ317328
SAC EU code: UK0012838
Area (ha): 22.58
Component SSSI: Thrislington Plantation SSSI

Site description:

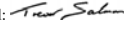
Thrislington contains one of the most important stands of primary Magnesian Limestone grassland in Britain. Although a comparatively small site it nonetheless contains the largest of the few surviving examples of these blue-moor-grass – small scabious (*Sesleria caerulea* – *Scabiosa columbaria*) grasslands. A variety of grassland communities occur over this substrate, most notable, and completely restricted to the Durham Magnesian Limestone, are those characterised by blue moor-grass and small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*.

The eastern portion of the site supports an intact primary surface generally dominated by blue moor-grass or sheep's-fescue *Festuca ovina*. Other common species include quaking-grass *Brizia media*, meadow oat-grass *Helictotrichon pratense*, glaucous sedge *Carex flacca*, rockrose *Helianthemum nummularia*, fairy flax *Linum catharticum*, burnet saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, small scabious, black and greater knapweeds *Centaurea nigra* and *C. sabiosa* and harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*.

The western portion of the site holds primary turf which was translocated between 1982 and 1990 as a result of an extension to the adjacent quarry. The pattern of the original grasslands was lost during translocation although this area remains herb-rich with many of the aforementioned species. Characteristic differences are areas of grassland dominated by upright brome *Bromopsis erecta* and others in which glaucous sedge and quaking-grass are the main species.

Qualifying habitats: The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:

- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone).

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.
 Register reference number: UK0012838
 Date of registration: 14 June 2005
 Signed: 
 On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

EC Directive 92/43 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Castle Eden Dene
Unitary Authority/County: Durham
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: NZ435397
SAC EU code: UK0012768
Area (ha): 194.40
Component SSSI: Castle Eden Dene SSSI

Site description:

Castle Eden Dene is the largest and biologically the richest of a series of steep-sided wooded denes, formed as deep ravines in the Magnesian Limestone and boulder clay of the Durham Coast. Due to its size and difficult terrain large parts of the woodland remain comparatively free from human disturbance. The majority of the woodland is developed on base-rich soils with ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and wych elm *Ulmus glabra* as the main canopy species, although sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* is well established and there are extensive yew *Taxus baccata* groves. Hazel *Corylus avellana* is the most abundant shrub species, but guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*, spindle *Euonymus europaeus*, privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* and spurge laurel *Daphne laureola* are also significant components of the shrub flora. The species-rich ground flora is dominated by wild garlic *Allium ursinum* with wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and sanicle *Sanicula europaea*, whilst in the humid valley-bottom there are locally extensive stands of hart's-tongue fern *Phyllitis scolopendrium*.

Qualifying habitats: The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:

- *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles. (Yew-dominated woodland)*

Annex I priority habitats are denoted by an asterisk (*).

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.
 Register reference number: UK0012768
 Date of registration: 14 June 2005
 Signed: *Trev Salmon*
 On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

EC Directive 92/43 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Durham Coast
Unitary Authority/County: Durham
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: NZ455407
SAC EU code: UK0030140
Area (ha): 393.63
Component SSSI: Durham Coast SSSI

Site description:

The Durham Coast is the only example of vegetated sea cliffs on Magnesian Limestone exposures in the UK. These cliffs extend along the North Sea coast for over 20 km from South Shields southwards to Blackhall Rocks. Their vegetation is unique in the British Isles and consists of a complex mosaic of maritime-influenced, calcareous and species-rich-neutral grasslands, tall-herb fen, seepage flushes and wind-pruned scrub. Within these habitats rare species with varied ecological requirements often grow together, forming unusual and species-rich communities of high scientific interest. The 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.

Qualifying habitats: The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:

- Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.
 Register reference number: UK0030140
 Date of registration: 14 June 2005
 Signed: *Trev Salmon*
 On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

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

Name: Northumbria Coast

Unitary Authority/County: Northumberland County Council, Durham County Council, South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council, North Tyneside Council, and City of Sunderland.

Consultation proposal: Parts of Northumberland Shore SSSI, Durham Coast SSSI, Newton Links SSSI and Lindisfarne SSSI have been recommended as a Special Protection Area because of the site's European ornithological interest.

The Northumbria Coast SPA 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.

Boundary of SPA: See map for details of SPA boundary.

European ornithological interest of SPA

Northumbria Coast SPA is of European importance because:

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

Annex I species	5 yr mean for 1993-1997
Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>	40p 1.7 % GB

p = Pairs

- b) The site qualifies under **article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the following bird populations of European importance in any season:

Migratory species	5 yr peak mean for 1992/93 - 1996/97
Purple sandpiper	787i 1.6% E Atlantic (wintering)
Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	1,739i 2.6% W Palearctic (wintering)

i = Individuals

Non-qualifying species of interest

In addition, the site supports nationally important populations of Sanderling *Calidris alba*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* and Redshank *Tringa totanus*. Northumbria Coast SPA also supports a number of Annex I birds (below the 1% qualifying level), including Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* and Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*.

**Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands
(RIS)**

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX.22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005)

Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DD MM YY

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

Joint Nature Conservation Committee
 Monkstone House
 City Road
 Peterborough
 Cambridgeshire PE1 1JY
 UK
 Telephone/Fax: +44 (0)1733 - 562 626 / +44 (0)1733 - 555 948
 Email: RIS@JNCC.gov.uk

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Designated: 15 August 1995

3. Country:

UK (England)

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Teessmouth and Cleveland Coast

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for: Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

a) Site boundary and area:

** Important note: If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:



Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS), page 2

7. Map of site included:

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:

- i) hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): yes ✓ -or- no □;
- ii) an electronic format (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) Yes
- iii) a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables yes ✓ -or- no □;

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The site boundary is the same as, or falls within, an existing protected area.

For precise boundary details, please refer to paper map provided at designation

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

54 37 50 N 01 07 07 W

9. General location:

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

Nearest town/city: Middlesbrough

Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast lies 48 km south-east of the city of Newcastle-upon-Tyne on the north-east coast of England.

Administrative region: Cleveland; Durham; Hartlepool; Redcar and Cleveland; Stockton-on-Tees

10. Elevation (average and/or max. & min.) (metres): 11. Area (hectares): 1247.31

Min. -1
Max. 4
Mean 1

12. General overview of the site:

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

Medium-large site encompassing a range of habitats (sand and mudflats, rocky shore, saltmarsh, freshwater marsh and sand dunes) on and around an estuary which has been much-modified by human activities. Together these habitats support internationally important numbers of waterbirds.

13. Ramsar Criteria:

Circle or underline each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11).

5, 6

14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Ramsar criterion 5

Assemblages of international importance:

Species with peak counts in winter:

Ramsar Information Sheet: UK11068

Page 2 of 9

Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast

Produced by JNCC: Version 3.0, 13/06/2008

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS), page 3

9528 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)

Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.

Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):

Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:

Common redshank, *Tringa totanus totanus*, 883 individuals, representing an average of 0.7% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Species with peak counts in winter:

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

Contemporary data and information on waterbird trends at this site and their regional (sub-national) and national contexts can be found in the Wetland Bird Survey report, which is updated annually. See www.bto.org/survey/webs/webs-alerts-index.htm.

Details of bird species occurring at levels of National importance are given in Section 22

15. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

a) biogeographic region:

Atlantic

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

16. Physical features of the site:

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology, origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Soil & geology	basic, neutral, shingle, sand, mud, clay, alluvium, peat, sedimentary, sandstone, sandstone/mudstone, boulder
Geomorphology and landscape	lowland, coastal, floodplain, subtidal sediments (including sandbank/mudbank), intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), open coast (including bay), enclosed coast (including embayment), estuary, lagoon, pools, intertidal rock
Nutrient status	eutrophic, mesotrophic
pH	circumneutral
Salinity	brackish / mixosaline, fresh, saline / euhaline
Soil	mainly mineral
Water permanence	usually permanent

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Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast

Produced by JNCC: Version 3.0, 13/06/2008

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS), page 4

Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Durham, 1971–2000) (www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/durham.html) Max. daily temperature: 12.5° C Min. daily temperature: 5.2° C Days of air frost: 52.0 Rainfall: 643.3 mm Hrs. of sunshine: 1374.6
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General description of the Physical Features:

Teessmouth and Cleveland Coast includes a range of coastal habitats – sand- and mud-flats, rocky shore, saltmarsh, freshwater marsh and sand dunes – on and around an estuary which has been considerably modified by human activities.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

Teessmouth and Cleveland Coast includes a range of coastal habitats – sand- and mud-flats, rocky shore, saltmarsh, freshwater marsh and sand dunes – on and around an estuary which has been considerably modified by human activities.

18. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

Shoreline stabilisation and dissipation of erosive forces

19. Wetland types:

Inland wetland, Marine/coastal wetland

Code	Name	% Area
G	Tidal flats	45
Tp	Freshwater marshes / pools: permanent	20
E	Sand / shingle shores (including dune systems)	14
H	Salt marshes	7
D	Rocky shores	7
K	Coastal fresh lagoons	3
F	Estuarine waters	2
M	Rivers / streams / creeks: permanent	1
J	Coastal brackish / saline lagoons	1

20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

Teessmouth and Cleveland Coast comprises intertidal sand and mudflats, rocky shore, saltmarsh, freshwater marsh and sand dunes. The Tees Estuary has been much-modified by such activities as land-claim, construction of breakwaters and training walls, and deep dredging. The remaining intertidal areas within the estuary are composed of mud and sand, with some *Enteromorpha* beds in sheltered areas. Outside the estuary mouth, sandflats predominate, but with significant rocky foreshores and reefs at both Redcar and Hartlepool and anthropogenic boulder beds at South Gare. Moderately extensive sand dune systems flank the estuary mouth, while a smaller dune system lies north of Hartlepool; foredunes are dominated by *Ammophila*, *Elytrigia juncea* and *Leymus* communities, fixed dunes by *Festuca rubra* communities. Surviving saltmarsh is very limited in

extent, and is largely typified by *Puccinellia*. Behind the dunes and sea-defences a number of significant areas of grazing marsh are found, where *Festuca rubra* saltmarsh persists alongside inundation grassland, a range of swamp communities and several shallow water bodies.

Ecosystem services

21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.

Nationally important species occurring on the site

Higher Plants:

Festuca arenaria, *Puccinellia rupestris*, *Ranunculus baudotii* (all Nationally Scarce)

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.

Birds

Species currently occurring at levels of national importance:

Species regularly supported during the breeding season:

Little tern, *Sterna albifrons albifrons*, W Europe 40 pairs, representing an average of 2% of the GB population (Five year mean for 1995 to 1998)

Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:

Northern shoveler, *Anas clypeata*, NW & C Europe 7 individuals, representing an average of 0% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Common greenshank, *Tringa nebularia*, Europe/W Africa 7 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Species Information

Nationally important species occurring on the site

Invertebrates:

Pherbellia griseocens, *Thereva valida*, *Longitarsus nigerrimus*, *Dryops nitidulus*, *Macroplea mutica*, *Philonthus dimidiatipennis*, *Trichohydrobius suturalis* (all RDB)

23. Social and cultural values:

Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values.

Environmental education/ interpretation

Fisheries production

Livestock grazing

Non-consumptive recreation

Scientific research

Sport fishing

Sport hunting

Transportation/navigation

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning? No

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If Yes, describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland;
- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland;
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples;
- iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland;

24. Land tenure/ownership:

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)	+	
Local authority, municipality etc.	+	+
National/Crown Estate	+	+
Private	+	+

25. Current land (including water) use:

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	+
Recreation	+	+
Current scientific research	+	+
Collection of non-timber natural products: (unspecified)	+	
Fishing: commercial		+
Fishing: recreational/sport	+	+
Bait collection	+	
Arable agriculture (unspecified)		+
Permanent pastoral agriculture	+	+
Hunting: recreational/sport	+	+
Industrial water supply		+
Industry		+
Sewage treatment/disposal		+
Harbour/port	+	+
Flood control	+	+
Irrigation (incl. agricultural water supply)		+
Transport route	+	+
Urban development		+

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26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

Explanation of reporting category:

1. Those factors that are still operating, but it is unclear if they are under control, as there is a lag in showing the management or regulatory regime to be successful.
2. Those factors that are not currently being managed, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far.

NA = Not Applicable because no factors have been reported.

Adverse Factor Category	Reporting Category	Description of the problem (Newly reported Factors only)	On-Site	Off-Site	Major Impact?
Eutrophication	2			+	+

For category 2 factors only.

What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors? Eutrophication - Under Asset Management Plan AMP4 Northumbrian Water is obliged to introduce tertiary treatment to its Billingham Sewage Treatment Works, and to undertake a major investigation into the occurrence and spread of *Enteromorpha* algal mats and water/sediment quality issues.

Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? YES

27. Conservation measures taken:

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices, whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
Site/ Area of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI/ ASSI)	+	+
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	+	
Special Protection Area (SPA)	+	
Site management statement plan implemented	+	
Other	+	+

b) Describe any other current management practices:

The management of Ramsar sites in the UK is determined by either a formal management plan or through other management planning processes, and is overseen by the relevant statutory conservation agency. Details of the precise management practises are given in these documents.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

No information available

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g. details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

Fauna:

Numbers of migratory and wintering wildfowl and waders are monitored annually as part of the national Wetland Birds Survey (WeBS) organised by the British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

Waterfowl monitoring: Durham University Dept of Biological Sciences as part of the above contract
Ringing programmes: Tees Ringing Group.

Habitat:

Monitoring of the effects of Northumbrian Water sewage inputs (NWL, EA, EN).
Breeding bird surveys of Teesmouth NNR (EN) and Cowpen Marsh SSSI (Industry Nature Conservation Association).

Annual monitoring of breeding Little Terns (INCA).

Monitoring of seal usage of site and breeding success (INCA).

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

e.g. visitor centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

The Teesmouth Field Centre approximately 3000 schoolchildren annually on a variety of study programmes. There are three public hides and several interpretive panels. English Nature, Hartlepool Countryside Wardens and Tees Valley Wildlife Trust undertake regular guided walks and events.
British Energy and Huntsman Tioxide have provided hides which are available during guided visits.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

Activities, Facilities provided and Seasonality**Land based recreation:**

The main activities are walking (especially dog walking), beach recreation, golf, and birdwatching, which take place year-round (though with a pronounced summer peak). The South Gare area has beach huts, car parks and a caravan site. Car parks are also located at North Gare and Seaton Carew. Seaton Carew and Cleveland Golf Clubs have courses adjacent to and impinging slightly on the site. Use is mainly April to September, but golf is played year-round.

Illegal use of motorcycles, quad-bikes and 4WD vehicles is particularly prevalent at South Gare, but is also increasing at Seaton Sands.

Wildfowling is confined to small areas of Cowpen Marsh and Saltholme Pools (1 September to 31 January).

Water based recreation:

In summer, power-boating, jet-skiing, dinghy-sailing and windsurfing all occur but at a low intensity (apart from Coatham Sands, where 'extreme sports' such as kite-surfing are increasing), and primarily on the open coast. Angling is largely confined to breakwaters (year-round), while bait-gathering in intertidal areas can be locally intensive, especially on Bran Sands (adjacent to the South Gare Breakwater).

32. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept. of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Head, Natura 2000 and Ramsar Team, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs,
European Wildlife Division, Zone 1/07, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol,
BS1 6EB

33. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Site Designations Manager, English Nature, Sites and Surveillance Team, Northminster House,
Northminster Road, Peterborough, PE1 1UA, UK

34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Site-relevant references

- Bame, JH, Robson, CF, Kaznowska, SS, Doody, JP & Davidson, NC (eds.) (1995) *Coasts and Seas of the United Kingdom. Region 5 North-east England: Berwick-upon-Tweed to Filey Bay*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough (Coastal Directories Series)
- Batten, LA, Bibby, CJ, Clement, P, Elliot, GD & Porter, RF (1990) *Red Data Birds in Britain. Action for rare, threatened and important species*. Poyser, London, for Nature Conservancy Council and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Bennett, TL & Foster-Smith, JL (1998) Chapter 5. South-east Scotland and north-east England (Dunbar to Bridlington) (MNCR Sector 4). In: *Benthic marine ecosystems of Great Britain and the north-east Atlantic*, ed. by K. Hiscock, 123-154. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough. (Coasts and Seas of the United Kingdom. MNCR series)
- Brazier, DP, Davies, J, Holt, RHF & Murray, E (1998) *Marine Nature Conservation Review Sector 5. South-east Scotland and north-east England: area summaries*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough (Coasts and seas of the United Kingdom. MNCR series)
- Buck, AL (ed.) (1997) *An inventory of UK estuaries. Volume 5. Eastern England*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough
- Burd, F (1989) *The saltmarsh survey of Great Britain. An inventory of British saltmarshes*. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough (Research & Survey in Nature Conservation, No. 17)
- Cranswick, PA, Waters, RJ, Musgrove, AJ & Pollitt, MS (1997) *The Wetland Bird Survey 1995-96: wildfowl and wader counts*. British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds & Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Slimbridge
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- Doody, JP, Johnston, C & Smith, B (1993) *Directory of the North Sea coastal margin*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough
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- Lacey et al. (1997) *Tees estuary management plan*. INCA, Billingham
- Musgrove, AJ, Langston, RHW, Baker, H & Ward, RM (eds.) (2003) *Estuarine waterbirds at low tide. The WeBS Low Tide Counts 1992-93 to 1998-99*. WSG/BTO/WWT/RSPB/JNCC, Thetford (International Wader Studies, No. 16)
- Musgrove, AJ, Pollitt, MS, Hall, C, Heam, RD, Holloway, SJ, Marshall, PE, Robinson, JA & Cranswick, PA (2001) *The Wetland Bird Survey 1999-2000: wildfowl and wader counts*. British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds & Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Slimbridge.
www.wwt.org.uk/publications/default.asp?PubID=14
- Ratcliffe, DA (ed.) (1977) *A Nature Conservation Review. The selection of biological sites of national importance to nature conservation in Britain*. Cambridge University Press (for the Natural Environment Research Council and the Nature Conservancy Council), Cambridge (2 vols.)
- Stroud, DA, Chambers, D, Cook, S, Buxton, N, Fraser, B, Clement, P, Lewis, P, McLean, I, Baker, H & Whitehead, S (eds.) (2001) *The UK SPA network: its scope and content. Volume 3: Site accounts*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough www.jncc.gov.uk/UKSPA/default.htm

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Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX.22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

Notes for compilers:

- The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
- Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
- Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

Joint Nature Conservation Committee
 Monkstone House
 City Road
 Peterborough
 Cambridgeshire PE1 1JY
 UK
 Telephone/Fax: +44 (0)1733 – 562 626 / +44 (0)1733 – 555 948
 Email: RIS@JNCC.gov.uk

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY		

Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Designated: 02 February 2000

3. Country:

UK (England)

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Northumbria Coast

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for: Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

a) Site boundary and area:

** Important note: If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

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7. Map of site included:

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:

- i) **hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): yes -or- no ;
- ii) **an electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) Yes
- iii) **a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** yes -or- no ;

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The site boundary is the same as, or falls within, an existing protected area.

For precise boundary details, please refer to paper map provided at designation

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

55 27 58 N 01 35 18 W

9. General location:

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

Nearest town/city: Newcastle

The site comprises several discrete stretches of the coastline in north-east England, between Spittal in the north of Northumberland to an area just south of Blackhall Rocks in County Durham.

Administrative region: Durham; North Tyneside; Northumberland; South Tyneside; Sunderland; Tyne and Wear

10. Elevation (average and/or max. & min.) (metres): 11. Area (hectares): 1107.98

Min. -1
 Max. 8
 Mean 0

12. General overview of the site:

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

The Northumbria Coast Ramsar site comprises several discrete sections of rocky foreshore between Spittal, in the north of Northumberland, and an area just south of Blackhall Rocks in County Durham. These stretches of coast regularly support nationally important numbers of purple sandpiper and high concentrations of turnstone. The Ramsar site also includes an area of sandy beach at Low Newton, which supports a nationally important breeding colony of little tern, and parts of three artificial pier structures which form important roost sites for purple sandpiper.

13. Ramsar Criteria:

Circle or underline each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11).

6

14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Ramsar Information Sheet: UK11049

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Northumbria Coast

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Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.

Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):

Species regularly supported during the breeding season:

Little tern , *Sterna albifrons albifrons*, W Europe 43 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 2.2% of the GB population (Seabird 2000 Census)

Species with peak counts in winter:

Purple sandpiper , *Calidris maritima maritima*, E Atlantic -wintering 291 individuals, representing an average of 1.6% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Ruddy turnstone , *Arenaria interpres interpres*, NE Canada, Greenland/W Europe & NW Africa 978 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Contemporary data and information on waterbird trends at this site and their regional (sub-national) and national contexts can be found in the Wetland Bird Survey report, which is updated annually. See www.bto.org/survey/webs/webs-alerts-index.htm.

15. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

a) **biogeographic region:**
Atlantic

b) **biogeographic regionalisation scheme** (include reference citation):
Council Directive 92/43/EEC

16. Physical features of the site:

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology, origins - natural or artificial, hydrology, soil type, water quality, water depth, water permanence, fluctuations in water level, tidal variations, downstream area, general climate, etc.

Soil & geology	acidic, basic, neutral, shingle, sand, igneous, sedimentary, sandstone, metamorphic, slate/shale, limestone/chalk, clay, gravel
Geomorphology and landscape	coastal, crags/ledges, open coast (including bay), cliffs, pools, intertidal rock
Nutrient status	no information
pH	no information
Salinity	saline / euhaline
Soil	mainly mineral
Water permanence	usually permanent

Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Boulmer, 1971–2000) (www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/boulmer.html) Max. daily temperature: 11.9° C Min. daily temperature: 5.6° C Days of air frost: 34.5 Rainfall: 651.0 mm Hrs. of sunshine: 1540.4
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General description of the Physical Features:

The Northumbria Coast includes much of the coastline between the Tweed and Tees estuaries, consisting of mainly discrete sections of rocky shore with associated boulder and cobble beaches. The site also includes parts of three artificial pier structures and a small section of sandy beach.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

The Northumbria Coast includes much of the coastline between the Tweed and Tees estuaries, consisting of mainly discrete sections of rocky shore with associated boulder and cobble beaches. The site also includes parts of three artificial pier structures and a small section of sandy beach.

18. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation, etc.

Shoreline stabilisation and dissipation of erosive forces, Sediment trapping

19. Wetland types:

Marine/coastal wetland

Code	Name	% Area
D	Rocky shores	96
E	Sand / shingle shores (including dune systems)	3.3
Other	Other	0.5
M	Rivers / streams / creeks: permanent	0.2

20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

The site consists mainly of areas of rocky shore with associated boulder and cobble beaches. These support a rich algal flora and associated fauna and form an important feeding area for wading birds. The areas of sandy beach within the site support a flora which includes marram *Amphiphila arenaria* and sea sandwort *Honkenya peploides*.

Ecosystem services

21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.

None reported

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22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.

Birds

Species currently occurring at levels of national importance:

Species regularly supported during the breeding season:

Great cormorant , *Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*, NW Europe 248 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 2.9% of the GB population (Seabird 2000 Census)

Black-legged kitiwake , *Rissa tridactyla tridactyla*, E Atlantic 4070 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 1.1% of the GB population (Seabird 2000 Census)

Arctic tern , *Sterna paradisaea*, Europe/N Atlantic 1200 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 2.2% of the GB population (Seabird 2000 Census)

Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:

European golden plover , *Pluvialis apricaria apricaria*, P. a. altifrons Iceland & Faroes/E Atlantic 2911 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Species with peak counts in winter:

Common eider , *Somateria mollissima mollissima*, NW Europe 1361 individuals, representing an average of 1.8% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Sanderling , *Calidris alba*, Eastern Atlantic 419 individuals, representing an average of 2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Species Information

None reported

23. Social and cultural values:

Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values.

Aesthetic

Environmental education/ interpretation

Non-consumptive recreation

Other

Scientific research

Sport fishing

Tourism

Transportation/navigation

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning? No

If Yes, describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:

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- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

24. Land tenure/ownership:

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)	+	+
Local authority, municipality etc.	+	+
National/Crown Estate		+
Private	+	+
Public/communal		+

25. Current land (including water) use:

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	+
Tourism	+	+
Recreation	+	+
Current scientific research	+	
Collection of non-timber natural products: (unspecified)	+	+
Fishing: (unspecified)	+	+
Fishing: commercial	+	+
Fishing: recreational/sport	+	+
Marine/saltwater aquaculture		+
Gathering of shellfish	+	+
Shell collection	+	+
Bait collection	+	+
Arable agriculture (unspecified)		+
Permanent arable agriculture		+
Grazing (unspecified)		+
Hay meadows		+
Industry		+
Sewage treatment/disposal	+	+
Harbour/port	+	+
Urban development		+
Non-urbanised settlements		+

26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

Explanation of reporting category:

1. Those factors that are still operating, but it is unclear if they are under control, as there is a lag in showing the management or regulatory regime to be successful.
2. Those factors that are not currently being managed, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far.

NA = Not Applicable because no factors have been reported.

Adverse Factor Category	Reporting Category	Description of the problem (Newly reported Factors only)	On-Site	Off-Site	Major Impact?
No factors reported	NA				

For category 2 factors only.
 What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors?

Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? NO

27. Conservation measures taken:

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
Site/ Area of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI/ASSI)	+	
Special Protection Area (SPA)	+	
Land owned by a non-governmental organisation for nature conservation	+	+
Site management statement/plan implemented	+	
Area of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB)	+	+
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	+	

b) Describe any other current management practices:

The management of Ramsar sites in the UK is determined by either a formal management plan or through other management planning processes, and is overseen by the relevant statutory conservation agency. Details of the precise management practises are given in these documents.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

No information available

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g. details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

Fauna:

Monitoring of bird populations

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

e.g. visitor centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

None reported

31. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

A diverse range of recreational activities takes place along the coast including walking, camping, sea angling, bird watching, water sports (water-skiing, sailing, windsurfing and canoeing) and general use of amenity beaches. Bird watching is particularly popular at Druridge Bay where there is a Country Park and a number of Nature Reserves. As well as attracting a large number of day trippers, a sizable population of summer visitors stay in caravan sites and other accommodation along the coast.

32. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept. of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Head, Natura 2000 and Ramsar Team, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, European Wildlife Division, Zone 1/07, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EB

33. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Site Designations Manager, English Nature, Sites and Surveillance Team, Northminster House, Northminster Road, Peterborough, PE1 1UA, UK

34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Site-relevant references

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- Thompson, KR, Brindley, E & Heubeck, M (1998) *Seabird numbers and breeding success in Britain and Ireland, 1997*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough (UK Nature Conservation, No. 22)

Please return to: **Ramsar Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**
Telephone: **+41 22 999 0170** • Fax: **+41 22 999 0169** • email: ramsar@ramsar.org

Natural England Technical Information Note TIN172

A possible extension to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area

This Technical Information Note (TIN) has been prepared to help inform you about the development of recommendations to extend and add features to the existing Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area (SPA). It also provides information on a review of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the area. Other TINs about the process for classifying SPAs and about the species to be protected within them are available. For details see *Further Information* below.

Background

The Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA was classified under the European Union Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the 'Birds Directive') in 1995 and extended in 2000. The UK Government has ongoing obligations under the Birds Directive requiring it to protect the breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along migration routes of bird species.

As part of the commitment to improving seabird protection within the SPA network, Natural England is advising the Government on sites that should be considered for classification or extension. We have:

- Reviewed information from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) based on survey work carried out in the waters around a number of seabird colonies.
- Reviewed a range of bird data for the area, including areas of land outside the existing SPA.

We are compiling recommendations for the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to consider proposals to:

- Protect common tern *Sterna hirundo* and avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* as new 'qualifying features' within the extended SPA.
- Extend the boundary of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA into the marine environment to protect foraging areas for little tern *Sternula albifrons* and common tern.
- Include additional terrestrial areas within the SPA to protect breeding colonies of common tern and avocet, and non-breeding waterbirds.

Special Protection Areas

The Birds Directive was adopted in 1979 to tackle declines in wild bird populations across Europe. Each member state must identify SPAs to protect:

- rare or vulnerable bird species (as listed in Annex I of the Directive); and
- other regularly occurring migratory bird species.

SPAs on land are now well established, but to provide seabirds such as terns with the protection they need, further work is required to establish SPAs at sea. The UK Government is committed to identifying a network of SPAs in the marine environment by November 2015.

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The Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast: an important place for birds

The existing Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA is centred on the Tees estuary and the adjacent open coastlines. The SPA includes a wide range of coastal habitats, including sandflats, mudflats, rocky foreshore, saltmarsh, sand-dunes, wet grassland and freshwater lagoons, which co-exist with a wide range of human activities in this busy industrial area.

The species protected by the existing SPA are breeding little tern, passage Sandwich tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, wintering knot *Calidris canutus* and wintering redshank *Tringa totanus*. The site is also classified for an assemblage of over 20,000 non-breeding waterbirds.



Little tern, *Sternula albifrons*. © Paul Lacey

Possible additional features to the existing SPA

Natural England has a responsibility to make recommendations regarding SPAs to Defra. As part of this process we have reviewed bird data for the Teesmouth area and intend to recommend the addition of features to the existing SPA as follows:

- breeding avocet; and
- breeding common tern.

These are both Annex I species which are present in nationally-important populations.

Possible marine extensions for foraging terns

During the breeding season all seabirds, including terns, are 'central place' foragers, meaning they must return to a central place (ie their nest) after each foraging trip. This constraint means that they have a limited foraging range and so have a strong energetic incentive to forage as close to their colony as they can, especially when rearing their chicks. Therefore, the estuarine and marine waters around the existing areas of SPA near where these birds breed and within which they forage, need to be considered for protection.

The possible marine extension for little tern foraging areas has been identified on the basis of shore-based and boat-based surveys of marine waters around the colony at Crimdon Dene. This possible extension reaches 5 km in both directions along the coast from the colony; between Hartlepool Headland and Castle Eden Dene mouth, and extends up to 3.5 km offshore.

For similar reasons, another extension to protect foraging areas for common tern has also been identified. These include the main channel of the River Tees below the barrage, estuary waters, and marine areas between Marske-by-the-Sea in the south and Crimdon Dene in the north, extending up to 6 km offshore.

This proposed foraging extension is based on visual tracking surveys of other common tern colonies in the UK by JNCC. On the basis of this survey work, and the development of statistical models of the tracking data that describe the environmental characteristics of the places where larger tern foraging was most concentrated, the JNCC provided suggestions as to the locations of the sea areas around colonies which might be most suitable for inclusion within SPA boundaries.

Natural England has identified a source of visual tracking data for the Tees, and has requested that JNCC carry out additional modelling using this data so that the draft boundary can be refined if necessary. In addition, Natural England is carrying out additional work over the summer of 2015 to add to our understanding of bird

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A possible extension to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area

movements in the area and to ascertain whether common terns are using more complex and artificial habitat features such as inlets and harbours.

Possible terrestrial extensions to the SPA

Natural England has reviewed a wide range of data for breeding avocet, breeding common tern and wintering waterbirds, primarily Wetland Bird Survey core count data. This has identified a number of areas used by waterbirds outside the current SPA for potential inclusion, including intertidal, wet grassland, reedbed and open water habitats.

Natural England has commissioned wintering waterbird surveys on these sites and the results of these surveys are being looked at to refine the indicative boundaries shown on the map.

Review of Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

If the SPA recommendations are approved for consultation by Defra, we would also need to consider the notification as SSSI of the additional terrestrial and intertidal parts of the SPA. In addition, Natural England is therefore reviewing existing biological data and hopes to carry out further survey work to identify other features of interest that might warrant inclusion in a new, extended or revised SSSI, including vegetation and invertebrates. We will be contacting relevant landowners and occupiers to request access for these surveys.

What happens next?

Natural England is responsible for recommending potential SPAs, and extensions of current SPAs, in English waters out to 12 nautical miles to Defra for classification.

Once we have developed initial site recommendations and held informal discussions with stakeholders we will submit proposals (approved by our Executive Board) as formal advice to Defra.

The informal discussions are intended to ensure that as many stakeholders as possible are aware of our proposal and to give them an opportunity to provide information to inform our recommendations. Towards the end of 2015, subject to Ministerial approval, the formal public consultation process will commence and will last twelve weeks. This period is the opportunity for stakeholders formally to submit views on the proposals. After the consultation we will consider the responses and submit our final recommendations to Defra. It is Defra's intention to have made a decision regarding the classification of the site by December 2016.

How can you get involved?

We are contacting stakeholders with an interest in the proposals from 1st July 2015 over an initial nine week period. We would like to hear from you if:

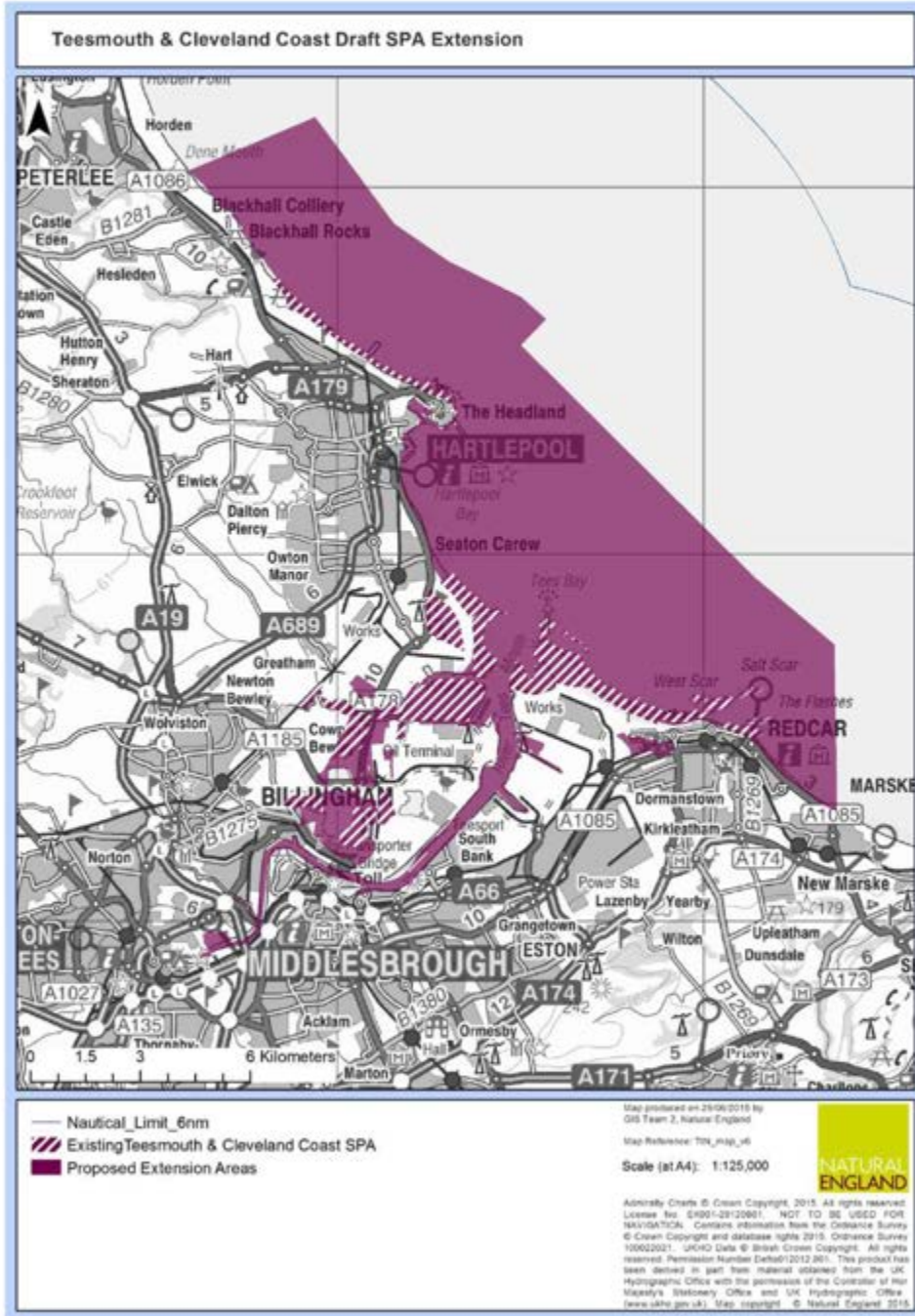
- You wish to discuss further the scientific proposals.
- You hold any additional bird data that you would like to share with us to inform the recommendations.
- You have any information about your interests or activities in the area that could help us determine the potential economic environmental and social impacts of the classification.

Further information

Natural England Technical Information Notes are available to download from the Natural England website: [Establishing Marine Special Protection Areas](#). In particular see:

- TIN120: *Establishing marine Special Protection Areas*
- TIN135: *Sandwich tern: species information for marine Special Protection Area consultations*
- TIN138: *Common tern: species information for marine Special Protection Area consultations*
- TIN139: *Little tern: species information for marine Special Protection Area consultations*

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Possible extension to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area

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A possible extension to the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area

If you want to know more

If you would like to know more about the proposals or ask any questions, please get in touch with:

Katie Coombs

Northumbria Area Team, Natural England, 2nd Floor, Lancaster House, Hampshire Court, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Tyne and Wear, NE4 7YH

Telephone: 0300 060 2313 or email:

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Appendix 3: APIS Table

Site	Habitat	Pollutant				
		Acid Deposition	Ammonia	Nitrogen Deposition (kg N/ha/yr)	Sulphur dioxide	Nitrogen Oxide ($\mu\text{g NOx/m}^3$ annual mean)
Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA / RAMSAR /potential pSPA	Acid Grassland				4.7 0.44	
	Calcareous Grassland				4.0 0.44	
	Coastal saltmarsh			20-30 12.3		30 32
	Dunes, Shingle & Machair			10-20 8-10 (acid dunes) 12.3 12.3		30 32
	Neutral Grassland			20-30 12.3		
	Rivers & Streams				N/A 0.46	
	Standing Open Water & Canals				N/A 0.46	30 32
North York Moors SAC	Bogs			5-10 19.7	0.384 0.4	30 11.3
	Dwarf Shrub Heath			10-20 19.7	4.7 0.4	30 11.3
North York Moors SPA	Acid Grassland				4.7 0.4	
	Bogs			5-10 19.7	0.384 0.4	30 11.3
	Calcareous Grassland				4.0	

Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan Draft
Habitat Regulations Assessment

					0.4	
	Coastal saltmarsh			20-30 19.7		
	Dwarf Shrub Heath			10-20 19.7	4.7 0.4	30 11.3
	Montane Habitat				4.7 0.4	30 11.3
	Neutral Grassland			20-30 19.7		
Thrislington SAC	Calcareous Grassland			15-25 19.5	4.0 0.35	30 15
Castle Eden Dene SAC	Broadleaved, Mixed & Yew Woodland					30 18
	Coniferous woodland			5-15 30.6	2.377 0.45	
Durham Coast SAC	Maritime Cliffs & Slopes					30 39
Northumbria Coast SPA / RAMSAR – and potential pSPA under consideration	Acid Grassland				4.7 0.27	
	Calcareous Grassland				4.0 0.27	
	Coastal saltmarsh			20-30 11.6		
	Dunes, Shingle & Machair			10-20 11.6 8-10 (acid dunes) 11.6 10-15 (calcareous dunes) 11.6		30 39
	Maritime Cliffs & Slopes					30 39

Key: Black = Critical Load, Red = Critical Load exceeded, Green = Critical Load not exceeded

If you would like this information in any other language or format for example **large print** or audio please contact the 'Economic Strategy and Spatial Planning Team' on 01642 526050

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