

Draft Habitats Regulations Appraisal Summer 2013

Carlisle District Local Plan 2015-2030 Preferred Options Consultation



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SCREENING REPORT FOR DRAFT HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

Carlisle District Local Plan 2015 – 2030 Preferred Options

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Carlisle City Council is drafting a district wide Local Plan, (the Carlisle District Local Plan 2015 – 2030 Preferred Options), (CDLP PO). The Plan will contain strategic policies for growth, detailed development management policies and allocations of land for development. When adopted, the Local Plan will form the Council's statutory policy framework for planning, and will shape and guide future development to 2030.
- 1.2 The Local Plan has reached the Preferred Options stage. Prior to this, and pre-publication of the NPPF, the Council had undertaken a first draft of a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) of the Issues and Options stage of the then Core Strategy, (appendix A). The approach taken in the first draft was endorsed by Natural England. The Plan will continue to subject to a HRA at each stage of its development.
- 1.3 This report sets out the next stage of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal process for the Local Plan. The aim of the report is to make sure that the Plan making process complies with the Habitats Directive, identify any policies that are likely to have a significant effect on European Site(s) and ensure that policies within the Plan avoid any likely significant effect on European sites

2.0 Deciding whether a plan should be subject to Habitats Regulations Appraisal

- 2.1 The first stage in the appraisal process is to establish whether the relevant plan should be subject to Habitats Regulations Appraisal.
- 2.2 Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the Habitats Regulations) require local planning authorities to undertake a Habitats Regulations Appraisal for all land use plans. The Carlisle District Local Plan (Preferred Options) is a land use plan that will be subject to such an assessment.

- 2.3 The Regulations require that any potential effects on European sites arising out of the implementation of policies and proposal in a land use plan are considered in an iterative process from the earliest stage of plan making.
- 2.4 A Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) is required to ensure the protection of sites identified under the Natura 2000 network as sites of exceptional importance in respect of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species within the European community. These sites are collectively known as European sites and European Offshore Marine Sites. They consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). As a matter of policy the Government expects listed Ramsar sites to be assessed as if they were fully designated European sites.
- 2.5 The purpose of an HRA is to ensure that the proposals of any plan or project, or the cumulative effect of a number of plans or projects, will not adversely affect the integrity of any European sites. The 'integrity' of the site is defined in ODPM Circular 06/2005: (Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and their impact within the Planning System) 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 levels of populations of species for which it was classified*.
- 2.6 Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that any plan or project which is not directly connected with, or necessary to the management of, a European site, but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site, either individually or in combinations with other plans and projects, shall be subject to an 'appropriate assessment' of its implications for the European site in view of the site's 'conservation objectives'. An Appropriate Assessment is only one particular stage in the process of Habitats Regulations Appraisal.
- 2.7 Not all of the policies and site allocations will reach the stage of Appropriate Assessment, because many of the policies and allocations would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site.
- 2.8 The purpose of the HRA is to determine whether or not significant effects are likely and to suggest ways in which they could be avoided. An effect is significant if it could adversely affect the integrity of the site in terms of its nature conservation objectives. Where potential negative effects are identified, other policy options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects.

The appraisal is therefore carried out having regard to the conservation objectives for which a European site has been designated, and its integrity in relation to its ability to support those objectives.

3.0 Identifying European Sites that should be considered in the HRA

3.1 As part of the process, the HRA identifies the European sites that should be considered in the appraisal, both within and adjacent to Carlisle District.

3.2 It is important to ensure that all sites that are potentially affected are considered as part of the appraisal, but it has been equally important to avoid excessive data gathering about sites that are not likely to be affected. The following European sites have therefore been included:

- sites within the Local Plan area;
- sites upstream or downstream of the River Eden SAC;
- peatland and other wetland sites with hydrological links to the Local Plan area;
- sites with significant ecological links, for example sites used by migratory birds, which may be outside the Plan area but link with sites in the Plan area;
- sites within a reasonable travel distance of the Plan area that may be affected by local recreational or other visitor pressure from within the Plan area, (for example sites which are also National Nature Reserves);
- sites that are used for, or could be affected by, water abstraction, for example the River Eden at Cumwhinton Water Treatment Works at Wetheral Pastures;
- sites used for, or affected by, discharge of effluent from wastewater treatment works, e.g. the River Eden in Carlisle (Willowholme Sewage Works);
- sites that could be affected by transport or other infrastructure;
- sites that could be affected by increased deposition of air pollutants arising from the proposals, including emissions from significant increases in traffic; and
- sites that are part of a coastal ecosystem.

3.3 The following is a list of European sites within or partially within the Local Plan boundary:

- Upper Solway Flats and Marshes Ramsar;

- Upper Solway Flats and Marshes SPA;
- Solway Firth SAC;
- River Eden SAC;
- Border Mires, Kielder-Butterburn SAC;
- Irthinghead Mires Ramsar;
- North Pennines Moors SAC;
- North Pennine Moors SPA;
- North Pennine Dales Meadow SAC; and
- Walton Moss SAC.

3.4 The following sites lie outside the Carlisle District boundary, but may be affected by the Plan:

- Moorhouse-Upper Teasdale SAC;
- Roman Wall Loughs SAC;
- Langholm-Newcastleton Hills SPA;
- Raeburn Flow SAC;
- South Solway Mosses SAC; and
- Tyne and Allen River Gravels SAC.

3.5 Definitions:

- A Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is an area which has been given special protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive. SACs provide increased protection to a variety of wild animals, plants and habitats and are a vital part of global efforts to conserve the world's biodiversity.
- A Special Protection Area (SPA) is an area of land, water or sea which has been identified as being of international importance for the breeding, feeding wintering or the migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds found within the European Union. SPAs are European designated sites, classified under the European Wild Birds directive which affords them enhanced protection.

- A Ramsar Site is a wetland of international importance, designated under the Ramsar convention.

4.0 Information gathering about the European Sites

4.1 This stage has involved obtaining, examining and understanding the citation (or equivalent document) and map of each European site and the conservation objectives for each qualifying interest of each site potentially affected. In addition the site vulnerabilities have been recorded, together with any available information on the condition of each site.

4.2 This information has been gathered from JNCC, Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage. Many of the conservation objectives are generic information from the natural England web-site, as more detailed site specific objectives were not available. This information is contained within the following set of tables:

Table 1 – European Sites

Site	Designation Status and date	Qualifying interests	Conservation Objectives	Site summary
Upper Solway Flats and Marshes	Ramsar. 30/11/1992 Carlisle District; Allerdale District; Dumfries and Galloway	Ramsar criterion 2 Supports over 10% of the British population of natterjack toad <i>Bufo calamita</i> (Habitats Directive Annex IV species (S1202)) Ramsar criterion 5 Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter: 135720 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)	For the wetland which hosts internationally important populations of natterjack toad <i>Bufo calamita</i> : Subject to natural change, maintain the habitats which host the endangered populations of natterjack toad <i>Bufo calamita</i> in favourable condition, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saltmarsh communities. For the internationally important wetland, regularly supporting 20,000 or more waterbird:	The site lies on the west coast on the border between England and Scotland. The flats and marshes of the Upper Solway form one of the largest continuous areas of intertidal habitat in Britain. The geomorphology and vegetation of the estuarine saltmarshes or meres are of international importance, with broad transitions to mature 'upper-marsh' being particularly well represented. The whole estuarine complex is of importance for wintering wildfowl (ducks, geese and

		<p>Ramsar criterion 6 Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Eurasian oystercatcher. Species with peak counts in winter: Whooper swan, Pink-footed goose , Barnacle goose, Northern pintail , Greater scaup, Red knot, Bar-tailed godwit, Eurasian curlew, Common redshank.</p>	<p>Subject to natural change, maintain the wetland regularly supporting 20,000 or more waterfowl in favourable condition, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saltmarsh communities • Intertidal mudflats and sandflats • Intertidal rocky scar ground • Subtidal sandbanks <p>For the internationally important wetland, regularly supporting 1% or more of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterfowl:</p> <p>Subject to natural change, maintain the wetland regularly supporting 1% or more of the individuals in a population of one species or sub-species of waterfowl in favourable condition, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saltmarsh communities • Intertidal mudflats and sandflats • Intertidal rocky scar ground • Subtidal sandbanks. 	<p>swans) and waders, and is a vital link in a chain of west coast UK estuaries used by migrating waterbirds. The SPA supports virtually all of the Svalbard population of Barnacle Goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i> over the winter.</p>
<p>Factors currently influencing the site/site condition: Changes to water quality. Increasing recreational use. Changes in habitat or agricultural management within or adjacent to site. The site is divided into a large number of units for condition assessment purposes. The last condition assessments were carried out over the period 2006 – 2010, at which time the majority of units were classified as in favourable condition with some unfavourable recovering.</p>				
<p>Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Local Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential death or injury to SPA birds and Marine Conservation area mammals through installation and operation of offshore wind farms; • Overgrazing of salt meadows – though this impact is not considered to be relevant to Policies in the Local Plan; • Natural coast processes – these may be interfered with as a result of works such as flood defence works; • Disturbance of bird roosts and foraging areas by human activity – as a result of increased housing, employment, tourism along the coastal area; • Water-based recreation resulting in injury or death to wildlife, pollution, litter and erosion of habitats; • Fisheries – potential for increased pressure on resources as a result of increased population, and hence increases in fishing, and damage of marine benthic habitat directly through fishing methods 				

Between 550 and 650 new houses are planned for Carlisle between 2020 and 2030. (From 2015-2020 there is an existing 5 year supply). This could lead to a proportional increase in recreational use of the area and in traffic, although many of the sites are remote.

Policy 12 encourages tourism development to support the economy of the area. This could lead to increased visitor pressure in the area.

Site	Designation Status and date	Qualifying interests	Conservation Objectives	Site summary
Solway Firth	SAC 20/05/2004	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time; • estuaries; • mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals not colonising mud and sand; • Atlantic salt meadows. <p>Annex 1 habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reefs; • perennial vegetation of stony banks; • fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation, (grey dunes) *priority feature; <p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea lamprey; • River lamprey. 	<p>Subject to natural change, avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (Estuaries, Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time, Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, Reefs, <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand and Atlantic salt meadows) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying interests.</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extent of the habitat on site; • distribution of the habitat within site; • structure and function of the habitat • processes supporting the habitat • distribution of typical species of the habitat • viability of typical species as components of the habitat • no significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat. 	<p>Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (90%) Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes (10%).</p>

Factors currently influencing the site:

Changes to water quality. Increasing recreational use. Changes in habitat or agricultural management within or adjacent to site.

The site is divided into a large number of units for condition assessment purposes. The last condition assessments were carried out over the period 2006 – 2010, at which time the majority of units were classified as in favourable condition with some unfavourable recovering.

Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Local Plan:

This large site is subject to a number of activities. These include flood defence and coastal erosion work, fishing and shellfisheries (including a cockle fishery which is currently closed to allow stocks to recover), wind turbine development, saltmarsh/merse grazing, and oil and gas exploration.

Between 550 and 650 new houses are planned for Carlisle between 2020 and 2030. (From 2015-2020 there is an existing 5 year supply). This could lead to a proportional increase in recreational use of the area and in traffic, although many of the sites are remote.

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Site	Designation Status and date	Qualifying interests	Conservation Objectives	Site summary
Upper Solway Flats and Marshes	SPA 30/11/1992	<p>This 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>Over winter; Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>; Barnacle Goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i>; Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>; Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>.</p> <p>This site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:</p> <p>On passage; Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>;</p> <p>Over winter; Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>; Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>; Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>; Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>; Pink-footed Goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>; Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>; Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>.</p> <p>Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.</p> <p>The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by</p>	<p>Subject to natural change, maintain in favourable condition the habitats of the internationally important populations of the regularly occurring Annex 1 species, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extent and sward height of saltmarsh communities; • intertidal mudflats and sandflats as roosting and feeding grounds. <p>Subject to natural change, maintain in favourable condition the habitats of the regularly occurring internationally important migratory waterfowl present during the winter, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extent and sward height of saltmarsh communities; • extent and species diversity of intertidal mudflat and sandflat communities; • extent and species diversity of intertidal rocky scar communities. <p>Subject to natural change, maintain in favourable condition the habitats of the internationally important assemblage of waterfowl, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extent and sward height of saltmarsh communities; • extent and species diversity of intertidal mudflat and sandflat communities; • extent of pioneer saltmarsh 	<p>The site lies on the west coast on the border between England and Scotland. The flats and marshes of the Upper Solway form one of the largest continuous areas of intertidal habitat in Britain. The geomorphology and vegetation of the estuarine saltmarshes or merses are of international importance, with broad transitions to mature 'upper-marsh' being particularly well represented. The whole estuarine complex is of importance for wintering wildfowl (ducks, geese and swans) and waders, and is a vital link in a chain of west coast UK estuaries used by migrating waterbirds. The SPA supports virtually all of the Svalbard population of Barnacle Goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i> over the winter.</p>

		regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl.	communities; • extent and species diversity of intertidal rocky scar communities; • extent and species diversity of subtidal sandbank communities.	
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Factors currently influencing the site:

Changes to water quality. Increasing recreational use. Changes in habitat or agricultural management within or adjacent to site.

The site is divided into a large number of units for condition assessment purposes. The last condition assessments were carried out over the period 2006 – 2010, at which time the majority of units were classified as in favourable condition with some unfavourable recovering.

Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Local Plan:

There has been relatively little land claim compared with most other estuaries in the UK but some established and new flood defence and coastal erosion works may exacerbate erosion elsewhere within the site. The cockle fishery has been closed for a number of years due to overexploitation and the other commercial, traditional and shell fisheries are regulated by Government to ensure that they are carried out in a sustainable way and that their impact on bird feeding areas are not significant. Roosts and feeding areas are vulnerable to disturbance.

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Site	Designation Status and date	Qualifying interests	Conservation Objectives	Site summary
River Eden	SAC April 2005	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoeto Nanojuncetea</i>; Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation; Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>).</p> <p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: white clawed (Atlantic stream) crayfish; sea lamprey; brook lamprey, river lamprey; Atlantic salmon; bullhead; otter.</p>	<p>Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.</p> <p>Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; • the structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; • the supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; • the populations of qualifying species; • The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	<p>Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (1%) Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) (93.4%) Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (3%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (2.6%).</p>

Factors currently influencing the site/site condition:

Changes to water quality. Water abstraction. Increasing recreational use. Changes in habitat or agricultural management within or adjacent to site. Changes to river channel including artificial reinforcement of banks. Housing and other development within catchment. Climate change including increased rainfall.

Floating formations of water crowfoot – unfavourable condition.

Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Local Plan:

The maintenance of breeding and nursery areas for the species on this site depends on the habitat quality of streams and their margins. Many of the streams within the site suffer from overgrazing of riverbanks and nutrient run-off. This is being addressed by a number of measures, including a conservation strategy with actions to address river quality issues, and a partnership approach to funding habitat improvements. The water-crowfoot communities as well as the species are sensitive to water quality, particularly eutrophication. Again, actions have been identified for getting improvements in water quality and they will be carried forward in the periodic reviews of water company expenditure and reviews of consents under the Habitats Regulations. Practices associated with sheep-dipping pose a potential threat at this site, and are currently under investigation. Much of the alluvial forest cover is fragmented and/or in poor condition. It is hoped to address this through management agreements or Woodland Grant Schemes with individual owners.

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Site	Designation Status and date	Qualifying interests	Conservation Objectives	Site summary
Border Mires, Kielder/Butterburn	SAC April 2005	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • blanket bogs; • transition mires and quaking bogs. <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>; • European dry heaths; • Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>cratoneurion</i>)* priority feature. 	<p>Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.</p> <p>Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ the extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ➤ the structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ➤ the supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; ➤ the populations of qualifying species; ➤ the distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	<p>Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (80%) Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana (18%) Coniferous woodland (1%) Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites) (1%).</p>
<p>Factors currently influencing the site/condition status: Climate change including increased rainfall, or prolonged dry periods leading to increased risk of fires.</p> <p>Unfavourable recovering.</p>				

Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Local Plan:

Forestry drainage and conifer planting (including natural seeding) has encroached onto the bogs. This has resulted in drying-out and degradation of the habitat in places. A programme of rehabilitation of bogs damaged by forestry is underway, based on management plans covering a large proportion of the SAC. The sites within the Kielder Forest are largely ungrazed and are not burnt. This improves their condition and nature conservation value. However a small area (c. 10%) on the forest margins and on the highest elevation parts of the site are overgrazed by livestock and suffer some damage from burning. Future management will address this issue. Part of the SAC is within the Royal Air Force Spadeadam Base. Drains created in the bog in the past to form a dummy runway have caused some damage but rehabilitation has now been agreed with Ministry of Defence and plans to redevelop the RAF base will result in long-term improvements for the bogs and their catchments.

Site	Designation Status and date	Qualifying interests	Conservation Objectives	Site summary
Irthinghead Mires	<p>Ramsar Oct 1986</p> <p>A composite site embracing seven separate areas of mire, within Carlisle District and Northumberland.</p>	<p>Ramsar criterion 1: Supports an outstanding example of undamaged blanket bogs which are characteristic of the vegetation of upland north-western Britain. Most English (and many Scottish) blanket bogs have been extensively degraded by afforestation, burning, agricultural drainage and overgrazing. The Irthinghead Mires are one of few examples of this vegetation type in a near-natural state. There is also good representation of different topographic mire type and surface patterning.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 2 A notable variety of <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 3 Butterburn Flow several rare plants, whilst a rare spider, <i>Eboria caliginosa</i>, has been recorded at Coom Rogg Moss.</p>	<p>Appropriate grazing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No burning on bog habitat; • Maintenance of water levels and hydrological conditions; • Absence of nutrient enrichment • Absence of atmospheric pollution • High rainfall and low Evapotranspiration; • Bracken and scrub control; • Avoidance of erosion resulting from trampling, vehicles etc. 	<p>Irthinghead Mires comprises a series of five high quality blanket mires, Butterburn Flow, Haining Head Moss, Hummel Knowe Moss, Coom Rigg Moss and Felicia Moss. They occupy various topographical situations including extensive valley-side flows, saddle mires and convex watershed mires. The undamaged state of these mires together with the range of vegetation and morphological mire type makes this an outstanding complex.</p>
<p>Factors currently influencing the site/condition status</p> <p>The 1990 UK National Report stated that research carried out since 1987 had shown the mires to be gradually drying-out as a result of nearby afforestation. Management actions aimed at tackling this problem were being implemented in conjunction with the Forestry Commission.</p>				

Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Local Plan:

Climate change. Latest information shows no adverse factors reported.

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Site	Designation Status and date	Qualifying interests	Conservation Objectives	Site summary
North Pennines Moors	SAC Composite site comprising 11 separate sites in Carlisle District, Northumberland, Durham and North Yorkshire.	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European dry heaths; • <i>Juniperous communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; • blanket bogs; • petrifying springs with tufa formations; • siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; • old sessile oak woods with <i>illex</i> and <i>blechnum</i>. <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>; • Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>violetalia calaminariae</i>; • <i>Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands</i>; • semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates; • alkaline fens; • siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>galeopsietalia ladani</i>); • calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic 	<p>Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.</p> <p>Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ☐ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ☐ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; ☐ The populations of qualifying species; ☐ The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	<p>Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (41%) Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana (32%) Dry grassland. Steppes (26.5%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (0.5%).</p>

		<p>vegetation.</p> <p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> marsh saxifrage. 		
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Factors currently influencing the site/condition status:
 Excessive livestock grazing. Drainage of bogs. Over intensive and inappropriate burning.

Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Local Plan:
 The North Pennine Moors covers nearly 150,000 hectares and is largely heather moorland, either as blanket bog or drier heathland, with smaller associated areas of wetland, grassland, bracken, scrub, woodland and cliff. The habitats and qualifying breeding bird populations are mostly dependant upon stock grazing and burning at sympathetic levels. The continuation of these practices relies on their profitability, including any subsidy or incentive payments. Over-grazing, over-burning and other forms of intensive agricultural or sporting management (e.g. drainage) may be damaging. These issues are being partly addressed through management agreements and related incentives. Further legislation relating to Common land and reform of the Common Agricultural Policy would achieve sustainable solutions. Recreational activity may be problematic but is addressed through Site Management Statements and through continuing working with Local Authorities to manage access. There is evidence that acidic and nitrogen deposition are having damaging effects on the vegetation and hence on the bird populations. Such issues are being addressed through existing pollution control mechanisms. Within this large site there is scope to enhance many of the more natural habitats and species whilst maintaining the core SPA interests.

Site	Designation Status and date	Qualifying interests	Conservation Objectives	Site summary
North Pennines Moors	SPA Feb 2001 Composite site within Carlisle District, Northumberland, Durham and North Yorkshire.	ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) During the breeding season the area regularly supports: Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) 2.2% of the GB breeding population Count as at 1993 and 1994 Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) 10.5% of the GB breeding population Estimated population Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrines</i>) 1.3% of the GB breeding population Count as at 1991 Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) (North-western Europe - breeding) at least 6.2% of the GB breeding population Estimated population	Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive. Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: <input type="checkbox"/> The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features; <input type="checkbox"/> The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features; <input type="checkbox"/> The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely; <input type="checkbox"/> The populations of the qualifying features; <input type="checkbox"/> The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.	The site is situated in Cumbria, County Durham, Northumberland and North Yorkshire and includes parts of the moorland massif between the Tyne Gap (Hexham) and the Ribble-Aire corridor (Skipton). It encompasses extensive tracts of semi-natural moorland habitats. The site is of European importance for several upland breeding species, including birds of prey and waders. The southern end of the SPA is within 10 km of the South Pennine Moors SPA which supports a similar assemblage of upland breeding species. North Pennine Moors subsumes Moor House SPA, a site subject to separate classification.
<p>Factors currently influencing the site/condition status: North Pennine Moors SAC and SPA comprises sixteen component SSSI's. During the most recent Condition Assessment process, 9.8% of the component SSSI's combined were classified as 'area favourable,' 89.22% were classified as 'unfavourable recovering,' 0.5% were classified as 'unfavourable no change' and 0.4% were classified as unfavourable declining.' Between the condition assessments of 2011 and 2012 the following sites have either improved or declined.</p>				
<p>Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Local Plan: The North Pennine Moors covers nearly 150,000 hectares and is largely heather moorland, either as blanket bog or drier heathland, with smaller associated areas of wetland, grassland, bracken, scrub, woodland and cliff. The habitats and qualifying breeding bird populations are mostly dependant upon stock grazing and burning at sympathetic levels. The continuation of these practices relies on their profitability, including any subsidy or incentive payments. Over-grazing, over-burning and other forms of intensive agricultural or sporting management (e.g. drainage) may be damaging. These issues are being partly addressed through management agreements and related incentives. Further legislation relating to Common land and reform of the Common Agricultural Policy would achieve sustainable solutions. Recreational activity may be problematic but is addressed through Site Management Statements</p>				

and through continuing working with Local Authorities to manage access. There is evidence that acidic and nitrogen deposition are having damaging effects on the vegetation and hence on the bird populations. Such issues are being addressed through existing pollution control mechanisms. Within this large site there is scope to enhance many of the more natural habitats and species whilst maintaining the core SPA interests.

Site	Designation Status and date	Qualifying interests	Conservation Objectives	Site summary
North Pennine Dales Meadow	<p>SAC April 2005</p> <p>Carlisle District, Durham; Lancashire; North Yorkshire; Northumberland.</p>	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mountain hay meadows. <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>molinia</i> meadows on calcareous peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils. 	<p>Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.</p> <p>Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; • the structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; • the supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; • the populations of qualifying species; • the distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	<p>The site comprises a total area of approximately 497 hectares. Individual designated sites are located across the administrative boundaries of Cumbria, Durham, North Yorkshire, Northumberland and Lancashire</p> <p>The series of isolated fields that comprise this SAC encompass the range of variation exhibited by Mountain hay meadows in the UK and contains the major part of the remaining UK resources of this habitats type. The grasslands included within the SAC exhibit very limited effects of agricultural improvement and show good conservation of structure and function. A wide range of rare and local meadow species are contained within the meadows.</p>

Factors currently influencing the site/condition status:

The North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC comprises nine component SSSI's. During the most recent Condition Assessment process, 77% of the component SSSI's combined were classified as 'area favourable,' 18% were classified as 'unfavourable recovering,' and 5% were classified as 'unfavourable no change.' The status of the SSSI's have not changed between the condition assessments of 2011 and 2012 and no reason has been recorded for adverse condition.

However, from examination of the UK Air Pollution Information System it can be seen that North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC is currently subject to poor air quality.

Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Local Plan:

These grasslands are dependent upon traditional agricultural management, with hay-cutting and no or minimal use of agrochemicals. Such management is no longer economic. Management agreements and ESA payments are being used to promote the continuation of traditional management. The refining of the prescriptions underpinning these schemes in the light of the findings of monitoring programmes is an important, continuing, part of delivering favourable condition.

Site	Designation Status/date; Location	Qualifying interests	Conservation Objectives	Site summary
Walton Moss	SAC April 2005 Carlisle District.	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • active raised bogs (priority feature); • degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration. 	Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features. Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ➤ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ➤ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; ➤ The populations of qualifying species; ➤ The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (99%) Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland (1%) Active raised bogs for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

Factors currently influencing the site/condition status:

Management of the unit appears to be favourable. Whilst the site is a National Nature Reserve, there are no public rights of way crossing the site.

Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Local Plan:

Significant portions of this site support mire vegetation in near-favourable condition. Walton Moss includes land managed as a National Nature Reserve. Remedial measures will be necessary to enable its recovery to favourable conservation status from damage caused by previous land-drainage operations and inappropriate grazing regimes. A hydrological monitoring regime is in preparation to inform remedial measures and grazing on the site has been tackled by enclosure and by Countryside Stewardship agreements.

5.0 The Screening Process

- 5.1 A key part of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal is the 'screening process'. This determines whether an 'appropriate assessment' is required. It is important to remember that an 'appropriate assessment' is only required where the plan making body determines that the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
- 5.2 In screening the Preferred Options of the CDLP, it is important to be aware of the nature of the Plan. The Plan sets out a spatial portrait of the District which describes what the area is like now, and identifies the key economic, social and environmental characteristics of both the rural and urban parts of the area. It also sets out the Council's planning policies in the following areas:
- Spatial Strategy and Strategic Policies;
 - Economy;
 - Housing;
 - Infrastructure;
 - Climate Change and Flood Risk;
 - Health, Wellbeing and Community;
 - Heritage;
 - Green Infrastructure.
- 5.3 The Preferred Options also sets out allocations of land for housing and other development.
- 5.4 The following table records the categories which have been used to screen the policies and proposals of the Local Plan, preferred options stage.

Table 2 – policies screened out as not likely to have a significant effect on a European site

Aspects of the Local Plan (Preferred Options) which would <u>not</u> be likely to have a significant effect on a European site.	Identified parts of the Local Plan (Preferred Options)
<p>General policy statements:</p> <p>The policies listed are general policy statements or aspirations for growth either generally across the district, or more specific (e.g. university) and have been screened out of the appraisal because they are unlikely to have a significant effect on a European site.</p>	<p>Vision; Objectives; Policy S1 – Sustainable Development; Policy S2 – Spatial Strategy; Policy S5 – Regeneration and Strategic Retail in the City Centre and Botchergate; Policy S6 – University Development;</p> <p>Policy 4 – Primary Retail Areas; Policy 19 – Housing Strategy and Delivery (criteria 1 – 5); Policy 34 – Sustainable Transport; Policy 43 – Development, Energy Conservation and Efficiency;</p>
<p>Parts of the Local Plan excluded from the appraisal because they are not proposals generated by this Plan:</p> <p>This section screens out references to other plans and strategies, and specific proposals for projects referred to in, but not proposed by, the Local Plan.</p>	<p>Para 5.127 - Cumbria County Council 'Adult Social Care in Carlisle District Plan 2012-14'</p> <p>Elements of Policy 34 – Sustainable Transport, which relate to the Cumbria Local Transport Plan;</p> <p>Elements of Policy 38 – Drainage on Development Sites, which relate to the future development of Wetheral and Great Corby treatment works by United Utilities.</p> <p>Elements of Policy 53 – Protection of Groundwaters and Surface Waters, particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paragraph 8.59 which makes reference to the Eden and Esk Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2013) gives information about how much surface water and groundwater is available for further abstraction from the

	<p>main rivers and tributaries;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • para 8.60 which makes reference to the Environment Agency strategy 'Underground, Under Threat – The State of Groundwater in England and Wales'. <p>Policy 51 – Safeguarding Zones.</p>
<p>Policies in the Local Plan which protect the natural environment, including biodiversity, or conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment:</p>	<p>Policy S4 – Green Infrastructure; Policy 52 – Pollution; Policy 53 – Protection of Groundwaters and Surface Waters; Policy 57 – Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site; Policy 58 – Scheduled and Other Nationally Important Ancient Monuments; Policy 59 – Local Listings; Policy 60 – Development Affecting Conservation Areas; Policy 61 – Proposals Affecting Listed Buildings, Historic Parks and Gardens and Battlefields; Policy 62 – Landscapes; Policy 63 – Nationally Designated Landscape Areas; Policy 64 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Policy 65 – Open Space; Policy 66 – Public Rights of Way; Policy 67 – Trees and Hedgerows.</p>
<p>Policies in the Local Plan which will not themselves lead to development or other change:</p> <p>This section screens out policies because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development or other kinds of change.</p>	<p>Policy S3 – Design; Policy 18 – Advertisements; Policy 21 – Residential Density; Policy 22 – Affordable Housing; Policy 26 – Dwellings through the Conversion of Heritage Assets (Part 1 of Policy); Policy 36 – Broadband Access; Policy 37 – Waste Minimisation and the Recycling of Waste; Policy 38 – Drainage on Development Sites; Policy 40 – Planning Obligations; Policy 44 – Flood Risk and Development; Policy 45 – Sustainable Drainage Systems;</p>

	<p>Policy 48 – Sustaining Rural Facilities and Services; Policy 49 – Access, Mobility and Inclusion; Policy 50 – Planning out Crime.</p>
<p>Policies in the Local Plan which promote development that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site:</p> <p>This section screens out policies because there is no link or pathway between them and the qualifying interests, or would not otherwise undermine the conservation objectives for the site</p>	<p>Policy 5 – Primary Shopping Frontages; Policy 9 – Shop Fronts; Policy 7 – Neighbourhood Shopping Parades; Policy 29 – Houses in Multiple Occupation and Subdivision of Dwellings; Policy 35 – Car Parking; Policy 39 – Satellite Receiving Equipment</p>
<p>Policies for which effects on any particular European site can not be identified, because the policy is too general:</p> <p>This section screens out policies where it is not known where, when or how the aspect of the Plan may be implemented, or where any potential effects may occur, or which European sites, if any, may be affected.</p> <p>This section includes general, topic related policies, listing general criteria against which planning applications will be judged.</p>	<p>Policy 10 – Food and Drink; Policy 12 – Arts, Culture and Tourism Development; Policy 13 – Caravan, Camping and Chalet Sites; Policy 14 – Rural Diversification; Policy 15 – Farm Shops; Policy 24 – Housing for Rural Workers; Policy 25 – Other Housing in the Open Countryside; Policy 27 – Housing in Residential Gardens; Policy 28 – House Extensions; Policy 30 – Special Needs Housing;</p> <p>Policy 32 – Other Uses in Primary Residential Areas; Policy 33 – Delivering Infrastructure; Policy 46 – Doctors’ Surgeries and Health Centres; Policy 47 – Educational Needs; Policy 54 – Hazardous Substances; Policy 55 – Land Affected by Contamination; Policy 56 – Location of New Cemetery.</p>

Table 3 – Policies requiring further explanation before being screened out, or where mitigation measures are proposed.

<p>Remaining aspects of the Local Plan which require more detailed assessment or further information to eliminate the likelihood of a significant effect on a European site.</p> <p>Identified parts of the Local Plan:</p>	<p>Potential Impacts on European Sites:</p>	<p>Mitigation measures proposed; or</p> <p>Objective information provided to enable policy to be screened out:</p>	<p>Screened In/Out</p>
<p>Policy 1 – Employment and Commercial Growth Land Allocations:</p> <p>This policy makes provision for specific sites to be developed for employment uses over the Plan period, including land at Carlisle Airport.</p>	<p>The allocation at Morton is crossed by Fairy Beck, a tributary of the River Eden SAC.</p> <p>The allocation at Brunthill lies 1.5km from the River Eden SAC.</p> <p>The allocation at Harker lies 2.6km from the River Eden SAC.</p> <p>Carlisle Airport is within x km of the River Eden SAC. In addition, birds (pink-footed geese and whooper swans) considered to be part of the Upper Solway Flats and Marshes SPA populations are known to use land around the airport; therefore, SPA interest features could also potentially be impacted by any proposed development.</p> <p>Potential impacts could arise through construction, car parking, increased traffic, people, water abstraction, run off.</p>	<p>Development would be unlikely to have a significant effect on the interest features of the SAC provided that there was a planning condition imposed on any forthcoming application that required a 'Construction Environmental Management Plan' (CEMP). The CEMP must include bio-security measures to prevent the introduction of disease and invasive species into the nearby watercourses, and comprehensive measures to protect the water quality of the River Eden catchment.</p> <p>The HRA for the airport application (10/1116) examined in detail the potential impacts of the proposed development during both construction and operation on the SPA interest features (pink-footed geese and whooper swans), such as potential impacts of bird-strike and disturbance. The Assessment concludes that <i>"whilst there are still some shortcomings in the information and evidence base provided with the 2010 application, sufficient information has been provided by the applicant for the purposes of this assessment to show that the proposed development will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Upper Solway Flats and Marshes SPA. However, to be certain of no future</i></p>	<p>In</p> <p>Further work required post consultation on the final options before the Plan moves to publication stage.</p>

		<p><i>adverse impacts on the integrity of Upper Solway Flats and Marshes SPA, several issues need to be conditioned in any planning permission that may be granted.”</i></p> <p>The assessment of the proposals on the River Eden SAC examines in detail the potential impacts of the proposed development during both construction and operation on the SAC interest features, such as potential impacts of pollution on water quality and of disturbance on otters. The draft Assessment concludes that <i>“sufficient information has been provided by the applicant for the purposes of this assessment to show that there are not likely to be any major barriers to ensuring that the proposed development will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the River Eden SAC. However, to be certain of no adverse impacts on the integrity of the River Eden SAC, a number of issues regarding potential impacts on the River Eden will need to be conditioned in any planning permission that may be granted”.</i></p>	
<p>Policy 2 – Primary Employment Areas:</p> <p>This policy makes provision for B1, B2 and B8 uses within existing areas defined as being for primary employment purposes. Whilst there will be some change of use applications with no potential for impact on a European site, the policy also makes provision for redevelopment of land and buildings.</p> <p>Primary Employment Areas are located</p>	<p>These sites are close to either the River Petteril, which flows into the River Eden SAC, the River Caldew, (part of the River Eden SAC), or the River Eden itself, with potential secondary effects to the Solway Firth SAC, Upper Solway Flats and Marshes Ramsar and Upper Solway Flats and Marshes SPA.</p> <p>Possible effects on local hydrology including water abstraction and pollution.</p> <p>Additional road traffic can lead to increased levels of air pollution, water contamination and</p>	<p>Policy 64 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity provides the highest levels of protection for European sites.</p> <p>The policy states that:</p> <p><i>Development which would adversely affect or harm the integrity of such sites shall be resisted unless an overwhelming need for the development or vital national interest can be demonstrated. Proposals which may have an impact upon a Natura 2000 site must be accompanied by a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Any site subject to a HRA will not be subject to the presumption in favour of sustainable development.</i></p>	<p>Out</p>

<p>at Kingstown Industrial Estate, Kingmoor Park, Rosehill Industrial Estate, Durranhill Industrial Estate, Pirelli's on Dalston Road, Newtown Industrial Estate, Willowholme and various locations within or close to Denton Holme.</p>	<p>levels of disturbance.</p>		
<p>Policy 3 – Mixed Commercial Areas: This policy recognises that there are certain areas within Carlisle where no one use predominates, and that such areas are characterised by a mix of uses including housing, retail and business uses. The policy makes provision for change of use of buildings in such areas, but also recognises that new build through redevelopment may be possible.</p>	<p>Mixed Commercial Areas are located within the City Centre around Botchergate, James Street, Charlotte Street and the Viaduct Estate Road. These sites are identified on the Local Plan policies map.</p> <p>All of these areas lie within 250 metres of the River Caldew, (part of the River Eden SAC), and some sites are immediately adjacent to it, within the river floodplain.</p> <p>Potential impacts could arise through the construction and operation phases of any new development , through increased water abstraction, pollution, dust from construction, noise disturbance to river environment, increased traffic.</p>	<p>The provisions of Policy 64 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity will ensure the highest level of protections for any European Sites potentially affected by development proposals arising from this policy.</p>	<p>Out</p>
<p>Policy 6 – Retail Proposals outside the Primary Retail Area: This is a criteria based policy which makes provision for retail proposals outside allocated sites only in certain controlled circumstances.</p>	<p>The location of any potential developments arising from this policy are unknown, although they are likely to be within Carlisle but outside the City Centre. Any likely effects on European sites are unable to be recorded.</p>	<p>The provisions of Policy 64 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity will ensure the highest level of protections for any European Sites potentially affected by development proposals arising from this policy.</p>	<p>Out</p>

<p>Policy 8 – Morton District Centre:</p> <p>This policy makes provision for a foodstore with a capacity of 8175sq m, on a specifically allocated site at Morton.</p> <p>The site already has the benefit of planning permission.</p>	<p>Fairy Beck which is a tributary of the River Eden SAC, lies 200m to the south of the site.</p>	<p>The allocation has planning permission for a foodstore with a capacity of 8 175 sq m. As part of the application, Natural England (NE) was consulted as Fairy Beck lies 200 m to the south of the site.</p> <p>NE (as a consultee on the application) confirmed that in its opinion the proposal would be unlikely to have a significant effect on the interest features of the SAC provided that there was a planning condition imposed that required a 'Construction Environmental Management Plan' (CEMP). The CEMP must include bio-security measures to prevent the introduction of disease and invasive species into the nearby watercourses, and comprehensive measures to protect the water quality of the River Eden catchment.</p> <p>In addition, NE has advised that the mitigation measures (in the planning application EIA) for the reduction of operational impacts on the water environment are also incorporated in the surface water drainage strategy. It is of particular importance to ensure that no pollutants, contaminants or sediments enter water course and impact on the water quality of the River Eden.</p>	<p>Out</p>
<p>Policy 11 – Leisure Development:</p> <p>This is a criteria based policy which makes provision for a range of leisure developments from small areas on the edges of villages for open space to new facilities within the City such as theatres or art galleries. The policy is not site specific.</p>	<p>As the location of any proposals arising out of this policy are unknown, likely impacts on European sites can not be assessed.</p> <p>Policy has the potential to result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • atmospheric pollution through increased traffic, which could reduce air quality; • increased levels of disturbance - recreational activity, noise and light pollution; 	<p>The provisions of Policy 64 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity will ensure the highest level of protections for any European Sites potentially affected by development proposals arising from this policy.</p>	<p>Out</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased levels of abstraction; surface water run-off and sewerage discharge, which could reduce water quality and levels; and • land take, which could lead to the loss and fragmentation of habitats. 		
<p>Policy 16 – Agricultural Buildings:</p> <p>Carlisle has a large rural area where farming is the predominant industry. This policy makes provision for new farm buildings and other structures such as slurry lagoons or silage clamps.</p>	<p>This policy has the potential to result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased land take which could lead to the loss and fragmentation of habitats; • farm waste leaking into habitats, rivers and streams which could reduce habitat quality, and water quality and levels; • increased numbers of livestock impacting on habitats; • increased use of agri-chemicals including fertilisers. <p>Given the distribution of European sites within the rural areas of the district, this policy has the potential to lead to development which may have a likely significant effect on a European site.</p>	<p>The Water resources (control of pollution) (silage, slurry and agricultural fuel oil) (England) regulations 2010 and as amended 2013 (SSAFO) aim to prevent water pollution from stores for silage, slurry and agricultural fuel oil.</p> <p>They set out requirements for the design, construction and maintenance of new, substantially reconstructed or substantially enlarged facilities for storing these substances. Storage facilities should be sited at least 10 metres from inland freshwater or coastal water and have a 20 year life expectancy.</p> <p>The Environment Agency (EA) must be notified in writing about any new, substantially enlarged or substantially reconstructed system at least 14 days before any construction begins.</p> <p>The EA carry out checks on water quality of rivers and streams, and are able to prosecute where necessary.</p> <p>These measures together with the provisions of Policy 64 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity will ensure the highest level of protections for any European Sites potentially affected by development proposals arising from this policy.</p>	<p>Out</p>

<p>Policy 17 – Equestrian Development:</p> <p>This policy makes provision for development relating to the development of stables, horse riding arenas and riding centres in the rural areas of the district.</p>	<p>Carlisle district contains a large rural area. Horse riding and keeping is a popular leisure and business activity.</p> <p>This policy has the potential to result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased land take which could lead to the loss and fragmentation of habitats; • equestrian waste leaking into habitats, rivers and streams which could reduce habitat quality, and water quality and levels. <p>Given the distribution of European sites within the rural areas of the district, this policy has the potential to lead to development which may have a likely significant effect on a European site.</p>	<p>The Environment Agency issue permits for the disposal of horse manure and other types of waste. Such waste is regulated through the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010.</p> <p>The storage or spreading of horse waste near to water can be harmful to both the environment and human health. This operation has to comply with Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ) and groundwater legislation if land falls under their remit when spreading either manure or slurry.</p> <p>These measures together with the provisions of Policy 64 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity will ensure the highest level of protections for any European Sites potentially affected by development proposals arising from this policy.</p>	<p>Out</p>
<p>Policy 19 – Housing Strategy and Delivery, 'Housing Allocations for Carlisle District'.</p> <p>This first part of this policy has been screened out in Table 1 above.</p> <p>The second part of the policy allocates 14 sites within Carlisle and 14 sites within the rural area for housing development. The site range in size from less than half a hectare to 30 hectares.</p>	<p>The River Eden SAC crosses the City from east to west before it enters the Solway coast estuary. As such there are a number of tributaries which are either part of the SAC or drain into the SAC which are also within or on the edge of the City.</p> <p>Development enabled by this policy has the potential to result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • atmospheric pollution through increased traffic, which could reduce air quality; • increased levels of disturbance - recreational activity, noise and light pollution; 	<p>The largest site, (Carl 07), is expected to yield approx 500 dwellings. This site is in close proximity to a recent application 12/0692 to which Natural England responded as follows:</p> <p>“This application is in close proximity to River Eden and Tributaries Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the River Eden Special Area of Conservation (SAC). However, given its distance from these and the nature of the proposed development we advise your authority that, if undertaken in strict accordance with the details submitted, the proposal is not likely to have a significant effect on the interest features for which these designated sites have been classified”.</p>	<p>In</p> <p>Further work required post consultation on the final options before the Plan moves to publication</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased levels of abstraction; surface water run-off and sewerage discharge, which could reduce water quality and levels; and • land take, which could lead to the loss and fragmentation of habitats. 	<p>A recent planning application for a housing site to the north of the city for circa 900 houses and a primary school, had to demonstrate that during both the construction and operation of the site, measures will be put in place to ensure the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the runoff rates from the site remain at green field rates; • that particular runoff is intercepted via SUDS ponds so that only clean runoff enters the unnamed tributary for discharge into the SAC. <p>These drainage measures will ensure that there will be no significant impact on the River Eden and this approach was ratified by Natural England.</p> <p>It is considered that the following wording should be inserted in Policy H 19:</p> <p><i>'No development would be considered where the potential effect(s) on any Natura 2000 site(s) cannot be avoided or successfully mitigated by measures specified in a planning condition. In cases where the scope for adverse impacts cannot be completely avoided, such sites would only be considered where these effects can be successfully mitigated using techniques with a demonstrable record of success'.</i></p> <p>It is considered that these measures together with the provisions of Policy 64 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity will ensure the highest level of protection for any European Sites potentially affected by development proposals arising from this policy.</p>	<p>stage.</p>
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<p>Policy 20 – Housing Development:</p> <p>this policy makes provision for windfall housing development, i.e. on sites that are not specifically allocated in 19 above. The scale of such housing is likely to be significantly smaller than that of the allocated sites above.</p>	<p>As the location of any proposals arising out of this policy are unknown, likely impacts on European sites can not be assessed.</p> <p>Development enabled by this policy has the potential to result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • atmospheric pollution through increased traffic, which could reduce air quality; • increased levels of disturbance - recreational activity, noise and light pollution; • increased levels of abstraction; surface water run-off and sewerage discharge, which could reduce water quality and levels; and • land take, which could lead to the loss and fragmentation of habitats. 	<p>Previous planning applications for housing have been successfully conditioned so that the proposal have not been likely to have a significant effect on the interest features for which nearby designated sites have been classified</p> <p>It is considered that these measures together with the provisions of Policy 64 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity will ensure the highest level of protections for any European Sites potentially affected by development proposals arising from this policy.</p>	
<p>Policy 23 – Rural Exception Sites:</p> <p>this policy makes provision for affordable housing on small sites where open market housing would not be acceptable, subject to certain qualifying criteria.</p>	<p>As the location of any proposals arising out of this policy are unknown, likely impacts on European sites can not be assessed.</p> <p>Any development under this policy is likely to be small in scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased levels of abstraction; surface water run-off and sewerage discharge, which could reduce water quality and levels; and • land take, which could lead to the loss and fragmentation of habitats. 	<p>Previous planning applications for housing have been successfully conditioned so that the proposal have not been likely to have a significant effect on the interest features for which nearby designated sites have been classified</p> <p>It is considered that these measures together with the provisions of Policy 64 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity will ensure the highest level of protections for any European Sites potentially affected by development proposals arising from this policy.</p>	
<p>Policy 26 – Dwellings Through the Conversion of Heritage Assets and as Enabling Development:</p>	<p>As the location of any proposals arising out of this policy are unknown, likely impacts on European sites can not be assessed.</p>	<p>Previous planning applications for housing have been successfully conditioned so that the proposal have not been likely to have a significant effect on the</p>	

<p>Part two of this policy makes provision for new housing development. Such development is likely to be small in scale.</p>	<p>Any development under this policy is likely to be small in scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased levels of abstraction; surface water run-off and sewerage discharge, which could reduce water quality and levels; and land take, which could lead to the loss and fragmentation of habitats. 	<p>interest features for which nearby designated sites have been classified</p> <p>It is considered that these measures together with the provisions of Policy 64 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity will ensure the highest level of protections for any European Sites potentially affected by development proposals arising from this policy.</p>	
<p>Policy 31 – Traveller Site Provision:</p> <p>This policy makes provision for additional traveller pitches subject to certain qualifying criteria.</p>	<p>A county wide travellers’ accommodation needs assessment has recently been undertaken. This highlights the need for an additional four pitches within Carlisle District over the next 18 years.</p> <p>The potential effects of development on European sites would be more appropriately addressed at the project level, once the location of these sites has been verified.</p>	<p>Sites will be located to minimise the potential for any likely significant effects on a European site.</p> <p>It is considered that these measures together with the provisions of Policy 64 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity will ensure the highest level of protections for any European Sites potentially affected by development proposals arising from this policy.</p>	
<p>Policy 41 – Renewable Energy</p> <p>This policy reflects the Council’s commitment to enabling renewable energy proposals to come forward. Such proposals have to satisfy a number of criteria.</p>	<p>As the location of any proposals arising out of this policy are unknown, likely impacts on European sites can not be assessed.</p>	<p>Any proposals must satisfy 9 criteria, of which criteria 6 states:</p> <p><i>“there would be no unacceptable levels of harm to features designated as of local, national or international importance”.</i></p> <p>It is considered that this criteria together with the provisions of Policy 64 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity will ensure the highest level of protections for any European Sites potentially affected by development proposals arising from this</p>	<p>Out</p>

		policy.	
<p>Policy 42 – Wind Energy:</p> <p>This policy allows the development of wind turbines, subject to such proposals satisfying 7 criteria.</p>	<p>As the location of any proposals arising out of this policy are unknown, likely impacts on European sites can not be assessed.</p> <p>However, large parts of the District are covered by safeguarding zones relating to civil or military aviation and/or other defence assets such as RAF Spadeadam, the Eskdalemuir Seismic Recording Station, and the VLF transmitter at Skelton.</p>	<p>Any proposals for wind turbines must satisfy the criteria in the policy, of which criteria 3 relates to the following:</p> <p><i>“effects on nature conservation features, habitats, biodiversity and geodiversity, including sites, habitats and species, avoiding significant adverse effects on sites of international nature conservation”</i></p> <p>For clarity this could be amended as follows ...</p> <p><i>“...and will not affect the integrity of sites of international nature conservation importance”.</i></p>	<p>Change suggested and policy screened out.</p>

6.0 Consideration of likely significant effects in combination

- 6.1 The requirement in the Directive is to undertake an appropriate assessment of a plan if it would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site *“either individually or in combination with other plans or projects”*. The Directive recognises that in some cases the effects of a plan on its own would be either unlikely or insignificant. Nevertheless the Directive also recognises that there may be a number of plans or projects, each of which would be unlikely to have a significant effect alone, but which, if their individual effects were to be added together, the effects in combination would be likely to be significant. The ‘in-combination’ test is therefore about assessing cumulative effects.
- 6.2 The following shows other plans and policies which might, in combination with the Carlisle District Local Plan (preferred options), result in a likely significant effect on a European site:

Table 4 – Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects

Plan or project	Summary	HRA completed for Plan?	Potential for in-combination effects	Take forward for consideration
Draft Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013	This plan considers municipal waste management, sand and gravel extraction, coal mining, radioactive waste, wastewater treatment and quarrying etc for the County of Cumbria.	Yes	<p>The Carlisle area is supplied with sand and gravel from the Kirkhouse, Low Gelt and Faugh quarries, and from the Cardewmires quarry river sands.</p> <p>There is landfill site at Hespain Wood within 2km of the Solway European site.</p> <p>There is the potential for new development allocated in the Carlisle District Local Plan to increase the use of these sites.</p>	Yes
Cumbria Wind Energy SPD	Adopted by the City Council in 2008 to help guide the siting and design of turbines, and to indicate the capacity of each landscape character type within Cumbria for wind energy.	No	None. Local Plan Policy 42 – Wind Energy was drafted having regard to the SPD. Paragraph 7.15 of the Local Plan states that development proposals should take into account the policies in the SPD.	No
North Pennines AONB Management Plan	Statutory Plan for formulating policy for management of AONB and for carrying out local authority functions in relation to it.	No	None – plan aims to ensure that any plans or projects do not have a significant adverse impact on the important features of SACs/SPAs	No

Solway Coast AONB Management Plan	Statutory Plan for formulating policy for management of AONB and for carrying out local authority functions in relation to it.	No	The Plan seeks to address the issues associated with managing the biodiversity interest found throughout the AONB.	No
The Hadrian's Wall Management Plan 2008-2014	Provides a framework for the management of the site. Addresses the issues, challenges and opportunities that face the site.	None found	None – plan aims to protect the integrity of the heritage asset and its setting.	No
Dumfries and Galloway Interim Planning Policy – Wind Energy Development 2012;	The Policy identifies a number of areas which could be suitable for wind turbines over 50 meters in height subject to a number of considerations which are outlined and which against proposals will be assessed	Yes	Specific caveats included in Policies WEP2 and WEP3, (which are all supportive of wind energy developments), as follows: Proposals will be considered favourably provided they have no adverse effects either alone or in combination on the integrity of any Natura site.	No
Cumbria Local Transport Plan 2011-2026	Statutory planning document that sets out the County Council's vision, strategy and policies for transport. It also describes the approaches and measures that will be taken to implement these policies in each of the Council's Local Committee areas over the course of the Plan	Sustainability Appraisal of the Plan undertaken.	The key priority in the LTP for the city of Carlisle is to encourage development that supports diversification of the city's economy, as a key employment area (including Kingmoor Park and Durranshill), and as an important shopping centre (extending the quality of retail offer).	No

Allerdale Local Plan (Part 1) 2013	The Allerdale Local Plan contains planning policies for the use and development of land up to 2028. The Plan covers the parts of Allerdale that are outside the Lake District National Park.	Yes	The Solway Firth SAC/SPA and the Upper Solway Flats and Marshes Ramsar crosses the boundary between Allerdale and Carlisle district. Both Local Plans allocate sites for development.	Yes
Eden Local Plan Housing Preferred Sites and Policies 2013	This plan allocates sites for housing in Eden outside the Lake District National Park. It also includes a number of policies which will be used to determine planning applications for housing development.	Yes	The River Eden SAC flows through Eden District and into Carlisle District, crossing the City. There are a number of villages along the Eden in both districts which either have small housing allocations identified, or where windfall housing would be acceptable. There are therefore implications for water abstraction and pollution.	Yes
County Durham Plan Preferred Options	The Plan allocates sites for various types of development, sets criteria for determining planning applications, and establishes how community and other corporate plans and strategies will be implemented through local spatial planning, including waste and minerals.	Yes	The North Pennines Moors SAC and SPA, and the North Pennines Dales Meadows SAC both comprise a large number of individually designated sites which cross a number of local planning authority boundaries. Whilst there are no housing allocations in either local plan in the above sites, there is the potential for increased visitor pressure from policies encouraging tourism and tourist related facilities.	Yes
Northumberland Local development Plan, (Core Strategy) preferred options.	Will be the overarching spatial plan for County, excluding the Northumberland National Park, guiding future development and land use	Yes	The Border Mires SAC and Irthinghead Mires Ramsar. Whilst there are no housing allocations in either local plan in the above sites, there is the potential for increased	Yes

	planning decisions to 2030.		visitor pressure from policies encouraging tourism and tourist related facilities.	
Eden and Esk Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy 2006	Includes whole of Carlisle Local Plan area, together with Eden District and parts of Allerdale.	No	Strategy states the needs to assess the effects of existing abstraction licences and any new applications to make sure they are not adversely impacting on internationally important nature conservation sites.	No
Eden Catchment Flood Management Plan	Includes part of Carlisle Local Plan area	No	Plan makes reference to European sites, most significant being the River Eden itself and the Upper Solway Flats & Marshes SAC; these lie at the confluence of the Eden with the Solway Firth.	Unknown

7.0 Mitigation

7.1 In order to comply with the Habitats Regulations it is important that the Local Plan states clearly that no individual development site should be considered where there is potential for direct and/or indirect or in-combination adverse impacts on qualifying features of Natura 2000 sites. Natural England has previously advised that in order to achieve that compliance there would need to be a stated commitment to meeting the requirements of the Habitats Regulations incorporated within the Local Plan.

7.2 It is therefore recommended that a more definitive statement is required with both Policy 1 Employment and Commercial Growth Land Allocations and Policy 19 Housing Strategy and Delivery to make it clear that the first priority should be to avoid development which could have an adverse effect on Natura 2000 sites, as follows:

'No development would be considered where the potential effect(s) on any Natura 2000 site(s) cannot be avoided or successfully mitigated by measures specified in a planning condition. In cases where the scope for adverse impacts cannot

be completely avoided, such sites would only be considered where these effects can be successfully mitigated using techniques with a demonstrable record of success’.

- 7.3 In view of the number and distribution of Natura 2000 sites located in Carlisle District, and jointly within adjacent districts and within 15 kilometres of the boundary it is conceivable that any of the proposed development options could potentially result in the promotion of development sites with some potential to impact on at least one European site. It is therefore imperative that the Local Plan includes clearly defined text to ensure that it does not have an adverse effect on Natura 2000 sites. It is considered that the following text in Policy 64 Biodiversity and Geodiversity adequately covers this issue:

“Internationally designated sites of biodiversity conservation, including the Natura 2000 designations of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar Sites will be afforded the highest levels of protection. Development which would adversely affect or harm the integrity of such sites shall be resisted unless an overwhelming need for the development or vital national interest can be demonstrated. Proposals which may have an impact upon a Natura 2000 site must be accompanied by a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Any site subject to a HRA will not be subject to the presumption in favour of sustainable development”.

8.0 Conclusion

- 8.1 This screening assessment has been carried out on the preferred options version of the Local Plan. As a consequence of the consultation exercise on the Local Plan, it is likely that the policies and the site allocations may be refined or altered, and these changes will need to be separately screened
- 8.2 It is concluded that Carlisle District Local Plan (preferred options) is not likely to have a significant effect on any European site, and no Appropriate Assessment is necessary. This conclusion is made for each individual policy, for the whole plan, and for the combination of this plan with any other plan.

9.0 Consultation

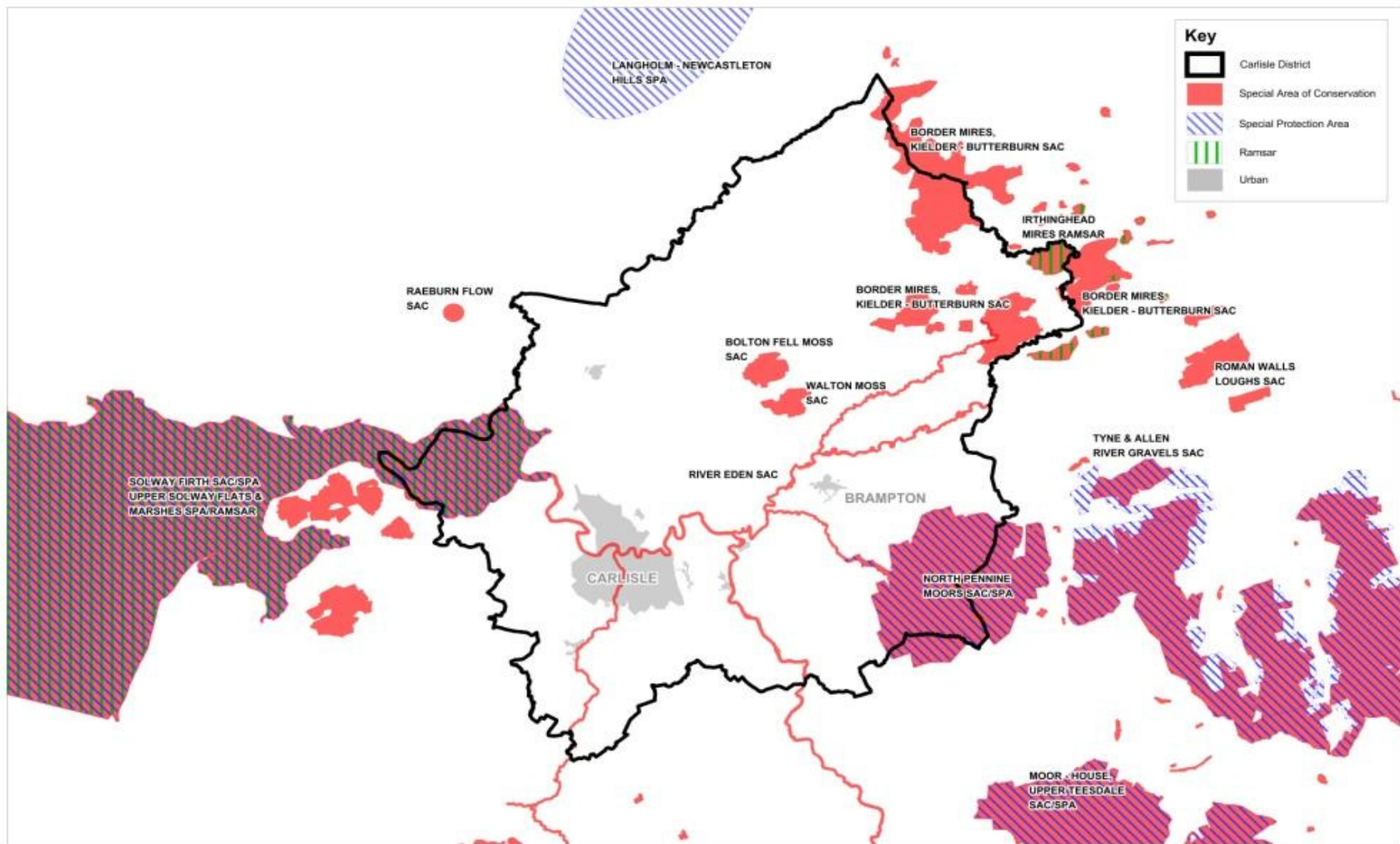
9.1 The Habitats Regulations require that the appropriate nature conservation statutory body are consulted (Natural England). The HRA is also available for wider public consultation at the same time as the Preferred Options. Any responses received will be considered by the Council, and will inform future iterations of the HRA at both publication and submission stage. Details of any responses made will be set out in the next draft of the HRA.

9.2 Comments on the HRA can be made as follows:

By e-mail to lpc@carlisle.gov.uk

By post to – Investment and Policy Team

Planning Services,
Carlisle City Council,
Civic Centre,
Carlisle,
CA3 8QG



MAP SHOWING CARLISLE DISTRICT BOUNDARY & LOCATIONS OF EUROPEAN SITES (SAC/SPA/RAMSAR) THAT ARE WITHIN, PARTLY WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF THIS BOUNDARY



APPENDIX A – first draft Habitats Regulations Appraisal of the Issues and Options Stage of the Core Strategy.

Planning Carlisle's Future Issues and Options Paper Consultation September – October 2011

Habitats Regulations Assessment FIRST DRAFT

Introduction

- 1.1 Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the Habitats Regulations) require local authorities to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment for all land use plans. The City Council's Core Strategy is a land use plan that will be subject to such an assessment. It is therefore good practice to ensure that the requirements of the Regulations, and the potential effects on European sites, are considered in an iterative process from the earliest stages of the plan making procedures. Consequently, as far as it is possible to do so at this stage, the Issues and Options which were published for consultation in September 2011 have been considered for their potential effects on European sites in this preliminary assessment.
- 1.2 A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required to ensure the protection of sites identified under the Natura 2000 network as sites of exceptional importance in respect of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species within the European community. These sites are collectively known as European sites and consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). As a matter of policy the government expects listed Ramsar sites to be assessed as if they were fully designated European sites.
- 1.3 The purpose of an HRA is to ensure that the proposals of any plan or project, or the cumulative effect of a number of plans or projects, will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Sites. The 'integrity' of the site is defined by ODPM circular 06/2005 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation as *its coherence, ecological structure and function across its whole area that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or levels of populations of species for which it was classified.*
- 1.4 This document will identify the European sites within the Carlisle district and assess the potential impacts of the key issues put forward in the Issues and Options Paper published in September 2011.

1.5 The Issues and Options Paper addresses 10 themes and analyses each theme by identifying the key issues of each theme and providing possible options for Carlisle's future under each theme:

- Spatial distribution of growth (SDG)
- Infrastructure (I)
- Housing Aspirations (H)
- Economy (E)
- Retail (R)
- Tourism, Heritage, Culture and Leisure (THCL)
- Local Character (LC)
- Health and Wellbeing (HW)
- Climate Change and Flood Risk (CCFR)
- Green Infrastructure (GI)

These themes will play a significant role in shaping Carlisle's future in terms of guiding the development of the district's economy, meeting housing need, protecting and enhancing the district's environment and heritage and the districts ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

1.6 Consultation??

Structure of this assessment

2.1 This assessment has been produced in line with the guidance published by the Department for Communities and Local Government: Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment.

2.2 This guidance recommends a three stage approach:

Stage 1 – identify likely significant effects

Stage 2- appropriate assessment and ascertaining the effect on site integrity

Stage 3 – mitigation and alternative solutions

- 2.3 The first stage is often referred to as the screening test. The purpose of the screening test is to identify any policies and proposals, in this case the key options outlined in the Issues and Options Paper, that are likely to have a significant effect on any European Site. This will be assessed using the *precautionary principle* which requires areas where more research is needed to be subject to the second stage of the assessment. The screening assessment should consider a number of factors including the probability of the impact and the duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact. Where a likely significant effect is identified an appropriate assessment will be carried out through the second stage of the process.
- 2.4 The appropriate assessment will establish whether or not the plan/project would have an adverse impact upon the integrity of a European site and will explore the issues identified in the screening process.
- 2.5 Where a potential adverse impact is identified the purpose of Stage 3 is to ensure that measures are put in place to mitigate the potential impacts identified in Stage 2. At this stage alternative options will also be explored with a view to mitigating adverse impacts. If sufficient mitigation measures can not be identified and an alternative solution is not reached, then the option should be dropped unless exceptional circumstances are identified. Exceptional circumstances are justified by *imperative reasons of overriding public interest*. Should an option proceed on this principle, any necessary compensatory measures must be put in place to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected.

Stage 1: Identifying and Screening European Sites within Carlisle

3.1 There are 11 European Sites within the Carlisle district:

- Solway Firth SAC
- Upper Solway Flats and Marshes SPA
- Upper Solway Flats and Marshes RAMSAR
- River Eden SAC
- Border Mires, Keilder-Butterburn SAC
- Irthinghead Mires RAMSAR
- North Pennine Moors SAC
- North Pennine Moors SPA
- North Pennine Dales Meadow SAC
- Walton Moss SAC

Further information on the characteristics of these sites and their justification for European site status is included in Appendix A.

- 3.2 European sites can be affected by a number of factors, both directly and indirectly, and it is essential to consider the implications of both construction and operation for any plan/project.

Possible effects are likely to be related to:

- Land Take and Land Use
- Water Resources and Water Quality
- Traffic Levels and Congestion
- Increased Urbanisation
- Increased Pollution
- Increased Tourism

- 3.3 A further 6 sites have been screened out of the HRA process:

- Moor House Upper Teasedale SAC
- Roman Wall Loughs SAC
- Langholm Flow SAC
- Raeholm Flow SAC
- Solway Mosses South SAC
- Tyne and Allen River Gravels SAC

These sites have been screened out as the proposals of the Issues and Options paper are unlikely to have any significant effects upon on them due to their distance from the district boundary i.e. unlikely to be affected as a result of noise, air, light and water pollution. Water abstraction has also been considered and whilst water abstraction is from the River Eden, it is not taken from waterbodies within European Sites and none of these sites rely on the River Eden as a water source. Finally, there is no direct connectivity between these European Sites and Carlisle that has the potential to affect habitats or species at these sites i.e. green corridors, rivers, bird migration.

- 3.4 The screening exercise has revealed that 21 of the key options have the potential to affect one or more of the European sites identified in 3.1:

- SDG2: What direction should growth take in the future?
- I1: Where should new development be focused?
- H2: When the overall District housing target is decided how should this be split?
- H3: Location of new urban housing development
- H4: Location of housing in the rural area
- H6: Local Needs Housing
- H9: Settlement Boundaries
- H10: Gypsy and Traveller Needs
- E3: Employment Land Provision
- E4: Rural Employment – Strategic Sites
- E5: Should new rural sites be allocated?
- E6: Do we allow extensions of employment areas even in more isolated locations?
- E8: Should we resist the loss of agricultural and other buildings from rural employment uses to alternative uses?
- E10: Education Sector
- E12: Given the challenge of supplying energy for the plan period and beyond are there specific measures we need to take?
- E13: Strategic Areas for Employment
- R2: Comparison Shopping
- THCL 2: Hotel Accommodation
- THCL 3: Location of Cultural/Leisure Facilities
- HW 1: Health and Wellbeing
- HW 2: Health and Wellbeing

3.5 The following options were screened out as they are not likely to have a significant impact upon any European sites:

- SDG 1: Should we set a long term direction for growth in which delivery would exceed the lifetime of the plan?
- H1: Housing delivery target options.
- H5: Affordable Housing
- H7: Hierarchy of Settlements
- H8: Hierarchy of Settlements (level of services)
- E1: Level of Economic Growth
- E2: Treatment of Existing Employment Areas
- E7: Are there new opportunities for rural employment?

- E9: Auction marts in Longtown and Carlisle
- E11: Energy Sector
- R1: Food Stores
- R3: City Centre Shopping
- R4 & R5: Rural Shopping
- THCL1: Tourism Opportunities
- THCL4: Management of Heritage Assets
- LC1: Local Character
- CCFR 1-5: Climate Change & Flood Risk
- GI1 & 2: Green Infrastructure

Appendix B outlines why these key issues are not likely to have any significant affect upon any European sites and are therefore not being subject to an Appropriate Assessment.

3.6 The following policy/guidance documents have been examined for the 'in-combination' test and concerns regarding the protection of European sites are highlighted below:

- **PPS6: Planning and Town Centres** This policy statement does not include any specific measures to safeguard the protection of European sites.
- **PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management** This document addresses concerns regarding the impacts towards sites of international importance however does nit include any robust statement regarding the protection of such sites
- **PPS23: Planning and Pollution Control** This policy does address the importance of pollution control and the need for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment, there is no specific reference to the protection of European sites.
- **PPS25: Development and Flood Risk** This policy statement outlines the importance to protect against the increasing risk of flooding. However there is no specific reference to the protection of European sites which can be impacted by alterations to drainage and other flood defence measures.
- **PPG13: Transport** This guidance promotes sustainable transport and supports development of accessible sites however there is no mention of safeguarding European sites included in this policy.
- **PPG24: Planning and Noise** This guidance specifically states that European sites require extra scrutiny to ensure protection of species and their habitats.

- **Cumbria Transport Plan (Draft 2010)** This document promotes sustainable methods of transport and the importance of enhancing reducing carbon emissions and promoting a healthy natural environment however there is no specific reference to safeguarding European sites.
- **North West Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021** This strategy supports sustainable development and makes specific reference to the importance of the protection of European sites and the enhancement of biodiversity and the importance of these factors in guiding the principles for future development, in particular the importance of assessing impacts on sites of international nature conservation importance.

3.7 Given the concerns highlighted above it is essential that the issues identified in the Appropriate Assessment are adequately addressed to ensure the protection of European sites once the LDF is adopted.

Appropriate Assessment

- 4.1 The options listed under 3.4 have been identified as having likely significant effects upon European sites (ES). The table below highlights the potential impacts as well as identifying which European sites may be affected.
- 4.2 As this HRA relates to the Issues and Options Paper there is limited information available relating to specific land allocations as much of this paper is seeking feedback to inform the focus for future development locations. As such, the precautionary principle has been adopted and these issues have been subject to an appropriate assessment as, dependant upon the location of proposed development, such issues could significantly affect European sites.

Appropriate Assessment of Issues Identified Through Screening Process

Issues and Options September 2011 Key Issue	Reason for Likely Impact	Operations likely to result as a consequence	Potential Impact upon European Sites	Site(s) potentially affected
<p>SDG2: What direction should growth take in the future?</p>	<p>This will influence the quantum and location of development within/around the city. This could impact upon ES depending on locations identified particularly as the south is identified as a potential area for development. Large scale development in the south of the city may have adverse impacts upon the River Eden.</p>	<p>Construction of new buildings for industrial, commercial and housing purposes and associated infrastructure/flood defences.</p> <p>Associated traffic increases, drainage, artificial lighting and pollution will be likely.</p> <p>Development will likely be of significant scale increasing the potential for adverse impacts upon ES.</p>	<p>Loss of land for structures.</p> <p>Habitat severance and fragmentation resulting from loss of land.</p> <p>Land disturbance caused by accessing sites with transport, machinery and equipment.</p> <p>Pollution in particular water contamination through dust and tipping (during construction) and through run-off during construction/ operation and waste water effluent.</p> <p>Water level changes as a result of abstraction and drainage.</p>	<p>River Eden</p> <p>Potential secondary effects to Solway Firth SAC, Upper Solway Firth SAC and Upper Solway Flats and Marshes Ramsar.</p>
<p>I1: Where should new development be focussed?</p>	<p>Will influence the quantum and location of infrastructure development within/around the city.</p>	<p>Construction of highway improvements, new highways and associated works (flood defences etc).</p> <p>In particular proposals involving new infrastructures to the south of the city will likely cross the River Eden.</p>	<p>Loss of land for structures.</p> <p>Loss of land (embankment) for bridges.</p> <p>Habitat severance and fragmentation resulting from loss of land/land disturbance.</p> <p>Disturbance caused by accessing sites with transport, machinery and equipment.</p> <p>Pollution in particular water contamination through dust and tipping (during construction) and through run-off during construction and operation.</p>	<p>River Eden</p> <p>Potential secondary effects to Solway Firth SAC, Upper Solway Firth SAC and Upper Solway Flats and Marshes Ramsar.</p>

Issues and Options September 2011 Key Issue	Reason for Likely Impact	Operations likely to result as a consequence	Potential Impact upon European Sites	Site(s) potentially affected
H3: Location of new urban housing?	<p>Will influence the quantum and location of development within/ around the city.</p> <p>Potential for large scale development in 2/3 specific locations around the city which would exacerbate impacts, particular concern if development is focused in the south in close proximity to the River Eden.</p>	<p>Construction of new homes and associated infrastructure.</p> <p>Associated traffic increases, drainage, artificial lighting and pollution will be likely.</p> <p>Additional recreational space will be required which could lead to long term physical disturbance.</p>	<p>Loss of land for structures.</p> <p>Habitat severance and fragmentation for loss of land/land disturbance..</p> <p>Disturbance caused by accessing sites with transport, machinery and equipment during construction.</p> <p>Pollution in particular water contamination through dust and tipping (during construction) and through run-off during construction and waste water effluent during lifetime of the development.</p> <p>Water level changes as a result of abstraction and drainage.</p> <p>Introduction of domestic pets leading to predation of wildlife.</p> <p>An increase in the number of people at the site & using adjacent land which may become used as recreational ground leading to further disturbance of nearby land.</p>	River Eden
H4: Location of housing in the rural area	<p>Will influence the quantum and location of rural housing development. This could impact upon ES depending on locations identified.</p> <p>Current Local Plan identifies key service centres and local service centres that are in close proximity</p>	<p>Construction of new homes and associated infrastructure.</p> <p>Associated traffic increases, drainage infrastructure, artificial lighting and pollution will be likely.</p>	<p>Loss of land for structures.</p> <p>Habitat severance and fragmentation.</p> <p>Disturbance caused by accessing sites with transport, machinery and equipment.</p> <p>Pollution in particular water contamination through dust and tipping (during construction) and through run-off</p>	Highly dependent on where rural housing development is proposed following the production of the LDF – likely locations include Rockliffe and Gillsland , that are in close proximity to River Eden

Issues and Options September 2011 Key Issue	Reason for Likely Impact	Operations likely to result as a consequence	Potential Impact upon European Sites	Site(s) potentially affected
	<p>to ES for example Rockliffe and Gillsland.</p> <p>Wetheral, Great Corby and Warwick Bridge are on the River Eden therefore housing development in these locations could have significant effects upon a ES.</p> <p>Development will be of a smaller scale to that proposed in the urban area therefore impacts should be less extreme however any such impacts must still be considered and mitigated.</p>		<p>during construction and operation.</p> <p>May lead to increased reliance on car and subsequent air pollution if development spreads out with identified key service centres</p> <p>Introduction of domestic pets leading to predation of wildlife,</p> <p>An increase in the number of people at the site & using adjacent land which may become used as recreational ground leading to further disturbance of nearby land.</p>	<p>SAC, Solway Firth SAC, Upper Solway Firth SAC, Upper Solway Flats and Marshes Ramsar.</p> <p>key service centres, Wetheral, Great Corby and Warwick Bridge are located adjacent to the River Eden therefore impacts must be considered.</p>
H6: Local Needs Housing	<p>This will influence the policies regarding the location of local needs housing which could potentially affect European sites.</p> <p>Development will be small scale due to nature of local needs housing but impacts must still be considered and mitigated.</p>	<p>Construction of new homes and associated infrastructure (small scale, unlikely to be more than 1-2 dwellings per scheme).</p> <p>Associated traffic increases, drainage, artificial lighting and pollution will be likely (small scale).</p>	<p>Loss of land for structures.</p> <p>Habitat severance and fragmentation.</p> <p>Disturbance caused by accessing sites with transport, machinery and equipment.</p> <p>Pollution in particular water contamination through dust and tipping (during construction) and through run-off during construction and operation.</p>	Unknown
H9: Settlement Boundaries	<p>This will influence the quantum and location of new housing development across the region. Under current policy six identified sustainable housing locations are in close proximity to European sites (Carlisle City</p>	<p>Construction of new homes and associated infrastructure.</p> <p>Associated traffic increases, drainage, artificial lighting and pollution will be likely.</p>	<p>Loss of land for structures.</p> <p>Habitat severance and fragmentation.</p> <p>Disturbance caused by accessing sites with transport, machinery and equipment.</p> <p>Pollution in particular water contamination through dust</p>	River Eden/ Unknown

Issues and Options September 2011 Key Issue	Reason for Likely Impact	Operations likely to result as a consequence	Potential Impact upon European Sites	Site(s) potentially affected
	<p>Centre, Rockliffe, Gilsland, Wetheral, Warwick Bridge & Great Corby). Altering or removing settlement boundaries may result in further development in or around these or other European sites.</p> <p>There is scope for some increase in development in rural areas should settlement boundaries be removed and therefore ES must be protected.</p>		and tipping (during construction) and through run-off during construction and operation.	
H10: Gypsy and Traveller Needs	This addresses the need and location for new development for gypsy and traveller needs. Extension of existing sites is unlikely to affect any ES due to their distance from any ES however the development of new sites may affect ES depending on where development is proposed.	New development will result in construction works and associated infrastructure/ service needs.	<p>Loss of land for structures.</p> <p>Habitat severance and fragmentation.</p> <p>Disturbance caused by accessing sites with transport, machinery and equipment.</p> <p>Pollution in particular water contamination through dust and tipping (during construction) and through run-off during construction and operation.</p> <p>Physical disturbance people on land.</p> <p>Introduction of domestic pets leading to predation of wildlife,</p>	Unknown
E3: Employment Land Provision	Will affect quantum and location of development. A	Construction of new buildings and associated infrastructure (potentially of significant scale).	<p>Loss of land for structures.</p> <p>Habitat severance and fragmentation.</p>	River Eden

Issues and Options September 2011 Key Issue	Reason for Likely Impact	Operations likely to result as a consequence	Potential Impact upon European Sites	Site(s) potentially affected
	number of potential sites for extension or new development around the city lie in close proximity to the River Eden.	Associated traffic increases, drainage, artificial lighting and pollution will be likely.	Disturbance caused by accessing sites with transport, machinery and equipment. Pollution in particular water contamination through dust and tipping (during construction) and through run-off during construction and operation. Increase in pollution as a result of travelling to and from the site once in operation.	
E4: Rural Employment – Extension of Strategic Sites	Will affect quantum and location of development of rural employment sites.	Construction of new buildings/ redevelopment of existing sites and associated infrastructure. Associated traffic increases, drainage, artificial lighting and pollution will be likely.	Loss of land for structures. Habitat severance and fragmentation. Disturbance caused by accessing sites with transport, machinery and equipment. Pollution in particular water contamination through dust and tipping (during construction) and through run-off during construction and operation. Physical disturbance caused by people/traffic on land during operation.	Unknown
E10: Education Sector	This will directly affect the quantum and location of development both in terms of the provision of teaching accommodation and residential accommodation as number of students will increase as a result.	Construction of new buildings and associated infrastructure. Associated traffic increases, drainage, artificial lighting and pollution will be likely.	Loss of land for structures. Habitat severance and fragmentation. Disturbance caused by accessing sites with transport, machinery and equipment. Pollution in particular water contamination through dust and tipping (during construction) and through run-off during construction and operation.	Unknown

Issues and Options September 2011 Key Issue	Reason for Likely Impact	Operations likely to result as a consequence	Potential Impact upon European Sites	Site(s) potentially affected
			<p>Pollution caused by increased reliance on car as mode of transport if development is spread across city.</p> <p>Physical disturbance people on land.</p>	
E12: Energy Sector	<p>This will directly affect the quantum and location of energy related development.</p> <p>Likely to result in an increase in the number of wind turbines in the district.</p>	<p>Construction of wind farms, mainly the construction of access roads and foundations.</p>	<p>Foundations may lead to alterations to hydrological regimes in previously undeveloped Greenfield land.</p> <p>Alterations to flight paths impacting upon the habitats of birds.</p> <p>Potential for Direct physical harm to protected bird species resulting from impact from turbine blades.</p>	Unknown
E13: Strategic Areas for Employment	<p>This will directly affect the quantum and location of large scale industrial and commercial development.</p> <p>E13 identifies locations such as Kingmoor Park, Brunthill and Carlisle Airport as potential sites for expansion which are in close proximity to the River Eden.</p>	<p>Large scale Construction of new buildings and associated infrastructure.</p> <p>Associated traffic increases, drainage, artificial lighting and pollution will be likely.</p>	<p>Loss of land for structures.</p> <p>Habitat severance and fragmentation.</p> <p>Disturbance caused by accessing sites with transport, machinery and equipment.</p> <p>Pollution in particular water contamination through dust and tipping (during construction) and through run-off during construction and operation.</p> <p>Pollution caused by increased reliance on car as mode of transport if development is spread across city.</p> <p>Physical disturbance people on land.</p>	
R2: Comparison Shopping	<p>This will affect the quantum and location of new development . The option to further retail park development could increase car users to the road network.</p>	<p>Construction of new buildings and associated infrastructure.</p> <p>Associated traffic increases, drainage, artificial lighting and pollution will be likely.</p>	<p>Loss of land for structures.</p> <p>Habitat severance and fragmentation.</p> <p>Disturbance caused by accessing sites with transport, machinery and equipment.</p>	Unknown

Issues and Options September 2011 Key Issue	Reason for Likely Impact	Operations likely to result as a consequence	Potential Impact upon European Sites	Site(s) potentially affected
			<p>Pollution in particular water contamination through dust and tipping (during construction) and through run-off during construction and operation.</p> <p>Pollution caused by increased reliance on car as mode of transport for out of town shopping destinations.</p>	
THCL 2: Hotel Accommodation	May result in identifying a need for a new and potentially large scale development in the district.	<p>Construction of new buildings and associated infrastructure.</p> <p>Associated traffic increases, drainage, artificial lighting and pollution will be likely.</p>	<p>Loss of land for structures.</p> <p>Habitat severance and fragmentation.</p> <p>Disturbance caused by accessing sites with transport, machinery and equipment.</p> <p>Pollution in particular water contamination through dust and tipping (during construction) and through run-off during construction and operation.</p>	Unknown
THCL3: Location of Cultural/Leisure Facilities	This could result in a large scale development in/around the city which could affect the River Eden.	<p>Construction of new buildings and associated infrastructure.</p> <p>Associated traffic increases, drainage, artificial lighting and pollution will be likely.</p>	<p>Loss of land for structures.</p> <p>Habitat severance and fragmentation.</p> <p>Disturbance caused by accessing sites with transport, machinery and equipment.</p> <p>Pollution in particular water contamination through dust and tipping (during construction) and through run-off during construction and operation.</p> <p>Pollution resulting from increased traffic flow to such facilities.</p>	River Eden
HW 1&2: Health and Wellbeing	This will influence the quantum and location of development to provide health & wellbeing facilities	Construction of new buildings and associated infrastructure.	<p>Loss of land for structures/ recreational spaces.</p> <p>Habitat severance and fragmentation – ongoing human</p>	Unknown

Issues and Options September 2011 Key Issue	Reason for Likely Impact	Operations likely to result as a consequence	Potential Impact upon European Sites	Site(s) potentially affected
	(either through new site allocation or planned provision of open spaces & sport and recreation facilities).	<p>Associated traffic increases, drainage, artificial lighting and pollution will be likely.</p> <p>Encouragement of use of open spaces for recreational activities throughout communities.</p>	<p>disturbance on land used for recreational purposes and associated artificial lighting to outdoor areas.</p> <p>Disturbance caused by accessing sites with transport, machinery and equipment.</p> <p>Pollution in particular water contamination through dust and tipping (during construction) and through run-off during construction and operation.</p>	

Mitigation & Alternative Solutions

5.1 The screening assessment found that 21 of the key options addressed in the Issues and Options Paper 2011 have the potential to have significant effects on European sites, largely because there is no specific reference to the protection of European sites throughout the document.

5.2 The most appropriate way to avoid or mitigate the majority of likely significant effects is to ensure there is robust wording in the policies adopted in the LDF to ensure European sites are protected.

5.3 Appropriate wording would state:

Except where there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, proposals that would have an impact on a European Natura 2000 site will not be permitted unless it can be objectively demonstrated that they would be unlikely to have a significant adverse effect, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

5.4 A stand alone policy included in the LDF will provide a mechanism to directly assess all proposals regarding their potential impact upon any European sites and will cover development in all locations thus ensuring the most comprehensive means of safeguarding Carlisle's European sites.

5.5 As the Issues and Options Paper does not provide site specific information relating to the majority of issues it is not possible to provide alternative solutions at this stage.

Table 1. European Sites & Reasons for Designations

Site	Site Character	Reasons for Designation	Conservation Objectives
<p>Solway Firth SAC</p> <p>43637 ha.</p> <p>Rockcliffe approx 400m</p>	<p>Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (90%)</p> <p>Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes (10%)</p>	<p>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by water all of the time - comprising mainly of gravelly and clean sands; Dominant species include different annelid worms, crustaceans, molluscs and echinoderms.</p> <p>Estuaries – One of the largest and least industrial estuaries in Europe. Sediment habitats present, mainly dynamic sandflats and sub-tidal sediment bank. Dominant species of bivalve molluscs, polychaete worms, crustaceans and echinoderms vary, depending on location within the estuary.</p> <p><u>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand</u> - It represents <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand in north-west England and south-west Scotland. The pioneer marshes in this site develop in response to changing river channels and erosion of existing marsh and form part of a dynamic suite of maritime habitat types for which the site has been separately selected.</p> <p><u>Atlantic salt meadows</u> - The Solway Firth, between north-west England and south-west Scotland, has been little affected by enclosure, with the result that it demonstrates unusually large areas of upper marsh and transitions to freshwater grassland communities. The site has been selected because of its large size and uninterrupted transitions. Some of the species present, for example sea-purslane, common sea-lavender and lax-flowered sea-lavender, are at their northern limit in the UK.</p> <p>Annex 1 - habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site include: reefs, perennial vegetation of stony banks, fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes').</p> <p>Annex 2 - species that are a primary reason for selection of this site include; Sea lamprey, River lamprey (Solway Firth provides migratory passage for sea and river lamprey to and from spawning and nursery grounds in a number of rivers, including the Eden which is designated as a cSAC for the species</p>	<p>The noted habitats must be maintained in favourable condition.</p> <p>Habitats found not to be in a favourable condition will require restoration prior to maintenance.</p>
<p>Upper Solway Flats and</p>	<p>Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats.</p>	<p>Article 4.1 Qualification (79/409/EEC): Over winter the area regularly supports; barnacle goose, whooper swan, bar-tailed godwit & golden plover .</p>	

Site	Site Character	Reasons for Designation	Conservation Objectives
Marshes SPA 4367 ha. Rockliffe approx 400m	Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (93%) Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes (6%) Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) (1%)	Article 4.2 Qualification (79/409/EEC): winter the area regularly supports; northern pintail, northern shoveler, common teal, pink footed goose, ruddy turnstone, greater scaup, common goldeneye, sanderling, dunlin, red knot, Eurasian oystercatcher, Eurasian curlew, grey plover, common shleduck & common redshank.	
Upper Solway Flats and Marshes Ramsar 4367 ha. Rockliffe approx 400m	As above.	Ramsar Qualification Criteria (2,5 & 6); 2. Supports over 10% of the British population of natterjack toad; 5. Assemblages of international importance: species with peak counts in winter; waterfowl. 6. Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance including; Eurasian oystercatcher, whooper swan, pink-footed goose, barnacle goose, northern pintail, greater scaup, red knot, bar-tailed godwit, Eurasian curlew, common redshank, lesser black-backed gull, herring gull, ringed plover, dunlin.	
River Eden SAC 2463 ha	Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (1%) Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) (93.4%) Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (3%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (2.6%)	<p><u>Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i>:</u> Ullswater, in the catchment of the River Eden, is the second-largest of the Cumbrian lakes. It is chosen as an example of a relatively deep lake with both oligotrophic and mesotrophic elements in its fauna and flora. The lake has an extremely rich aquatic flora, including eight species of <i>Potamogeton</i>. These include various-leaved pondweed, red pondweed and long-stalked pondweed. The nationally scarce six-stamened waterwort is also found in some of the bays. Ullswater supports one of the few populations of powan <i>Coregonus lavaretus</i> in the UK.</p> <p><u>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation:</u> The Eden is a north-western representative of sub-type 2. The river flows over both calcareous limestone and sandstone, giving a diversity of ecological conditions, ranging from oligotrophic to mesotrophic. This river has 184 recorded plant species, more than any other river in the UK. River has an abundance of water-crowfoots.</p>	The habitats listed must be maintained in a favourable condition. Habitats found not to be in a favourable condition will require restoration priori to maintenance.

Site	Site Character	Reasons for Designation	Conservation Objectives
		<p>Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> : Throughout the length of the River Eden stands of alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and willow <i>Salix</i> spp. occur associated with backwaters and seasonally-flooded channels. The least-disturbed stands are on the tributary River Irthing</p> <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site include: white-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish, sea lamprey, brook lamprey, river lamprey, Atlantic salmon, bullhead, otter.</p>	
<p>Border Mires, Keilder-Butterburn SAC</p> <p>11852 ha</p>	<p>Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (80%) Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana (18%) Coniferous woodland (1%) Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites) (1%)</p>	<p>Blanket bogs: This complex is part of what was once the largest continuous tract of Blanket bogs across northern England and is particularly important for the quality of the transition it represents between blanket bog and raised mire. Such bogs are scarce in the EU and are increasingly threatened by degradation, drainage and climate change.</p> <p>Transition mires and quaking bogs: The transition mire element of these sites is relatively small, but is an important component of one of the least-damaged and more valuable species-rich mire complexes in England.</p> <p>Annex I-habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site include; Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>, European dry heaths, petrifying springs with tufa formation.</p>	<p>The habitats listed must be maintained in a favourable condition.</p> <p>Habitats found not to be in a favourable condition will require restoration prior to maintenance</p>
<p>Irthinghead Mires Ramsar</p> <p>792 ha</p>	<p>Comprised of five blanket mires, Butterburn Flow, Haining Head Moss, Hummel Knowe Moss, Coom Rigg Moss and Felicia Moss.</p>	<p>Ramsar Qualification Criteria (1,2 & 3);</p> <p>1. Supports an outstanding example of undamaged blanket bogs which are characteristic of the vegetation of upland north-western Britain. Most English (and many Scottish) blanket bogs have been extensively degraded by afforestation, burning, agricultural drainage and overgrazing. The Irthinghead Mires are one of few examples of this vegetation type in a near-natural state. There is also good representation of different topographic mire type and surface patterning.</p> <p>2. A notable variety of <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses.</p> <p>3. Butterburn Flow several rare plants, whilst a rare spider, <i>Eboria caliginosa</i>, has been recorded at Coom Rogg Moss.</p>	<p>The habitats listed must be maintained in a favourable condition.</p> <p>Habitats found not to be in a favourable condition will require restoration prior to maintenance</p>

Site	Site Character	Reasons for Designation	Conservation Objectives
<p>North Pennine Moors SAC</p> <p>103109 ha</p> <p>Hallbankgate approx 1149m</p>	<p>Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (41%)</p> <p>Heath, Scrub, Maquis and garrigue, Phygrana (32%)</p> <p>Dry grassland, Steppes (26.5%)</p> <p>Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (0.5%)</p>	<p>European dry heaths: The North Pennine Moors (along with the North York Moors) hold much of the upland heathland of northern England. At higher altitudes and to the wetter west and north of the site complex, the heaths grade into extensive areas of blanket bogs.</p> <p>Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands: The North Pennine Moors includes one major stand of juniper scrub in Swaledale as well as a number of small and isolated localities.</p> <p>Blanket bogs: The North Pennine Moors hold the major area of blanket bog in England. A significant proportion remains active with accumulating peat.</p> <p>Petrifying springs with tufa formation : The petrifying springs habitat is very localised in occurrence within the North Pennine Moors, but where it does occur it is species-rich with abundant bryophytes, sedges and herbs including bird's-eye primrose <i>Primula farinosa</i> and marsh valerian.</p> <p>Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation: Acidic rock outcrops and screes are well-scattered across the North Pennine Moors and support vegetation typical of Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation in England, including a range of lichens and bryophytes</p> <p>Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles: Birk Gill Wood is an example of old sessile oak woods well to the east of the habitat's main distribution in the UK. This sheltered river valley shows the characteristic rich bryophyte and lichen communities of the type under a canopy of oak, birch and rowan. The slopes are boulder-strewn, with mixtures of heather, bilberry and moss carpets in the ground flora.</p> <p>Annex I-habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site including: Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>; Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i>; Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands; Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates; Alkaline fens; Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels; Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation</p>	<p>The habitats listed must be maintained in a favourable condition.</p> <p>Habitats found not to be in a favourable condition will require restoration prior to maintenance</p>
<p>North Pennine</p>	<p>Bogs. Marshes. Water</p>	<p>Article 4.1 Qualification (79/409/EEC): During the breeding season the area</p>	<p>Habitats for the listed</p>

Site	Site Character	Reasons for Designation	Conservation Objectives
Moors SPA 147246 ha Hallbankgate approx 1149m	fringed vegetation. Fens (51%) Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana (42%) Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland (6.5) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (0.5%)	regularly supports; northern harrier, merlin. Peregrine falcon , Eurasian golden plover. Over-grazing, over-burning and other forms of intensive agricultural or sporting management (e.g. drainage) may be damaging. There is evidence that acidic and nitrogen deposition are having damaging effects on the vegetation and hence on the bird populations.	species must be maintained in a favourable condition.
North Pennine Dales Meadow SAC 497 ha	Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland (99%) Dry grassland. Steppes (1%)	<p>Mountain hay meadows: The North Pennine Dales contain a series of isolated fields within several north Pennine and Cumbrian valleys. The site encompasses the range of variation exhibited by mountain hay meadows in the UK and contains the major part of the remaining UK resource of this habitat type. The grasslands included within the site exhibit very limited effects of agricultural improvement and show good conservation of structure and function. A wide range of rare and local meadow species are contained within the meadows, including globeflower, the lady's-mantles and spignel.</p> <p>Annex I-habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site include: Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils.</p>	<p>The habitats listed and the neutral grasslands must be maintained in a favourable condition.</p> <p>Habitats found not to be in a favourable condition will require restoration prior to maintenance</p>
Walton Moss SAC 286 ha	Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (99%) Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland (1%)	<p>Active raised bogs: A largely intact raised bog of roughly rectangular shape, with an arm of mossland protruding westwards from the south-west corner. Raised bogs are widespread but unevenly distributed in the UK.</p> <p>Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration: distributed throughout Europe and throughout the range of raised bogs in the UK.</p>	
Bolton Fell Moss SAC 374.74 ha	Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (100%)	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site - Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</p> <p>Habitat occurrence description not yet available</p>	

*Adapted from Joint Nature Conservation Committee data form (31.10.11) <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk> available on Natural England website (<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/sac/default.aspx>)

Key Issues Screening Process

Issues and Options September 2011 Policy reference	Yes	No	If no – why?
Spatial Distribution of Growth			
SDG 1: Should we set a long term direction for growth in which delivery would exceed the lifetime of the plan?		No	This relates to the process of setting targets and not to development itself. Implications of this decision will be individually assessed under SDG2.
SDG2-: What direction should growth take in the future?	Yes		
Infrastructure			
I1: Where should new development be focused?	Yes		
Housing Aspirations			
H1: Housing delivery target options.		No	This relates to the process of setting targets and not to development itself. Implications of this decision will be individually assessed under H2-H9.
H2: When the overall District housing target is decided how should this be split?		No	This relates to the process of setting targets and not to development itself. Implications of this decision in terms of location for new housing development will be individually assessed under H3, H4 & H9.
H3: Location of new urban housing development	Yes		
H4: Which options for rural housing development will benefit the rural areas and communities best?	Yes		

H5: Affordable Housing	No		Policy relates to percentage provision of affordable housing, not to the principle/quantity of housing development itself (i.e. a higher percentage provision will not result in any more houses being built)
H6: Local Needs Housing	Yes		
H7: Hierarchy of Settlements		No	Policy relates to the categorisation of settlements for suitability for housing development. This categorisation will not in itself affect European Sites. Policies relating to H2, H3, H4, H6, H9 and H10 should include guidance to safeguard European Sites.
H8: Hierarchy of Settlements (level of services)		No	Policy relates to the categorisation of settlements for suitability for housing development. This categorisation will not in itself affect European Sites. Policies relating to H2, H3, H4, H6, H9 and H10 should include guidance to safeguard European Sites.
H9 : Settlement Boundaries	Yes		
H10: Gypsy and Traveller Needs	Yes		
Economy			
E1: Level of Economic Growth		No	This relates to the process of establishing projections of target growth and not to development itself. Policies relating to E3, E4, E5, E6, E8, E10, E12, E13 should include guidance to safeguard European Sites.
E2: Treatment of Existing Employment Areas		No	This relates to the treatment of existing development not additional development in new locations.
E3: Employment Land Provision – Growth	Yes		
E4: Rural Employment – Strategic Sites	Yes		
E5: Should new rural sites be allocated?	Yes		
E6: Do we allow extensions of employment areas even in more isolated locations?	Yes		

E7: Are there new opportunities for rural employment?		No	Seeks exploration of potential development in rural areas. The implications of individual opportunities then need to be explored to ensure there will be no adverse impact upon European sites.
E8: Should we resist the loss of agricultural and other buildings from rural employment uses to alternative uses?	Yes		
E9: Auction marts in Longtown and Carlisle		No	
E10: Education Sector	Yes		
E11: Energy Sector		No	Relates to the issue of including policies to target specific types of development rather than the development itself.
E12: Given the challenge of supplying energy for the plan period and beyond are there specific measures we need to take?	Yes		
E13: Strategic Areas for Employment	Yes		
Retail			
R1: Food Stores		No	Locations of proposals are such that there will not be any effects upon European Sites.
R2: Comparison Shopping	Yes		
R3: City Centre Shopping		No	Proposals relate to enhancing existing city centre locations and limiting out of town development therefore there are unlikely to be any adverse impacts upon European sites.
R4 & R5: Rural Shopping		No	Proposals relate to existing facilities in rural areas not to new development therefore there are unlikely to be any adverse impacts upon European sites.
Tourism, Heritage, Culture & Leisure			
THCL 1:		No	This relates to the appropriateness of addressing such issues in the Core strategy rather than the policies/proposals regarding the issues.

THCL 2 : Hotel Accommodation	Yes		
THCL 3: Location of Cultural/Leisure Facilities	Yes		
THCL 4: Management of Heritage Assets		No	Relates to management of existing heritage sites. These are not located within European sites and the management of such assets is unlikely to result in any adverse impacts upon European sites.
Local Character			
LC1: Local Character		No	Relates to character of development and not the principle of development therefore will not adversely affect any European sites.
Health & Wellbeing			
HW 1 & 2 : Health and Wellbeing	Yes		
Climate Change & Flood Risk			
CCFR1-5		No	Relates to the most effective ways of managing climate change and flood risk through development not the principle of development itself. The principle and location of new development (and infrastructure) in specific locations and the impact upon ES will be addressed under the issues raised above.
Green Infrastructure			
GI 1 & 2		No	Proposals aim to protect the diverse landscapes of the region through the enhancement of green infrastructure. Under such policies green infrastructure approaches will be encouraged which will protect and enhance the biodiversity of the whole region. As such no likely significant effects of European Sites will occur.