Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening

Leeds Local Plan: A Planning Framework for Development (2024 – 2042)

1. This Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening has been carried out to determine if the objectives of the Leeds Local Plan are likely to have a significant effect on important conservation sites within and around the Leeds Metropolitan District.

2. The HRA is a process, which feeds into the Leeds Local Plan (LLP) making process by understanding how the need to protect important areas of nature conservation can be shown to affect the preparation of policies. This will help ensure that the plan will not adversely affect the integrity of any European and International conservation sites. The exception to this would be where 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest'[1] can be demonstrated.

3. At this early stage of plan making the HRA is setting out whether it is likely or not that an Appropriate Assessment of policies will be required in support of the next stage of plan making i.e. draft policies at Regulation 19 stage.

Legal Framework

4. When preparing the LLP, the City Council is required by law to carry out an HRA, as confirmed by:

    - The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007[2]
    - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017[3]
    - The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019[4]

5. The requirement for authorities to comply with the Habitats Regulations when preparing a plan is also noted in the Government's Planning Practice Guidance and further guidance[5] called 'Habitats regulations assessments: protecting a European site'.

6. HRA refers to the assessment of the potential effects of a development plan on one or more sites afforded the highest level of protection in the UK: Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). These were classified under European Union (EU) legislation but, since 1st January 2021, are protected in the UK by the Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended). Although the EU Directives from which the UK's Habitats Regulations resulted from are no longer binding, the Regulations still make reference to the lists of habitats and species that the sites were designated for.

[1] As noted in Article 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)
[2] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2007/1843/contents
[3] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents/made
[4] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111176573
[5] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site

7. SACs are designated for habitat types (specified in Annex 1 of the EU Habitats Directive[6] and species (Annex II). The listed habitat types and species (excluding birds) are those considered to be most in need of conservation at a European level. Before Brexit, designation of SACs also had regard to the 'Natura 2000' network of Habitat sites. After Brexit, regard is now had to the importance of SACs for the coherence of the UK's 'national site network'.

8. SPAs are classified for rare and vulnerable birds (Annex I of the EU Birds Directive[7]), and for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I.

9. The term 'European sites' was previously commonly used in HRA to refer to 'Natura 2000' sites[8] and Ramsar sites (international designated under the Ramsar Convention). Post Brexit, a Government Policy Paper[9] on changes to the Habitats Regulations 2017 states that:

    - Any references to Natura 2000 in the 2017 Regulations and in guidance now refers to the new 'national site network'

    - The national site network includes existing SACs and SPAs; and new SACs and SPAs designated under these Regulations

    - Designated Wetlands of International Importance (known as Ramsar sites) do not form part of the national site network. Many Ramsar sites overlap with SACs and SPAs and may be designated for the same or different species and habitats

10. Although Ramsar sites do not form part of the new national site network, the Government Policy Paper states that: "All Ramsar sites remain protected in the same way as SACs and SPAs."

11. This report has been prepared having regard to all relevant case law relating to the Habitats Directive and the European Court of Justice case of People Over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta[10] as it directly concerns the approach to Stage 1 Likely Significant Effects (Screening) under the Habitats Regulations. The case held that *"it is not appropriate, at the screening stage, to take account of the measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site"* (paragraph 40). It is important to note that not all mitigation measures are excluded from consideration – only those *"intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on a European site at the screening stage"*[11].

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[6] Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the 'Habitats Directive')
[7] Directive 2009/147/EC of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (the 'Birds Directive').
[8] https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/natura-2000_en
[9] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-habitats-regulations-2017/changes-to-the-habitats-regulations-2017
[10] C-323/17
[11] PINS Note 05/2018 Consideration of avoidance and reduction measures in Habitats Regulations Assessment: People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta

European Designations, Conservation Objectives and Qualifying Features (relating to Leeds Metropolitan District)

12. There is only one European site in Leeds – a small part of the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA and SAC (known locally as Hawksworth Moor or Rombalds/Ilkley Moor).

13. However, sites within 10km of the Leeds MD boundary and, due to its strategic significance, the Humber Estuary have also been considered. **Appendix 1** sets out the European Designations, Conservation Objectives and Qualifying Features of potential relevance to the LPU.

14. Although only a small part of the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA and SAC, (known locally as Hawksworth Moor or Rombalds/Ilkley Moor) is located within the Leeds City Council boundary (to the far north west of the District), the potential impact on remaining areas of this site (and others) outside the administrative area of Leeds MD must also be assessed.

15. Information for each site has been obtained from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee website and Natural England. These sites are designated at the European Level as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and/or Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and/or Ramsar sites. This means they have a very high level of conservation protection by virtue of their importance as key habitats of national significance.

16. Sites can be designated as both an SPA and a SAC and they are also simultaneously designated for their national importance as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

17. Within this overall context, it should be noted that the Humber Estuary is identified as a site that may be affected (the Humber Estuary is also a Ramsar site). The Humber Estuary is 26.5 km from the Leeds MD boundary and is therefore not close enough for individual sites, to directly impact on it. However, the cumulative effect of sites needs to be considered because of the potential for effects on the River Aire and River Wharfe (that join the River Ouse and ultimately flow into the Humber Estuary).

18. The list of European sites considered by this HRA Screening & Appropriate Assessment are summarised as follows:

    - The **North Pennine Moors** SPA/SAC: This is over 103,000 ha in size and exists in parts of County Durham, Northumberland, Cumbria and North Yorkshire. it is located over 3km north-west of Leeds and is outside the Leeds Metropolitan District boundary

    - The **South Pennine Moors** Phase 2 SPA/SAC: This is part of a wider European Site (South Pennine Moors) which totals 64,000 ha covering other parts of West and South Yorkshire and the Pennine areas of Lancashire. Most of this lies outside the Leeds MD but a small part, known as Hawsksworth Moor lies within the Leeds MD.

    - **Kirk Deighton** SAC: This is approximately 4 ha in size and is located to the north of Wetherby It lies 500 metres outside of the Leeds MD

- **Denby Grange Colliery Ponds** SAC: This is nearly 19 ha in size. It lies over 7km outside the Leeds MD near the A637 in Wakefield District

- **Humber Estuary** SPA/SAC (and Ramsar site): This is approximately 37,000 ha covering Humberside and Lincolnshire and is located 26.5km outside of Leeds MD.

Leeds Local Plan

19. The Leeds Local Plan is a wholesale update of the existing Development Plan for the District of Leeds. At this early stage of plan-making the Council has prepared a draft vision, proposed draft objectives and a suite of detailed topic reports setting out the range of strategic and non-strategic planning matters that are to be within scope of the LLP. The objectives of the LLP are set out here.
20. For the purposes of this HRA there are several are several impact pathways that require consideration regarding the LPU and European sites. These are:

    - Water quality (surface water runoff)

    - Water quality (discharge of treated sewage effluent)

    - Hydrological changes, including water abstraction

    - Recreational pressure – any increase in human activity and dog walking can lead to impacts on habitats because of increased visitors to a site (i.e., trampling) or can alter behaviour (e.g., alterations in feeding behaviour, avoidance of certain areas and use of sub optimal areas etc.) and physiological changes to species (e.g., an increase in heart rate).

    - Air quality – the release of pollutants from vehicle emissions with a resulting concentration of oxides of nitrogen (known as NOx) in the atmosphere, which can cause acidification and the rate of the resulting nitrogen deposition which can act as a fertilizer

    - Climate change – direct impacts of climate change - of the 32 priority habitats in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, seven were assessed to be at high risk from the direct impacts of climate change with only standing waters, floodplain and grazing marsh being applicable to Leeds – the others being either mountain or coastal habitats

21. Planning policy has the potential to affect these pathways and make effects more likely in a number of ways as follows:

    Water Quality Surface Water Run Off

    - Development within Leeds MD could lead to the conversion of previously undeveloped land to hardstanding and therefore increase surface water runoff, which could reach some European Sites. Surface water could become contaminated by sediment, plastic and chemicals from development sites and roads. Leeds District has two main rivers the Aire and the Wharfe. The Aire and

Wharfe catchments flow through Leeds, with the Aire catchment ultimately feeding into the Humber Estuary, as well as minor water courses. Therefore, the European sites that are susceptible to surface water runoff are possibly the Humber Estuary. However, this is 40km outside of the MD.

Water Quality (Discharge of Treated Sewage Effluent)

- Development within Leeds MD may lead to increased sewage production, particularly if it is residential. There is therefore a risk that an increase in the volume of treated sewage effluent from the wastewater treatment works that serve Leeds could degrade water quality (i.e. through increased phosphorus discharge) of river based European Sites when in the absence of environmental mitigation and adequate wastewater treatment work permits. Therefore, European sites that are susceptible to surface water runoff are possibly the Humber Estuary.

Hydrological Changes, including Water Abstraction

- Development within Leeds MD may lead to increased water use within the area and potentially increased water abstraction, particularly, although not exclusively, associated with increased housing. Increased water abstraction could lead to a reduction in the volume of freshwater in rivers. Abstraction is managed by the Water Resources Management Plan Yorkshire Water Services Ltd April 2020.

- The rivers have Abstraction Licensing Strategies managed by the Environment Agency. The WRMP carried out an HRA screening assessment and concluded that no adverse effect on integrity of any European Sites would occur from delivery of the WRMP. Since the purpose of the WRMP is to set out how the water company intends to meet public water supply requirements up to 2045 it covers the period of the LLP.

Recreational Pressure

- Increased residential development within Leeds MD may increase the number of visitors to European Sites. In general recreational pressure is likely to arise from habitat destruction via abrasion and vegetation trampling or where features (i.e. breeding and wintering birds) are easily disturbed by human presence.

Air Quality

- Development within the Leeds MD is likely to increase the number of vehicles operating within the MD. As a result, increased air pollution is expected from vehicle emissions relative to a situation without growth. Pollutants released from vehicles may be carried directly by wind currents and deposited to European Sites or pollutants may become soluble and taken up during evaporation and deposited to European Sites at precipitation. This generally occurs within 200m of significant roads, so the potential for development to contribute to traffic to roads within 200m of European Sites alone and in combination with neighbouring authorities will be of relevance.

Climate Change

- Climate change includes both global warming driven by human emissions of greenhouse gases and the resulting large-scale shifts in weather patterns. The changing climate is beginning to have an impact on ecosystems and this impact is expected to increase and accelerate in the future, threatening the conservation of biodiversity. Changes can be summarised as follows:c in phenology (biological lifecycles), which may lead to loss of synchrony between species; changes in species distribution, including the arrival of non-native species and potentially loss of species for which suitable climate conditions disappear; changes in community composition; changes in ecosystem function; and loss of physical space due to sea level rise and increased storminess.

- Indirect impacts of climate change on European Sites can include: water resource issues and catchment management with increased water abstraction and flood control; woodlands with increased planting for carbon sequestration or production of biomass for renewable energy generation. These drivers could promote more intensive management systems or tree planting on semi-natural habitats.

22. Bothe the spatial strategy that the Council sets as a preferred option in due course and site allocations or designations for development may give rise to LSEs and will be assessed in detail at the next stage of plan-making.

23. In previous site allocations plans the Council has identified that there is the prospect for Likely Significant Effects (LSE) in relation to the South Pennine Moors (Phase 2) SPA and SAC arising from recreational pressures from new housing development proposals. An appropriate assessment was carried out as a result and that concluded that measures that improved alternative recreational destinations would mitigate effects.

Conclusion

24. This HRA early screening document sets out the framework against which an HRA Screening Assessment will be carried out against publication draft policies at the next stage of plan-making.

25. It clarifies the important nature conservation sites that need to be considered, their attributes and vulnerabilities to development pressure.

26. It considers at an early stage the potential impacts that the objectives of the LLP may have on LSEs that will help guide an HRA at the next stage.

Appendix 1: European Designations, Conservation objectives and qualifying features which relate to site

European Site	National (SSSI) and European Conservation Objectives for Each SAC/SPA	Location Relative to Leeds	Qualifying Features
SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPA) ***also a Ramsar Site**			
SOUTH PENNINE MOORS PHASE 2	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,	Partly within the Leeds MD Boundary, north eastern corner at Ilkley Moor	*Falco columbarius*; Merlin (Breeding) *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (Breeding) Breeding bird assemblage – Golden Plover; Lapwing; Dunlin; Snipe; Curlew; Redshank; Common Sandpiper; Short-eared Owl; Whinchat; Wheatear; Ring Ouzel; Twite.

European Site	National (SSSI) and European Conservation Objectives for Each SAC/SPA	Location Relative to Leeds	Qualifying Features
	• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.		
NORTH PENNINE MOORS	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.	Over 3km north west of Leeds	*Circus cyaneus*; Hen harrier (Breeding) *Falco columbarius*; Merlin (Breeding) *Falco peregrinus*; Peregrine falcon (Breeding) *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (Breeding)
***HUMBER ESTUARY**	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and	Approx. 26.5 km east of Leeds, downstream of the	*Botaurus stellaris*; Great bittern (Non-breeding) *Botaurus stellaris*; Great bittern (Breeding) *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding)

European Site	National (SSSI) and European Conservation Objectives for Each SAC/SPA	Location Relative to Leeds	Qualifying Features
	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.	River Aire and River Wharfe	*Circus aeruginosus*; Eurasian marsh harrier (Breeding) *Circus cyaneus*; Hen harrier (Non-breeding) *Recurvirostra avosetta*; Pied avocet (Non-breeding) *Recurvirostra avosetta*; Pied avocet (Breeding) *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (Non-breeding) *Calidris canutus*; Red knot (Non-breeding) *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (Non-breeding) *Philomachus pugnax*; Ruff (Non-breeding) *Limosa limosa islandica*; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding) *Limosa lapponica*; Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding) *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding) *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding) Waterbird assemblage - in the non-breeding season, the area regularly supports 153,934 individual waterbirds (five year peak mean 1996/97 – 2000/01), including dark-bellied brent goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, wigeon *Anas penelope*, teal *Anas crecca*, mallard *Anas*
SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SAC)			
NORTH PENNINE MOORS	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	Over 3km north west of Leeds	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath European dry heaths *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands Calaminarian grasslands of the *Violetalia calaminariae*; Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands; Montane acid grasslands

European Site	National (SSSI) and European Conservation Objectives for Each SAC/SPA	Location Relative to Leeds	Qualifying Features
	Features, by maintaining or restoring; • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site.		Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone Blanket bogs Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*); Hard-water springs depositing lime Alkaline fens; Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani*); Acidic scree Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Plants in crevices on acid rocks Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles; Western acidic oak woodland *Saxifraga hirculus*; Marsh saxifrage
KIRK DEIGHTON	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	Approx. 500 m north of Leeds (north east corner)	*Triturus cristatus*; Great crested newt

European Site	National (SSSI) and European Conservation Objectives for Each SAC/SPA	Location Relative to Leeds	Qualifying Features
	Features, by maintaining or restoring; • The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site.		
SOUTH PENNINE MOORS	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	Within the Leeds MD Boundary, north eastern-most corner at Hawksworth Moor	Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath European dry heaths Blanket bogs* Transition mires and quaking bogs; Very wet mires often identified by an unstable `quaking` surface Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles

European Site	National (SSSI) and European Conservation Objectives for Each SAC/SPA	Location Relative to Leeds	Qualifying Features
	• The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats, and, • The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely		
DENBY GRANGE COLLIERY PONDS	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 habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function of habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely • The populations of qualifying species, and,	Approx. 7 km to the south of the Leeds District boundary.	*Triturus cristatus*; Great crested newt

European Site	National (SSSI) and European Conservation Objectives for Each SAC/SPA	Location Relative to Leeds	Qualifying Features
	• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.		
*HUMBER ESTUARY	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 and habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and,	Approx. 26.5 km east of Leeds, downstream of the River Aire and River Wharfe	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Subtidal sandbanks Estuaries Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats Coastal lagoons *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) Embryonic shifting dunes Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes"); Shifting dunes with marram Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); Dune grassland Dunes with *Hippophae rhamnoides*; Dunes with sea-buckthorn *Petromyzon marinus*; Sea lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*; River lamprey *Halichoerus grypus*; Grey seal

European Site	National (SSSI) and European Conservation Objectives for Each SAC/SPA	Location Relative to Leeds	Qualifying Features
	• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.		

Kirk Deighton Special Area of Conservation (SAC) - Site Improvement Plan

Priority and issue	Action No.	Action Wording
Change in Land management	1A	Restoration of the over-mature hedgerows within the SAC to improve commuting, hibernation, resting and foraging habitat for Great crested newts.
	1B	Aim to protect (through the planning process) terrestrial habitat and ponds outwith the SAC which are considered likely to support the metapopulation of Great crested newts linked to the SAC.
Habitat Fragmentation	2A	Conduct a survey to identify great crested newt breeding/feeding ponds outwith the SAC which are likely to support newts from the SAC's metapopulation. This will add to our understanding of the habitat requirements of the SAC great crested newt population
	2B	Once the metapopulation investigation data is available consider the need for new pond/s, suitable for breeding great crested newts, within the SAC, working with the Environment Agency who will act in an advisory role.

Appendix 2 – Early screening of the LLP objectives and potential LSEs that wi

Proposed Objective	Potential Pathways	Proposed Screening Consideration
1. Identify land for 76,817 homes to deliver the 69,834 new homes required to meet local housing needs across the district using Government methods between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2042	Potential site allocations could be identified as preferred options that are close to important nature conservation sites	May generate a Likely Significant Effect subject to preferred site allocations options at next stage of plan-making
2. Deliver significantly more affordable houses in all communities at a level of affordability that meets local needs, taking advantage of a variety of delivery mechanisms and site attributes, including land value capture from Green Belt sites where suitable	Potential site allocations could be identified as preferred options that are close to important nature conservation sites	May generate a Likely Significant Effect subject to preferred site allocations options at next stage of plan-making
3. Deliver a locally evidenced mix of housing across the district: including homes of the right type and size, significantly more homes to meet specialist needs for older people and disabled people, alongside homes to meet the needs of the district's student population and, co-living, self-build and custom built housing	Potential site allocations could be identified as preferred options that are close to important nature conservation sites	May generate a Likely Significant Effect subject to preferred site allocations options at next stage of plan-making
4. Deliver permanent pitches for Gypsies and Travellers to meet their needs in suitable locations, alongside provision for negotiated stopping pitches for travelling families and meet the needs of travelling showpeople	Potential site allocations could be identified as preferred options that are close to important nature conservation sites	May generate a Likely Significant Effect subject to preferred site allocations options at next stage of plan-making
5. Identify locations to deliver at least 550,000 sqm office floorspace, focussed on the expanded City Centre and public transport hubs, to meet the needs of commercial businesses	Potential site allocations could be identified as preferred options that are close to important nature conservation sites	May generate a Likely Significant Effect subject to preferred site allocations options at next stage of plan-making
6. Support the delivery of retail and leisure developments in the expanded City Centre, local and town centres, in key public transport hubs and as part of mixed-use allocations, whilst curbing the impacts of unhealthy shops in particular locations	No negative pathways given the nature of the objective	No likely significant effect
7. Safeguard existing employment land in suitable locations across the District and identify new sites and locations to deliver a minimum of 2 million sqm of floorspace (approximately 575ha in land terms) for industrial and logistics uses, to contribute towards the national industrial strategy and meet the sectoral needs of the local and regional economy focussed largely on existing key employment hubs and new opportunities largely focussed in the south and east of the District	Potential site allocations could be identified as preferred options that are close to important nature conservation sites	May generate a Likely Significant Effect subject to preferred site allocations options at next stage of plan-making
8. Ensure a steady and adequate supply of the minerals that are needed in Leeds, by maximising the use of secondary and recycled aggregates, marine aggregates and	Potential site allocations could be identified as preferred options	May generate a Likely Significant Effect subject to preferred site

Proposed Objective		Potential Pathways	Proposed Screening Consideration
	safeguarding sand and gravel resources, whilst reflecting efforts to reduce carbon emissions by not safeguarding shale gas nor coal for the future	that are close to important nature conservation sites	allocations options at next stage of plan-making
9.	Reduce waste and increase recycling and energy recovery from waste within the district by providing sufficient waste management facilities in the right locations	Potential site allocations could be identified as preferred options that are close to important nature conservation sites	May generate a Likely Significant Effect subject to preferred site allocations options at next stage of plan-making
10.	Increase the amount, quality and accessibility of green space across the district to help address local needs	No negative pathways given the nature of the objective	No likely significant effect
11.	Significantly increase energy generation from renewable sources by supporting and identifying opportunities for renewable energy generation, storage and distribution	Potential designations could be identified as preferred options that are close to important nature conservation sites	May generate a Likely Significant Effect subject to preferred site allocations options at next stage of plan-making
12.	Define an updated Green Belt boundary for the district that keeps land permanently open in the countryside and ensures sufficient opportunities through sustainable urban extensions where necessary, to meet its development needs for the plan period	No negative pathways given the nature of the objective	No likely significant effect
13.	To define an updated settlement network for the district that takes account of the character of different places and their service provision to clarify their role in delivering development	No negative pathways given the nature of the objective	No likely significant effect
14.	Deliver housing on suitable sites focusing most of the development within complete, compact and connected places where people have opportunities to walk or wheel between homes, shops, services and green spaces, whilst maximising the benefits of investment, realising opportunities for positive local change, and responding to environmental constraints. Spatially this means focussing most new homes in an expanded city centre, within growth corridor opportunities in South-West Leeds and West Leeds and on sequentially most sustainable sites within the remainder of the district that meet needs for local housing, especially affordable and specialist housing	Potential preferred spatial strategy on basis of this objective could create more likelihood of development on sites close to important nature conservation sites	May generate a Likely Significant Effect subject to preferred site allocations options at next stage of plan-making
15.	Be better connected by maintaining and enhancing an accessible and integrated transport system that links people to jobs and services and makes best use of the rail and canal infrastructure for moving freight	Potential impact on waterways and mainly seeking to reduce air pollution from transport	May generate a Likely Significant Effect subject to preferred site allocations options at next stage of plan-making
16.	Direct a significant proportion of development to locations where it has potential to stimulate and support wider investment, regeneration and inclusive growth	Potential preferred spatial strategy on basis of this objective	May generate a Likely Significant Effect subject to preferred site

Proposed Objective	Potential Pathways	Proposed Screening Consideration
	could create more likelihood of development on sites in City Centre which may impact upon River Aire	allocations options at next stage of plan-making
17. Align development with existing and planned infrastructure investment, ensuring that all development is adequately supported by the necessary social and physical infrastructure	No negative pathways given the nature of the objective	No likely significant effect
18. Ensure that development is located and designed to offer people a genuine opportunity to participate in sustainable and active modes of transport	No negative pathways given the nature of the objective	No likely significant effect
19. Make use of all suitably located, available and deliverable previously developed and underutilised sites	Potential site allocations could be identified as preferred options that are close to important nature conservation sites	May generate a Likely Significant Effect subject to preferred site allocations options at next stage of plan-making
20. Secure an uplift in the density of development throughout the district, with a particular focus on higher density developments in and around an expanded City Centre, town and local centres, and places that are well served by public transport	Potential site allocations could be identified as preferred options that are close to important nature conservation sites	May generate a Likely Significant Effect subject to preferred site allocations options at next stage of plan-making
21. Ensure that new developments are located and designed to reduce and mitigate flood risk, and manage water, taking into account the impacts of climate change	No negative pathways given the nature of the objective	No likely significant effect
22. Define an updated Green Belt boundary for the district that keeps land permanently open in the countryside and ensures sufficient opportunities through sustainable urban extensions where necessary, to meet its development needs for the plan period	No negative pathways given the nature of the objective	No likely significant effect
23. To define an updated settlement network for the district that takes account of the character of different places and their service provision to clarify their role in delivering development	Potential preferred spatial strategy on basis of this objective could create more likelihood of development on sites close to important nature conservation sites	May generate a Likely Significant Effect subject to preferred site allocations options at next stage of plan-making
24. Deliver housing on suitable sites focusing most of the development within complete, compact and connected places where people have opportunities to walk or wheel between homes, shops, services and green spaces, whilst maximising the benefits of investment, realising opportunities for positive local change, and responding to environmental constraints. Spatially this means	Potential preferred spatial strategy on basis of this objective could create more likelihood of development on sites close to	May generate a Likely Significant Effect subject to preferred site allocations options at next stage of plan-making

Proposed Objective		Potential Pathways	Proposed Screening Consideration
	focussing most new homes in an expanded city centre, within growth corridor opportunities in South-West Leeds and West Leeds and on sequentially most sustainable sites within the remainder of the district that meet needs for local housing, especially affordable and specialist housing	important nature conservation sites	
25.	Be better connected by maintaining and enhancing an accessible and integrated transport system that links people to jobs and services and makes best use of the rail and canal infrastructure for moving freight	No negative pathways given the nature of the objective	No likely significant effect
26.	Secure the delivery of high quality, sustainable and resilient places that people of all demographics want to live, work and play in	No negative pathways given the nature of the objective	No likely significant effect
27.	Sustain and protect valued community facilities, to maximise social, environmental and economic benefits for residents across the district	No negative pathways given the nature of the objective	No likely significant effect
28.	Sustain and enhance important heritage assets in all communities and locations, by maintaining heritage buildings, proactively planning for future maintenance and change and recognising the role that they play in the quality of place and quality of life for District and its people	No negative pathways given the nature of the objective	No likely significant effect
29.	Increase the re-use of buildings and their construction materials	No negative pathways given the nature of the objective	No likely significant effect
30.	Protect, enhance and increase the amount of green and blue infrastructure across the District	No negative pathways given the nature of the objective	No likely significant effect
31.	Protect and enhance biodiversity throughout the District, particularly by requiring new development to deliver net gains and be designed with the environment as a priority, to maintain healthy ecosystems, ensure healthy residents and address climate change	No negative pathways given the nature of the objective	No likely significant effect
32.	Ensure that development is constructed to sustainable construction standards so that they do not need to be retrofitted in the future and use resources, such as water, wisely as well as protecting the water environment from pollution	No negative pathways given the nature of the objective	No likely significant effect
33.	Minimise the use of carbon through the design of new development including through assessing its whole life cycle carbon emissions and adopting sustainable construction standards so as to deliver high quality zero carbon ready buildings that do not need to be retrofitted in the future	No negative pathways given the nature of the objective	No likely significant effect
34.	To maximise local energy resilience by encouraging Heat Networks that take advantage of low carbon heat generated in the district and by encouraging large scale development to create new local networks served by low or zero carbon energy	No negative pathways given the nature of the objective	No likely significant effect

Proposed Objective	Potential Pathways	Proposed Screening Consideration
35. Strengthen the role of Leeds city centre and the 62 local centres across the district to improve their vitality and viability and provide a hub for local services for communities	Potential preferred spatial strategy on basis of this objective could create more likelihood of development on sites close to important nature conservation sites	May generate a Likely Significant Effect subject to preferred site allocations options at next stage of plan-making
36. Promote and protect valued culture, leisure and tourism related development across the district to support a vibrant and sustainable visitor economy and improve health and wellbeing for residents	Potential preferred spatial strategy on basis of this objective could create more likelihood of development on sites close to important nature conservation sites	May generate a Likely Significant Effect subject to preferred site allocations options at next stage of plan-making
37. Ensure no development will impose unacceptable effects on the health, amenity or natural environment of the surrounding area, considering existing sources of air pollution in the vicinity	No negative pathways given the nature of the objective	No likely significant effect
38. Protect and enhance areas of landscape importance across the district, from farmland, semi-natural habitats, river valleys and former quarries to former industrial land and urban parks, so as to guide change within landscapes and maintain a sense of place for the district	No negative pathways given the nature of the objective	No likely significant effect
39. Promote the role of the countryside through supporting the rural economy whilst protecting and enhancing local character and the environment	No negative pathways given the nature of the objective	No likely significant effect