

North Lincolnshire Council

**North Lincolnshire Council:
Core Strategy Submission Draft
(May 2010)**

**Habitats Regulations Assessment:
Stage 1 – Screening (Amended)**

October 2010

North Lincolnshire: Core Strategy Submission Draft (May 2010)

Habitats Regulations Assessment: Stage 1 – Screening (Amended)

Record of Assessment of Likely Significant Effect on a European Site Required by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010

October 2010

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Document History

JOB NUMBER: 5041242.011			DOCUMENT REF: P:\G\BBMA\DE2\Div54\Ecology Jobs\5041242.007 North Lincs Core Strategy AA Review (CEW)\2010\40\Amended Screening\North Lincolnshire Council Core Strategy - Revised HRA Screening - With NE Comments - For Issue.doc			
03	Final for Issue with Natural Comments England	C Sellars	n/a	J Box	C West	29/10/10
02	Final for Issue	C Sellars	n/a	J Wynn	C West	27/08/10
01	Final Draft for Client Comment	C Sellars	n/a	J Wynn	C West	25/08/10
Revision	Purpose/Description	Originated	Checked	Reviewed	Authorised	Date
			ATKINS			

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1. Introduction and Background

1.1 Background to this Assessment

This Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Stage 1: Screening has been carried out by Atkins Limited (Atkins) on behalf of North Lincolnshire Council for the *North Lincolnshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) Submission Draft (May 2010)*.

The Core Strategy DPD (hereafter referred to as the Plan) covers the whole of the North Lincolnshire administrative area and is the council's key document in shaping the area's future over the next 16 years, up to the year 2026. The Core Strategy DPD is a high level strategic document which sets out the long term spatial planning framework for North Lincolnshire. In addition to this the Plan sets out guidance to deliver the vision for the area including the scale and distribution of development, the provision of infrastructure to support it and the protection of the natural and built environment.

1.2 Background to Habitat Regulation Assessment

An HRA is required by the Conservation of Habitats and Species 2010 (the Habitats Regulations), for all plans and projects which may impact on a European site and/or its interest features. An appropriate assessment is required if it is determined that the project or plan is not necessary for site management, and, if it cannot be ruled out during the Stage 1 Screening assessment, that it (the project or plan) will not have a significant effect on a European site. European sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA).

-An HRA is also required, as a matter of UK Government policy for potential SPAs (pSPA), candidate SACs (cSAC) and listed Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) for the purposes of considering plans and projects, which may affect them¹. Hereafter all of the above designated nature conservation sites are referred to as 'international sites'.

The stages of HRA process are:

- **Stage 1 – Screening:** To test whether a plan or project either alone or in combination with other plans and projects is likely to have a significant effect on an international site. If it cannot be concluded that there will be no likely significant effect on any international site, Stage 2 is needed;
- **Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment:** To determine whether, in view of an international site's conservation objectives, the plan (either alone or in combination with other projects and plans) would have an adverse effect (or risk of this) on the integrity of the site with respect to the site structure, function and conservation objectives. If adverse impacts are anticipated, potential mitigation measures to alleviate impacts should be proposed and assessed;
- **Stage 3 – Assessment of alternative solutions:** Where a plan is assessed as having an adverse impact (or risk of this) on the integrity of an international site, there should be an examination of alternatives (e.g. alternative locations and designs of development); and

¹ Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation, ODPM (August 2005)

- **Stage 4 – Assessment where no alternative solutions remain and where adverse impacts remain:** In exceptional circumstance (e.g. where there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest), compensatory measures to be put in place to offset negative impacts.

Stage 1 of the HRA process has been carried out in this report.

1.3 Outline of this Report

Following this introduction:

- Section 2 outlines the methodology used for this HRA screening;
- Section 3 provides details of the relevant international sites, including their qualifying features and Conservation Objectives;
- Section 4 outlines details of the Plan and provisions within the document to protect the international site;
- Section 5 details the results of the HRA screening for the international sites; and,
- Section 6 provides the conclusions of the HRA screening.

2. Methodology

The Plan

All available information about the Plan was gathered in order to analyse whether the Plan is likely to impact on the international sites. A summary of the Plan and its contents is given in Section 4.

Determination of the International Sites included in the HRA

An initial review of the Plan in light of the Habitats Regulations has been undertaken by Atkins as part of the HRA process. This initial review looked at the geographic extent or zone of influence of any impacts which could arise as a result of the Plan and considered which international sites should be included within the assessment.

As a starting point all international sites within North Lincolnshire and up to 20 km from its boundaries were identified². There are five international sites within the district:

- Humber Estuary SPA;
- Humber Estuary SAC;
- Humber Estuary Ramsar site;
- Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA; and,
- Thorne Moors SAC.

There are also three other international site within 20 km of North Lincolnshire. These are:

- Hatfield Moor SAC: located immediately adjacent to the western boundary of North Lincolnshire, near Hatfield; and,
- River Derwent SAC: located approximately 15 km north-west of North Lincolnshire, near Barmby on the Marsh.
- Lower Derwent Valley SAC and Ramsar site: located approximately 17 km north-west of North Lincolnshire, near South Duffield.

The Plan outlines potential locations for future strategic development (including housing, employment and tourism) and thereby focuses on regeneration and future expansion within North Lincolnshire. Effects of the Plan are considered unlikely to extend far beyond the Plan boundary.

The Plan states that most future development will be concentrated in and around the urban area of Scunthorpe, with a smaller proportion of development in and around the Market Towns of Barton upon Humber, Brigg, Crowle, Kirton in Lindsey and Winterton. This will focus development on already built up areas which are surrounded by open areas of green space. The River Derwent SAC and the Lower Derwent Valley SAC have been eliminated from the HRA process as

² The Environment Agency Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) and Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) guidance notes that a proposal to construct a coal or oil fired power station should consider impacts on European sites up to 15 km away (Page 4 of the *Habitats Directive – Work Instruction: Appendix 7 Technical and Procedural Issues Specific to IPC and PPC* produced by the Environment Agency in July 2004). The most recent England Leisure Visits report states that people will travel up to 17.3 km to a countryside destination (*England Leisure Visits: Summary of the 2005 Leisure Visits Survey*, Natural England, 2005). These distances have been rounded up to 20 km on a precautionary basis to ensure that all sites that may be impacted by a new development are considered as part of the HRA process.

it is extremely unlikely that there will be any likely significant effects on these sites given their distance to the towns and villages (with the SACs located approximately 17.8 km upstream north-west and 19.8 km upstream north-west of Crowle, the closest potential expansion/development area, respectively).

Given the distance of the River Derwent SAC and the Lower Derwent Valley SAC from the towns and villages of North Lincolnshire, it is unlikely that development (be it residential dwellings, employment space or transport schemes facilities) will lead to increased recreational pressure at this site. It is unlikely that residents from expansion areas in North Lincolnshire will travel to River Derwent SAC or the Lower Derwent Valley SAC over and above other green space within the council area. It is mostly likely that any increase in visitor pressure will be relatively evenly distributed amongst all the wildlife sites and green spaces in the vicinity. Furthermore, there would be no anticipated direct impacts from, for example, changes to water quality or sedimentation as the North Lincolnshire boundary is over 15 km from these two sites and the SACs are upstream of North Lincolnshire.

In conclusion, it is unlikely that there will be any likely significant effects on the River Derwent SAC and the Lower Derwent Valley SAC and they are not considered further in this HRA.

Therefore, this HRA is a record of the assessment of 'likely significant effects' from the Plan on three international sites: Humber Estuary SPA, Humber Estuary SAC, Humber Estuary Ramsar site, Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA. Further details of these international sites including their location, designation details and conservation objectives are provided in Section 3.

Obtaining Information on International Sites with the Potential to be Affected

Information was gathered on the international sites to be included in the HRA. This includes:

- Obtaining information on the qualifying features of each international site from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) website (www.jncc.gov.uk); and
- Contacting Natural England for the Conservation Objectives and Favourable Conditions Tables for each international site.

Assessing the Impacts of the Plan

Following the gathering of information on the Plan and the international sites, an assessment was undertaken to predict the likely significant effects of the Plan on the international sites. In order to inform this process, all parts of the Core Strategy DPD were assessed to see if they could result in likely significant effects on the Humber Estuary SPA/SAC/Ramsar site. This HRA Screening assesses all 27 policies within the Plan.

Each of the policies within the Plan has been examined in detail to see if they will have a likely significant effect on the three international sites. The findings of this assessment are given in Table A-1 in Appendix A. Section 5 summarises the findings of the HRA in relation to each of the international sites. Where possible, policies that have been found to have no likely significant effect on an international site have been categorised onto one of five different types. This has been based on *The Habitats Regulations Assessment of Local Development Documents (Revised Draft Guidance)* produced by Natural England in February 2009:

- **Policy Type A1:** Policies that will not themselves lead to development (e.g. because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development, or they are not a land use planning policy);
- **Policy Type A2:** Policies intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity;

- **Policy Type A3:** Policies intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on an international site;
- **Policy Type A4:** Policies that positively steer development away from international sites and associated sensitive areas; and,
- **Policy Type A5:** Policies that would have no effect because no development could occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through later policies in the same plan, which are more specific and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects in international sites and associated sensitive areas.

The potential for likely significant effects of the Plan ‘in combination’ on these six international sites with other projects and plans has also been considered in this HRA. Although impacts from an individual project or plan may have no likely significant effect on the integrity of an international site, cumulative impacts from other plans and projects may result in an in combination effect on one or more interest features of the international site³. Likely significant effects by these means must also be considered (see Section 5).

Likely significant effect is any effect that may reasonably be predicted as a consequence of a plan or project that may affect the conservation objectives of the features for which the site was designated. If any plan or project causes the cited interest features of a site to fall into unfavourable condition they can be considered to have a likely significant effect on the site. Stage 1 of the HRA process does not assess effects on integrity of international sites (this forms Stage 2 of the HRA process). However the definition of integrity provided below has been taken into account during the assessment of likely significant effects:

“...the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.”⁴

Plans or projects can lead to significant effects on an international site by:

- Causing delays in progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site;
- Interrupting progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site;
- Disrupting those factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site; and
- Interfering with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of the favourable condition of the site.

The HRA is an iterative process. Where necessary, suggestions can be made of how to amend the Plan to avoid likely significant effects on an international site. This iterative approach has been adopted as part of this assessment and recommendations for the Core Strategy DPD have been provided to North Lincolnshire Council and incorporated into the Plan. This HRA Stage 1 screening assesses the Plan and its policies after these changes to the Plan have been made.

The precautionary principle (as enshrined in the Habitats Regulations) has been taken into account during this HRA. The precautionary principle is used when an HRA cannot objectively demonstrate that there will be no likely significant effects on the international sites. If this occurs

³ Habitat Regulations Guidance Note 4: Along or in combinations, English Nature, May 2001.

⁴ Part I, Section B, Paragraph 20 of *ODPM Circular 06/2005* accompanying *Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation*

the subsequent stages of HRA must be completed for the project or the specific policies within the plan that have been found to have likely significant effects.

3. The International Sites

This section includes information about Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site, the Thorne Moor SAC, the Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA. This information includes designation status, location, a brief description of the qualifying features of the site and its conservation objectives.

Table 3.1: Information about the Humber Estuary SAC

Site Designation Status	Humber Estuary SAC
Location of International Site	<p>The Humber is the second largest coastal plain estuary in the UK and is fed by three rivers including the Ouse, Trent and Hull. The designations (SAC/SPA/Ramsar) incorporate sections of the Rivers Ouse and Trent and the entire Humber Estuary, extending south from the mouth of the Humber to near Saltfleet on the east coast.</p> <p>The Humber Estuary comprises extensive wetland and coastal habitats. The inner estuary supports extensive areas of reedbed, with areas of mature and developing saltmarsh backed by grazing marsh in the middle and outer estuary. On the North Lincolnshire coast, the saltmarsh is backed by low sand dunes with marshy slacks and brackish pools.</p>
Brief Description of the International Site	<p>SAC</p> <p>Humber Estuary SAC qualifies for European protection due to the Annex I habitats it supports including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal lagoons; • Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (‘grey dunes’); • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>); • Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>; • Embryonic shifting dunes; • Estuaries; • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand; • Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; and, • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (‘white dunes’) <p>The site is also designated as it hosts the following Annex II species:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>); • River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>); and, • Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>).
Vulnerabilities of the International Site	<p>The Humber Estuary SAC is vulnerable to impacts on the geomorphological structure and function of the estuary (including impacts on the sediment budget) from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal squeeze (e.g. sea level rise and climate change); • Flood defence works; • Dredging; • Construction, operation and maintenance of ports, pipelines and other infrastructure; and, • Changes in water quality and flows. <p>In addition the site is sensitive from damage and disturbance arising from access, recreation and other activities.</p>

Table 3.2: Information about the Humber Estuary SPA

Site Designation Status	Humber Estuary SPA
Location of International Site	<p>The Humber is the second largest coastal plain estuary in the UK and is fed by three rivers including the Ouse, Trent and Hull. The designations (SAC/SPA/Ramsar) incorporate sections of the Rivers Ouse and Trent and the entire Humber Estuary, extending south from the mouth of the Humber to near Saltfleet on the east coast.</p> <p>The Humber Estuary comprises extensive wetland and coastal habitats. The inner estuary supports extensive areas of reedbed, with areas of mature and developing saltmarsh backed by grazing marsh in the middle and outer estuary. On the North Lincolnshire coast, the saltmarsh is backed by low sand dunes with marshy slacks and brackish pools.</p>
Brief Description of the International Site	<p>The Humber Estuary SPA qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:</p> <p>During the breeding season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avocet (<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>): 8.6% of the population in Great Britain 1998-2002; • Bittern (<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>): 10.5% of the population in Great Britain 2000-2002; • Little tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>): 63 pairs representing at least 2.6%

of the breeding population in Great Britain; and,

- Marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), 11 pairs representing at least 6.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1995).

Over winter:

- Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*): 1,593 individuals representing at least 3.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6);
- Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*): 2 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year mean 91/2-95/6);
- Golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*): 29,235 individuals representing at least 11.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6);
- Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*): 1.7% of the population in Great Britain 1996/7 to 2000/1; and,
- Hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*): 20 individuals representing at least 2.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1984/5-1988/9).

On passage:

- Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*): 1.4% of the population in Great Britain 1996-2000.

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:

On passage:

- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*): 5,212 individuals representing at least 2.9% of the Eastern Atlantic - wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6);
- Black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa islandica*): 2.6% of the population 1996-2000;
- Knot (*Calidris canutus*): 4.1% of the population 1996-2000;
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*): 1.5% of the population 1996-2000;
- Sanderling (*Calidris alba*): 1,767 individuals representing at least 1.8% of the Eastern Atlantic/Western & Southern Africa - wintering population (2 year mean May 1993 - 1994).

Over winter:

- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*): 23,605 individuals representing at least 1.7% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6);
- Knot (*Calidris canutus*): 33,848 individuals representing at least

	<p>9.7% of the wintering North-eastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/North-western Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>): 3.2% of the population 1996/7 to 2000/1; • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>): 4,452 individuals representing at least 3.0% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic - wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6); and, <p>Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>): 4,083 individuals representing at least 1.4% of the wintering North-western Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6).</p>
<p>Vulnerabilities of the International Site⁵</p>	<p>The Humber Estuary SPA is vulnerable to impacts on the geomorphological structure and function of the estuary (including impacts on the sediment budget) from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal squeeze (e.g. sea level rise and climate change); • Flood defence works; • Loss of high tide roosting and foraging areas for the SPA birds; • Dredging; • Construction, operation and maintenance of ports, pipelines and other infrastructure; and, • Changes in water quality and flows. <p>In addition the site is sensitive from damage and disturbance arising from access, recreation and other activities.</p>

Table 3.3: Information about the Humber Estuary Ramsar Site

<p>Site Designation Status</p>	<p>Humber Estuary Ramsar site</p>
<p>Location of International Site</p>	<p>The Humber is the second largest coastal plain estuary in the UK and is fed by three rivers including the Ouse, Trent and Hull. The designations (SAC/SPA/Ramsar) incorporate sections of the Rivers Ouse and Trent and the entire Humber Estuary, extending south from the mouth of the Humber to near Saltfleet on the east coast.</p> <p>The Humber Estuary comprises extensive wetland and coastal habitats. The inner estuary supports extensive areas of reedbed, with areas of mature and developing saltmarsh backed by grazing marsh in the middle and outer estuary. On the North Lincolnshire coast, the saltmarsh is backed by low sand dunes with marshy slacks and brackish pools.</p>

⁵ Humber Estuary SPA Natura 2000 Standard Data Form produced by JNCC (Version 1.1, 23/08/07)

Brief Description of the International Site

The site is designated as a Ramsar site (internationally important wetland) as over winter, the area regularly supports 187,617 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6) including:

- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*);
- Golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*);
- Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*);
- Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*);
- Knot (*Calidris canutus*);
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*);
- Redshank (*Tringa tetanus*);
- Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*);
- Dark-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*);
- Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*);
- Teal (*Anas crecca*);
- Curlew (*Numenius arquata*);
- Pochard (*Aythya farina*);
- Ruddy turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*);
- Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*);
- Little tern (*Sterna albifrons*);
- Greater scaup (*Aythya marila*);
- Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*);
- Ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*);
- Grey plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*);
- Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*);
- Sanderling (*Calidris alba*);
- Black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa islandica*);
- Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*);
- Marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*);
- Hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*);
- Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*);
- Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*);
- Wigeon (*Anas penelope*); and,
- Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*).

The site is also designated for its:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dune systems and humid dune slacks, estuarine waters, intertidal mud and sand flats, saltmarshes, and coastal brackish/saline lagoons; breeding colony of grey seals (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) at Donna Nook. It is the second largest grey seal colony in England and the furthest south regular breeding site on the east coast; the dune slacks at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on the southern extremity of the Ramsar site are the most north-easterly breeding site in Great Britain of the natterjack toad (<i>Bufo calamita</i>); and, <p>important migration route for both river lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) and sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) between coastal waters and their spawning areas.</p>
<p>Vulnerabilities of the International Site⁶</p>	<p>The Humber Estuary Ramsar site is sensitive to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance through vegetation cutting (e.g. anglers clearing reedbeds); Loss of high tide roosting and foraging areas for the Ramsar birds; Vegetation succession; Water diversion for irrigation/domestic/industrial use; Overfishing; Pollution (e.g. domestic sewage and agricultural fertilisers); Disturbance from recreation and, Coastal squeeze.

Table 3.4: Conservation Objectives for the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar Site

<p>Conservation Objectives of the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site</p>	<p>The Conservation Objectives for this site are, subject to natural change, to maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*), with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features (habitats, vegetation types, species, species assemblages etc.) for which the land is designated (SAC, SPA, Ramsar).</p> <p>Habitat Types represented (Biodiversity Action Plan categories)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estuary; Inshore sublittoral sediment; Littoral rock; Inshore littoral rock;
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⁶ *Humber Estuary Ramsar Site: Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands* produced by JNCC (Version 3.0, 13/06/2008)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Littoral sediment (mudflat, sandflat and saltmarsh); • Saline lagoons; • Sand dunes; and, • Standing open water and canals. <p>Species features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breeding bird assemblage; • Passage and wintering waterfowl species; • Grey seal; • River lamprey; • Sea lamprey; • Vascular plants assemblages; and, • Invertebrate assemblages. <p>(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable.</p> <p>The full conservation objectives⁷ for this site are included in Appendix B.</p>
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Table 3.5: Information about the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA

Site Designation Status	Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA
Location of International Site	<p>The site is located along the western edge of the North Lincolnshire Council boundary. The SPA in the majority falls into the Metropolitan Borough of Doncaster although small sections are located within the East Riding of Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire.</p> <p>The nearest settlement to the SPA in North Lincolnshire is Wroot (located approximately 0.65 km south of the SPA).</p>
Brief Description of the International Site	<p>The composite site of Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA qualifies for European protection due to the breeding population of nightjars that use the site for nesting and feeding. The sixty-six pairs of nightjar breeding on the Thorne and Hatfield Moors represent 1.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain.</p> <p>The European nightjar is a Species of European Concern, as the</p>

⁷ Conservation Objectives for the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site were taken from *Conservation Objectives and Definitions of Favourable Conditions For Designated Features of Interest: Humber Estuary* produced by Natural England (Draft, December 2009).

	<p>global population is concentrated in Europe, although it currently has an unfavourable conservation status within the continent. Nightjars are a ground nesting species, preferring well-drained, open ground with vegetation such as open young woodland or heather moors. It is thought that human disturbance has negative impacts on the success of breeding in this species (Murison 2002).</p>
Conservation Objectives of the International Site	<p>The conservation objectives for this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to restore to favourable condition the area currently notified as degraded raised bog; and • to maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of Annex 1 species of European importance (nightjar), with particular reference to degraded bog capable of natural regeneration as a precursor of active raised bog. <p>Please note: the word ‘maintain’ used in the context above implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.</p>
Vulnerabilities of the International Site ⁸	<p>The Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA is sensitive to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peat cutting; • Succession of vegetation (from a lack of management); and • Re-wetting operations

Table 3.6: Information about the Hatfield Moor SAC

Site Designation Status	Hatfield Moor Special Area of Conservation
Location of International Site	<p>This site is located along the western edge of the North Lincolnshire Council boundary. The entire SAC is located within the Metropolitan Borough of Doncaster.</p> <p>The nearest settlement to the SAC in North Lincolnshire is Wroot (located approximately 0.65 km south of the SAC).</p>
Brief Description of the International Site	<p>Hatfield Moor SAC is a remnant of the original extensive bog and wetland once found in the Humberhead Levels and is the second largest area of extant lowland raised bog in England. The SAC is designated because of the Annex I habitats present within the site, degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration. However, after restoration some areas of Thorne Moor now support active raised bog.</p>

⁸ *Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA Natura 2000 Standard Data Form*, produced by JNCC (Version 1.1, 05/05/06)

	There are a range of habitats within the site and these include inland water bodies (standing water, running water); bogs, marshes, water fringed vegetation and fens; heath, scrub, maquis and garrigue, and phygrana; arable land; broad-leaved deciduous woodland; coniferous woodland and other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites).
Conservation Objectives of the International Site	The conservation objective for this site is to restore to favourable condition the area currently notified as degraded raised bog.
Vulnerabilities of the International Site ⁹	Hatfield Moor SAC is sensitive to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peat cutting; • Water abstraction from the underlying aquifer; • Extraction of sand and gravel aggregates almost adjacent to the site; • Surrounding agricultural drainage and, • Succession of vegetation (e.g. scrub invasion following drainage and peat cutting).

Table 3.7: Information about the Thorne Moor SAC

Site Designation Status	Thorne Moor Special Area of Conservation
Location of International Site	The site is located along the western edge of the North Lincolnshire Council boundary. Most of the SAC is located within the Metropolitan Borough of Doncaster but small sections are located within the East Riding of Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire. The nearest settlement to the SAC in North Lincolnshire is Crowle (located approximately 1.2 km south-east of the SAC).
Brief Description of the International Site	Thorne Moor SAC is the largest remaining area of raised bog in England. Despite extensive operations of peat excavation there are still large areas of Sphagnum bog as well as many heathland habitats. The degraded raised bog still capable of natural regeneration is the Annex I habitat that is the primary reason for the site's allocation as a SAC. The range of habitats present within the site are inland water bodies (standing water, running water); bogs, marshes, water fringed vegetation and fens; heath, scrub, maquis, garrigue and phygrana; broad-leaved deciduous woodland and other land (including towns,

⁹ Hatfield Moor SAC Natura 2000 Standard Data Form produced by JNCC (Version 2.1, 14/03/03)

	villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites).
Conservation Objectives of the International Site	The conservation objective for this site is to restore to favourable condition the area currently notified as degraded raised bog.
Vulnerabilities of the International Site ¹⁰	<p>Thorne Moor SAC is sensitive to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peat cutting; • Water abstraction from the underlying aquifer: • Surrounding agricultural drainage and, • Succession of vegetation (scrub invasion following drainage and peat cutting).

¹⁰ *Thorne Moor SAC Natura 2000 Standard Data Form* produced by JNCC (Version 2.1, 14/03/03)

4. Plan Details

4.1 Proposed Plan

The North Lincolnshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) (the Plan) is the strategic policy document that outlines the council's spatial vision and approach to development. It sets out the spatial strategy, strategic objectives and a delivery strategy for development and growth in North Lincolnshire. Consequently the Core Strategy DPD will guide the preparation of subsequent Local Development Framework (LDF) documents.

None of the proposals within the Plan are directly connected with, or necessary to the nature conservation management of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site or the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and Thorne and Hatfield Moors SAC.

4.2 Brief Description of Plan

The Plan includes a spatial vision for North Lincolnshire. The vision and associated spatial objectives aim to address the issues that face the area and provide a framework for the policies that will guide development in North Lincolnshire up to 2026. The Plan outlines the overall approach for the provision of new homes, jobs, infrastructure and community facilities and directs development to the most suitable locations to create sustainable local communities.

The Plan includes a total of 27 policies that will be used to establish development principles and broad indications of the location of strategic housing, employment, tourism and other development proposals.

4.3 Provisions within the Plan that Protect International Sites

When planning applications are determined all of the relevant policies and supporting text in the Plan are taken into account and used as the basis for decision-making. In the Plan there is one policy in particular that seeks to protect international sites, Policy CS17:

- **Policy CS17 – Biodiversity:** This policy outlines the council's approach to safeguarding the natural environment. This policy states the international sites for nature conservation will be safeguarded from inappropriate development and appropriate consideration will be given to European habitats and species.

The following policies also include measures to ensure that the international sites are protected:

- **Policy CS1 – Spatial Strategy for North Lincolnshire:** This policy states that the need to develop the South Humber Bank ports will be weighed against the need to protect internationally important sites;
- **Policy CS16 – North Lincolnshire's Landscape, Greenscape and Waterscape:** This policy seeks to protect and enhance the landscape, greenscape and waterscape in North Lincolnshire;

- **Policy CS26 – Strategic Transport Infrastructure Proposals:** This policy states any nature conservation issues will be addressed and mitigated against (particularly at the South Humber Bank) when delivering key infrastructure schemes and programmes;

There is also text within the Section 3 of the Plan entitled 'Appropriate Assessment'. This text clearly states that any proposed development that may have an adverse effect on internationally important sites will be subject to the HRA process by the competent authority.

Furthermore, the Delivery Plan for Ecology and Industrial Development for the South Humber Bank Strategic Employment Site is being developed. This is a means of ensuring that future economic development does not lead to likely significant effects on the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar site by providing an up-front strategy for an appropriate and agreed amount of mitigation. It provides an approach for identifying and safeguarding sites for roosting and feeding birds (specifically Humber Estuary SPA species of interest) whilst enabling sustainable economic development. The preparation of this plan involves North Lincolnshire Council working in partnership with key partners such as North East Lincolnshire Council, Natural England, Environment Agency, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and other nature conservation bodies. A Memorandum of Understanding is now in place which establishes the agreement of the key partners to work cooperatively to achieve this aim and sets out agreed objectives with respect to the preparation and content of the delivery plan.

5. HRA Results

Table 5.1: HRA Results for the Humber Estuary international sites

<p>Site Designation Status</p>	<p>Humber Estuary SAC Humber Estuary SPA Humber Estuary Ramsar site</p>
<p>Describe the individual elements of the Plan likely to give rise to impacts on the International Site</p>	<p>A total of eight of the 27 policies within the Plan may lead to likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CS1 – Spatial Strategy for North Lincolnshire: This policy will result in housing and employment sites being constructed in different locations within North Lincolnshire. This includes development of the South Humber Bank ports (immediately adjacent to the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site); • CS4 – Creating a Renaissance in North Lincolnshire: This policy will lead to the development of the Lincolnshire Lakes, a proposal which will lead to the provision of 6,000 plus new houses, potentially on Greenfield land to the west of Scunthorpe. This land is in close proximity to the River Trent (designated as part of the Humber Estuary SAC and Ramsar site); • CS7 – Overall Housing Provision: This policy outlines the total number of houses to be provided in North Lincolnshire over the Plan period (a total of 12,063 dwellings); • CS8 – Spatial Distribution of Housing: This policy will result in housing being constructed in different locations all over North Lincolnshire including locations in Scunthorpe, Barton upon Humber, Brigg, Crowle, Kirton in Lindsey and Winterton; • CS11 – Provision and Distribution of Employment Land: This policy outlines strategic employment sites at the following broad locations: Scunthorpe, Market Towns, Humberside Airport and Sandtoft Business Park; • CS12 – South Humber Bank Strategic Employment Site: This policy states that around 900 ha of land at the South Humber Bank Strategic Employment Site will be reserved for employment uses (including B1, B2 and B8 port related activities). This strategic site is located immediately adjacent to the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site; • CS21 – Minerals: This policy states that the council will safeguard mineral resources from other development that would prejudice future mineral extraction. Ten Mineral Safeguarding Areas are identified. These areas may be worked for minerals in the future; and, • CS26 – Strategic Transport Infrastructure Proposals: This policy

outlines the strategic infrastructure proposals to enhance internal and external transport connections (including road, rail, air, water and information technology). Eleven proposals are put forward including upgrades to the South Humber Main Line between Doncaster and Immingham to support access to the South Humber Ports.

The remaining 19 policies will not lead to any likely significant effects on the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site. The HRA Screening Results Table in Appendix A gives a full justification of the conclusions drawn for each of these policies.

Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Plan on the International Site by virtue of:

- Size and scale;
- Land take;
- Resource requirements (i.e. water extraction etc);
- Emissions (disposal to land, water or air);
- Excavation requirements;
- Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc.; and
- Other.

Policies CS1, CS4, CS7, CS8, CS11, CS12, CS21 and CS26 may lead to the following effects on the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site:

- **Habitat loss:** These policies may lead to the loss of terrestrial habitat within and outside of the SPA and Ramsar site. Depending on the areas of land to be lost (e.g. their location and the habitats present) this may lead to likely significant effects on the SPA and Ramsar site. This is because areas of land close to the Humber estuary may be used by the internationally important bird populations/assemblages from the SPA and Ramsar site (e.g. for foraging or at high tide as roosting grounds). Loss of these areas, even though outside of the designated site, could lead to adverse effects on qualifying features of the international sites and the loss of areas of terrestrial habitat outside of the designated sites but that form a functioning part of the SPA and Ramsar site. Water abstraction from within the Humber Estuary may also effect the structure and function of the SAC, SPA and Ramsar site;
- **Pollution:** These policies may lead to a decrease in air quality and an increase in water borne pollutants (from the construction and operation of new housing, employment and transport schemes). Depending on the location and type of development this may lead to (indirect) likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the SAC and may possibly lead to the degradation or loss of habitats (such as saltmarsh communities and intertidal mudflat and sandflat communities) and negative effects on other qualifying features of the SAC (such as the river and sea lamprey from a decrease in water quality);
- **Disturbance:** These policies may lead to an increase in visual and noise disturbance to the internationally important bird populations/assemblages that are qualifying features of the SPA and Ramsar site (from noise, vibration and lighting during construction and operation of new housing, employment and transport schemes). Depending on the location and type of development this may lead to (indirect) likely significant effects on the internationally important bird populations/assemblages (either within the SPA/Ramsar site or in areas of terrestrial habitat outside of the international site that form a functioning part of it); and,
- **Increased recreational pressure:** These policies may lead to a potential increase in levels of recreational activity within the SAC, SPA and Ramsar site. This may lead to higher levels of disturbance to the internationally important bird populations/assemblages from the SPA and Ramsar site (due to an increase in dwellings in the area (Policy

	<p>SP1), an increase in people working in the area (Policies CS11, CS12 and CS21) and a potential increase in accessibility to these sites (Policy DM7) leading to more people living in the council area and visiting the coast and countryside close to the international sites).</p>
<p>Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of habitat area; • Disturbance to key species; • Habitat or species fragmentation; • Reduction in species density; • Changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality); and • Climate change 	<p>The likely significant effects outlined above may result in the following changes to the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance to key species: from increased recreational pressure and the construction and operation of new housing, employment and transport schemes with likely significant effects on the internationally important bird populations and assemblages that form the SPA and Ramsar site; • Reduction in habitat area: the construction of new housing, employment and transport schemes may result in the loss of functioning areas of the SPA and Ramsar site within or outside of the international sites boundaries. This will lead to likely significant effects on the internationally important bird populations and assemblages that form the SPA and Ramsar site; • Changes to water quality: from pollution associated with new housing, employment and transport schemes with likely significant effects on the qualifying habitats and species of the SAC (e.g. degradation and/or loss of habitats and/or species); and, • Changes to air quality: from pollution associated with new housing, employment and transport schemes with likely significant effects on the qualifying habitats of the SAC (e.g. degradation and/or loss of habitats).

Table 5.2: HRA Results for the Thorne and Hatfield Moors international sites

<p>Site Designation Status</p>	<p>Thorne Moor SAC Hatfield Moor SAC Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA</p>
<p>Describe the individual elements of the Plan likely to give rise to impacts on the International Site</p>	<p>A total of seven of the 27 policies within the Plan may lead to likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Thorne and Hatfield Moors international sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CS1 – Spatial Strategy for North Lincolnshire: This policy will result in housing and employment sites being constructed in different locations within North Lincolnshire. This includes development of the South Humber Bank ports (immediately adjacent to the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site); • CS4 – Creating a Renaissance in North Lincolnshire: This policy will lead to the development of the Lincolnshire Lakes, a proposal which will lead to the provision of 6,000 plus new houses, potentially on Greenfield land to the west of Scunthorpe. As this land is in close proximity to the River Trent (designated as part of the Humber Estuary SAC and Ramsar site);

- **CS7 – Overall Housing Provision:** This policy outlines the total number of houses to be provided in North Lincolnshire over the Plan period (a total of 12,063 dwellings);
- **CS8 – Spatial Distribution of Housing:** This policy will result in housing being constructed in different locations all over North Lincolnshire including locations in Scunthorpe, Barton upon Humber, Brigg, Crowle, Kirton in Lindsey and Winterton;
- **CS11 – Provision and Distribution of Employment Land:** This policy outlines strategic employment sites at the following broad locations: Scunthorpe, Market Towns, Humberside Airport and Sandtoft Business Park;
- **CS21 – Minerals:** This policy states that the council will safeguard mineral resources from other development that would prejudice future mineral extraction. Ten Mineral Safeguarding Areas are identified. These areas may be worked for minerals in the future; and,
- **CS26 – Strategic Transport Infrastructure Proposals:** This policy outlines the strategic infrastructure proposals to enhance internal and external transport connections (including road, rail, air, water and information technology). Eleven proposals are put forward including upgrades to the South Humber Main Line between Doncaster and Immingham to support access to the South Humber Ports.

The remaining 20 policies will not lead to any likely significant effects on the Thorne and Hatfield Moors international sites. The HRA Screening Results Table in Appendix A gives a full justification of the conclusions drawn for each of these policies.

Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Plan on the International Site by virtue of:

- Size and scale;
- Land take;
- Resource requirements (i.e. water extraction etc);
- Emissions (disposal to land, water or air);
- Excavation requirements;
- Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc.; and
- Other.

Policies CS1, CS4, CS7, CS8, CS11, CS21 and CS26 may lead to the following effects on the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA:

- **Habitat loss:** These policies may lead to the loss of terrestrial habitat outside of the SPA. Depending on the areas of land to be lost (e.g. their location and the habitats present) this may lead to likely significant effects on the SPA. This is because areas of land close to the Thorne and Hatfield Moors may be used by the internationally important bird populations of nightjar from the SPA (e.g. for foraging or roosting). Loss of these areas, even though outside of the designated site, could lead to adverse effects on qualifying features of the international sites and the loss of a functioning part of the SPA;
- **Water abstraction:** Policies CS1, CS4, CS7, CS8, CS11, CS21 and CS26 may lead to an increase in the level of water abstraction from the aquifer underlying the Thorne Moor SAC and the Hatfield Moor SAC (e.g. in order to supply new housing and employment development with water). This may potentially lead to a drying out of the degraded raised bogs still capable of regeneration, causing degradation and/or loss of this internationally important habitat. This may also affect the suitability of the habitats within the SAC to support populations of nightjar (which is a qualifying feature of the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased Recreational Pressure: These policies may lead to a potential increase in levels of recreational activity within the SACs and the SPA. This may lead to higher levels of disturbance to the internationally important population of nightjar at the SPA (due to an increase in dwellings in the area leading to more people living in the council area and more people working in North Lincolnshire leading to more people visiting the coast and countryside close to the international sites). It may also lead to the degradation and/or loss of internationally important habitat from within the two SACs (due to increased footfall within the sites).
<p>Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of habitat area; • Disturbance to key species; • Habitat or species fragmentation; • Reduction in species density; • Changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality); and • Climate change 	<p>The likely significant effects outlined above may result in the following changes to the Hatfield Moor SAC, Thorne Moor SAC and Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance to key species: from increased recreational pressure and the construction and operation of new housing, employment and transport schemes with likely significant effects on the internationally important bird populations and assemblages that form the SPA; • Reduction in habitat area: the construction of new housing, employment and transport schemes may result in the loss of functioning areas of the SPA outside of the international sites boundaries. This will lead to likely significant effects on the internationally important bird populations and assemblages that form the SPA. <p>Should increased abstraction from the aquifer beneath the Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne Moor SAC be required to support new housing and employment schemes this may lead to a reduction in raised bog habitats within these international sites;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to water quality: from pollution associated with new housing, employment and transport schemes with likely significant effects on the qualifying habitats of the SAC (e.g. further degradation of the raised bog habitats present or inability to restore to favourable condition the area currently notified as degraded raised bog); and, • Changes to air quality: from pollution associated with new housing, employment and transport schemes with likely significant effects on the qualifying habitats of the SAC (e.g. further degradation of the raised bog habitats present or inability to restore to favourable condition the area currently notified as degraded raised bog).

Table 5.3: Conclusions of the HRA Screening

<p>Will the Plan have Likely Significant Effects Alone?</p>	<p>The Core Strategy DPD may have likely significant effects on the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site and the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA alone (from Policies CS1, CS4, CS7, CS8, CS11, CS12, CS21 and CS26).</p>
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	<p>It is not possible to be certain of the effects of these policies on the international sites at this stage. As such the precautionary principle has been employed. Stage 2 of the HRA process (Appropriate Assessment) will therefore be completed of the Core Strategy.</p>
<p>Will the Plan have Significant Effects 'In Combination' With Other Projects and Plans? Likely</p>	<p>The Core Strategy DPD may have likely significant effects on the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site and the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA 'in combination' with other projects and plans.</p> <p>This includes the two Able UK planning applications (one for the Humber Port facility and one for the Marine Energy Park) currently lodged with North Lincolnshire Council for two areas within the South Humber Bank Strategic Employment site.</p> <p>The in combination effects will be fully assessed as part of the Stage 2 (Appropriate Assessment) work.</p>

6. Conclusions

Is the North Lincolnshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) Submission Draft likely to have a significant effect 'alone or in combination' on the Humber Estuary SAC, Humber Estuary SPA, Humber Estuary Ramsar site, Hatfield Moor SAC, Thorne Moor SAC or Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA?

A total of 19 of the 27 policies in the Core Strategy DPD will not lead to likely significant effects on the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site and the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA. One of these policies seeks to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity and specifically mentions protecting international sites (Policy CS17).

A total of eight of the policies in the Core Strategy DPD may lead to likely significant effects on the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site and the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA. These are Policies:

- CS1 – Spatial Strategy for North Lincolnshire;
- CS4 – Creating a Renaissance in North Lincolnshire;
- CS7 – Overall Housing Provision;
- CS8 – Spatial Distribution of Housing;
- CS11 – Provision and Distribution of Employment Land;
- CS12 – South Humber Bank Strategic Employment Site;
- CS21 – Minerals; and,
- CS26 – Strategic Transport Infrastructure Proposals.

Likely significant effects (i.e. habitat loss, pollution, disturbance and increased recreational pressure) may result in the following changes to the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site:

- **Disturbance to key species:** from increased recreational pressure and the construction and operation of new housing, employment and transport schemes with likely significant effects on the internationally important bird populations and assemblages that form the SPA and Ramsar site;
- **Reduction in habitat area:** the construction of new housing, employment and transport schemes may result in the loss of functioning areas of the SPA and Ramsar site within or outside of the international sites boundaries. This will lead to likely significant effects on the internationally important bird populations and assemblages that form the SPA and Ramsar site;
- **Changes to water quality:** from pollution associated with new housing, employment and transport schemes with likely significant effects on the qualifying habitats and species of the SAC (e.g. degradation and/or loss of habitats and/or species); and,
- **Changes to air quality:** from pollution associated with new housing, employment and transport schemes with likely significant effects on the qualifying habitats of the SAC (e.g. degradation and/or loss of habitats).

Likely significant effects (i.e. habitat loss, water abstraction and increased recreational pressure) may result in the following changes to the Hatfield Moor SAC, Thorne Moor SAC and Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA:

- **Disturbance to key species:** from increased recreational pressure and the construction and operation of new housing, employment and transport schemes with likely significant effects on the internationally important bird populations and assemblages that form the SPA;
- **Reduction in habitat area:** the construction of new housing, employment and transport schemes may result in the loss of functioning areas of the SPA outside of the international sites boundaries. This will lead to likely significant effects on the internationally important bird populations and assemblages that form the SPA.

Should increased abstraction from the aquifer beneath the Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne Moor SAC be required to support new housing and employment schemes this may lead to a reduction in raised bog habitats within these international sites;

- **Changes to water quality:** from pollution associated with new housing, employment and transport schemes with likely significant effects on the qualifying habitats of the SAC (e.g. further degradation of the raised bog habitats present or inability to restore to favourable condition the area currently notified as degraded raised bog); and,
- **Changes to air quality:** from pollution associated with new housing, employment and transport schemes with likely significant effects on the qualifying habitats of the SAC (e.g. further degradation of the raised bog habitats present or inability to restore to favourable condition the area currently notified as degraded raised bog).

Therefore there is the potential for likely significant effects on the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site and the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA 'in combination' with other projects and plans (particularly the two Able UK planning applications for areas within the South Humber Bank Strategic Employment site).

Given the findings of this Stage 1 Screening report, the precautionary principle has been employed and it will be necessary to progress to Stage 2 of the HRA process (Appropriate Assessment). As such, an Appropriate Assessment will be undertaken of the North Lincolnshire Core Strategy Submission Draft.

Appendix A

HRA Screening Results Table

A.1 HRA Screening Results Table

This appendix contains Table A-1 (see below) which summarises the features of each of the proposed policies within the Plan and whether each policy is considered to have a likely significant effect on the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site.

The likely significant effects take into account the measures in the Plan which seek to protect the international sites.

Where possible, policies that have been found to have no likely significant effect on an international site have been categorised into one of five different types:

- **Policy Type A1:** Options/policies that will not themselves lead to development (e.g. because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development, or they are not a land use planning policy);
- **Policy Type A2:** Options/policies intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity;
- **Policy Type A3:** Options/policies intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on an international site;
- **Policy Type A4:** Options/policies that positively steer development away from international sites and associated sensitive areas; and,
- **Policy Type A5:** Options/policies that would have no effect because no development would occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through later policies in the same plan (which are more specific and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on international sites and associated sensitive areas).

Policies that have been found to have a likely significant effect on an international site (alone) have been categorised into one of eight different types:

- **Policy Type C1:** The option, policy or proposal could **directly affect** an international site because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development onto an international site (or adjacent to it);
- **Policy Type C2:** The option, policy or proposal could **indirectly affect** an international site (e.g. because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development that may be very close to it, or ecologically, hydrologically or physically connected to it or it may increase disturbance as a result of increased recreational pressure);
- **Policy Type C3:** Proposals for a **magnitude of development** that, no matter where it was located, the development would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site;
- **Policy Type C4:** An option, or policy, that makes provision for a quantity/type of development (and may indicate one or more broad locations e.g. a particular part of the plan area) but the effects are uncertain because the detailed location of the development is to be selected following **consideration of options in a later, more specific plan**. The consideration of options in the later plan will assess potential effects on international sites but because the development could possibly affect an international site a significant effect cannot be ruled out on the basis of objective information;
- **Policy Type C5:** Options, policies or proposals for development or infrastructure projects that could **block options or alternatives** for the provision of other development or projects in the future (which will be required in the public interest, that may lead to adverse effects on international sites, which could otherwise be avoided);

- **Policy Type C6:** Options, policies or proposals which **depend on how policies etc are implemented** in due course (e.g. through the development management process). There is a theoretical possibility that if implemented in one or more particular ways, the proposal could possibly have a significant effect on international sites;
- **Policy Type C7:** Any other options, policies or proposals that would be **vulnerable to failure** under the Habitats Regulations at the project assessment stage (to include them in the plan would be regarded by the European Commission as ‘faulty planning’);
- **Policy Type C8:** Any other proposal that may have an adverse effect on an international site, which might try to pass the tests of the Habitats Regulations at project assessment stage by arguing that the **plan provides the imperative reasons** of overriding public interest to justify its consent despite a negative assessment.

This has been based on *The Habitats Regulations Assessment of Local Development Documents (Revised Draft Guidance)* produced by Natural England in February 2009.

Table A.1 – HRA Screening Results

Policy Number	Policy Title	Will Policy have a Likely Significant Effect on the International Site?	Justification of Finding
CS1	Spatial Strategy for North Lincolnshire	Yes	<p>Policy Type C1 and C2: This policy will lead to development in North Lincolnshire and will result in housing and employment sites being constructed in different locations within North Lincolnshire. This includes development of the nationally important South Humber Bank ports (immediately adjacent to the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site).</p> <p>As such this policy has the potential to lead to likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss: Loss of terrestrial habitat outside the designated site which may potentially be used by populations of bird species from the SPA/ Ramsar site at high tide (roosting grounds) to development; Pollution: The effects of air and water borne pollutants from development and industry on SAC habitats; Disturbance: The visual and noise disturbance to birds from the SPA/Ramsar site from construction and operation of proposed development (particularly pertinent within the Estuary Zone for development); and, Increased Recreational Pressure: A potential increase in levels of recreational activity within the SAC/SPA/Ramsar site may lead to higher levels of disturbance to the Annex I bird species (avocet, bittern, hen harrier, golden plover, bar-tailed godwit, ruff, marsh harrier and little tern). This is due to the increase in dwellings in the area leading to more people living in the area and visiting the coast and countryside close to the international sites. <p>This policy also has the potential to lead to likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Thorne Moor SAC, the Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water abstraction: To supply new development with water it may be necessary for increased levels of water abstraction from the aquifer underlying the Thorne Moor SAC and the Hatfield Moor SAC. This may potentially lead to a drying out of the degraded raised bogs still capable of regeneration, causing degradation and/or loss of this internationally important habitat. This may also affect the suitability of the habitats within the SAC and SPA to support populations of nightjar (which are qualifying features of the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA); Habitat loss: Loss of habitat outside of the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA (for housing and employment development). These areas may potentially be used by populations of nightjar from the SPA and as such they may form a functional part of this international site; Pollution: The effects of air and water borne pollutants from development and industry on SAC and SPA habitats; and, Increased Recreational Pressure: A potential increase in levels of recreational activity within the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA. This may lead to the degradation and/or loss of internationally important habitats from within the two SACs and the SPA and may lead to higher levels of disturbance to the nightjar within the SPA. <p>This policy will be subject to Stage 2 (Appropriate Assessment) of the HRA process to determine if it will lead to adverse effects on the integrity of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site, the Thorne Moor SAC, the Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA.</p>
CS2	Delivering More Sustainable Development	No	<p>Policy Type A5: This policy will have no likely significant effect because no development will occur through the policy itself. Development will be implemented through all other development related policies in the Core Strategy DPD (particularly Policies CS1, CS8, CS11, CS12 and CS21, see assessments above and below).</p>
CS3	Development Limits	No	<p>This policy generally provides the criteria that the council will follow when determining development limits around Scunthorpe, Market Towns and rural settlements. However, the policy may lead to development (e.g. development inside and outside of the development limits). In these circumstances, development is likely to come forward on a case by case basis and development limits will be defined in the Housing and Employment Land Allocations Development Plan Document. .</p> <p>Should any planning applications arise as a result of this policy, all other policies within the Plan will be taken into account and used as the basis for decision making to determine the application. Therefore, any planning application would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the international sites resulting from the proposed works, through consideration of Policies CS1 and CS17 (provisions are present within these policies that seek to protect the international sites). The Plan also commits to an HRA at the development control stage (as in accordance with the text in Section 3 of the Plan). The HRA of any proposed development will have to prove that the work will not have adverse effects on the international sites (or that adverse effects can be adequately mitigated). If it cannot be proven that there will be no adverse effects on these international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate for these effects the council will not allow the development to be constructed.</p> <p>Furthermore, in accordance with the Habitats Regulations, an HRA of the Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD will be carried out. The HRA of the DPD will have to prove that the proposed development limits will not have adverse effects on the international sites (or that adverse effects can be adequately mitigated). If it cannot be proven that there will be no adverse effects on these international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate for these impacts the council will not allow</p>

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			<p>that particular development limit to be included in the DPD.</p> <p>As no locations or quanta for development are provided within the policy, this approach to the HRA process will not affect the deliverability of the plan.</p> <p>Therefore, there are no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site or the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA from this policy.</p>
CS4	Creating a Renaissance in North Lincolnshire	Yes	<p>Policy Type C2: This policy will lead to development and lists six projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scunthorpe town centre: Mixed use development in the town centre to improve the public realm. Development for this project is likely to come forward on a case by case basis and be detailed in the Housing and Employment Land Allocations Development Plan Document.; 2. Central Park and The Pods in Scunthorpe: This project has received planning permission; 3. Knowledge Campus in Scunthorpe: This project proposes a knowledge campus around the two colleges in Scunthorpe.. No planning application has been put in place yet but the new college is likely to be located in the central urban area of Scunthorpe; 4. New Century Garden Town: Improvements to open spaces, greenways and gateways into Scunthorpe. Development for this project is likely to come forward on an case by case basis and will not be detailed in any lower tier planning documents; 5. Lincolnshire Lakes in Scunthorpe: This project will involve providing a place to work and live to the west of Scunthorpe. No planning application has been put in place; and, 6. Market Place in Crowle: Part of this project has received planning permission. <p>Given the likely locations of any development that occurs for Projects 1 and 4 (in urban areas of Scunthorpe) it is considered that there will be no likely significant effect on the international sites. For Projects 1 and 4, should any planning applications arise as a result of this policy, all other policies within the Plan will be taken into account and used as the basis for decision making to determine the application. Therefore, any planning application would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the international sites resulting from the proposed works, through consideration of Policies CS1 and CS17 (provisions are present within these policies that seek to protect the international sites). The Plan also commits to an HRA at the development control stage (as in accordance with the text in Section 3 of the Plan). The HRA of any proposed development will have to prove that the work will not have adverse effects on the international sites (or that significant impacts can be adequately mitigated). If it cannot be proven that there will be no adverse effects on these international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate for these impacts the council will not allow the development to be constructed. Furthermore, for Project 1, an HRA of the Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD will be carried out (as in accordance with the Habitats Regulations). The HRA of the DPD will have to prove that the proposed development in Scunthorpe will not have adverse effects on the international sites (or that adverse effects can be adequately mitigated). If it cannot be proven that there will be no adverse effects on these international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate for these impacts the council will not allow that particular allocation to be included in the DPD, and other sites will have to be sought to fulfil this policy. As no locations or quanta for development are provided within the policy, this approach to the HRA process will not affect the deliverability of the plan.</p> <p>There are no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the international sites from Projects 2 and 6 as they have already received planning permission and have been through the necessary processes to determine effects on the international sites with the council and Natural England.</p> <p>It is considered that Project 3 will not lead to any likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the international sites as the development will be located in the urban area of Scunthorpe. As such the habitats within these areas will not be suitable for the bird species from the Humber Estuary SPA/Ramsar site and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA. Furthermore, its urban location will ensure that there are no direct likely significant effects on the habitats of the Humber Estuary SAC, Thorne Moor SAC and Hatfield Moor SAC (e.g. from pollution). It is considered that development in the location of these two colleges will not lead to an increase in recreational pressure and thus likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site, the Thorne Moor SAC, the Hatfield Moor SAC or the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA as people will be visiting the area for education reasons rather than pleasure.</p> <p>It is therefore concluded that Projects 1 – 5 will have no likely significant effects on the international sites.</p> <p>However, Project 6, the Lincolnshire Lakes, is a proposal which will lead to the provision of 6,000 new houses, potentially on Greenfield land to the west of Scunthorpe. As this land is in close proximity to the River Trent (designated as part of the Humber Estuary SAC and Ramsar site), this project may lead to likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Humber Estuary from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss: Loss of terrestrial habitat outside the designated site which may potentially be used by populations of bird species from the Ramsar site at high tide (roosting grounds) to development and loss of habitat used by breeding populations of marsh harriers, which are qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SPA; • Pollution: The effects of air and water borne pollutants from development and industry on SAC habitats; • Disturbance: The visual and noise disturbance to birds from the Ramsar site from construction and operation of proposed development (particularly pertinent

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			<p>within the Estuary Zone for development); and,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased Recreational Pressure: A potential increase in levels of recreational activity within the SAC/SPA/Ramsar site may lead to higher levels of disturbance to the Annex I bird species (avocet, bittern, hen harrier, golden plover, bar-tailed godwit, ruff, marsh harrier and little tern). This is due to the increase in dwellings in the area leading to more people living in the area and visiting the coast and countryside close to the international sites. <p>This development may also lead to likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Thorne Moor SAC, the Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water abstraction: To supply new development with water it may be necessary for increased levels of water abstraction from the aquifer underlying the Thorne Moor SAC and the Hatfield Moor SAC. This may potentially lead to a drying out of the degraded raised bogs still capable of regeneration, causing degradation and/or loss of this internationally important habitat. This may also affect the suitability of the habitats within the SAC and SPA to support populations of nightjar (which are qualifying features of the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA); Pollution: The effects of air and water borne pollutants from development and industry on SAC and SPA habitats; and, Increased Recreational Pressure: A potential increase in levels of recreational activity within the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA. This may lead to the degradation and/or loss of internationally important habitats from within the two SACs and SPA and may lead to higher levels of disturbance to the nightjar within the SPA. <p>As this project is located over 10 km from the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA it is considered unlikely that the loss of habitats to make way for the new housing will lead to effects on nightjar (the main interest features of the SPA), as it is unlikely that birds will travel this distance from the international site.</p> <p>The Lincolnshire Lakes aspect of this policy will be subject to Stage 2 (Appropriate Assessment) of the HRA process to determine if it will lead to adverse impacts on the integrity of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site, the Thorne Moor SAC, the Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA.</p>
CS5	Delivering Quality Design in North Lincolnshire	No	Policy Type A1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.
CS6	Historic Environment	No	Policy Type A3: This policy is intended to conserve or enhance the historic environment.
CS7	Overall Housing Provision	Yes	<p>Policy Type C2: This policy will lead to development in North Lincolnshire and will result in 12,063 new dwellings being constructed in North Lincolnshire over the plan period.</p> <p>As such this policy has the potential to lead to likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss: Loss of terrestrial habitat outside the designated site which may potentially be used by populations of bird species from the SPA/ Ramsar site at high tide (roosting or foraging grounds) to development; Pollution: The effects of air and water borne pollutants from development on SAC habitats; Disturbance: The visual and noise disturbance to birds from the SPA/Ramsar site from construction and operation of proposed development; and, Increased Recreational Pressure: A potential increase in levels of recreational activity within the SAC/SPA/Ramsar site may lead to higher levels of disturbance to the Annex I bird species (avocet, bittern, hen harrier, golden plover, bar-tailed godwit, ruff, marsh harrier and little tern). This is due to the increase in dwellings in the North Lincolnshire leading to more people living in the area and visiting the coast and countryside close to the international sites. <p>This policy also has the potential to lead to likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Thorne Moor SAC, the Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water abstraction: To supply new development with water it may be necessary for increased levels of water abstraction from the aquifer underlying the designated sites. This may potentially lead to a drying out of the degraded raised bogs still capable of regeneration, causing degradation and/or loss of this internationally important habitat. This may also affect the suitability of the habitats within the SAC and SPA to support populations of nightjar (which are qualifying features of the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA); Habitat loss: Loss of habitat outside of the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA for housing developments. These areas may potentially be used by populations of nightjar from the SPA and as such they may form a functional part of this international site; Pollution: The effects of air and water borne pollutants from development and industry on SAC and SPA habitats; and, Increased Recreational Pressure: A potential increase in levels of recreational activity within the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and Thorne and Hatfield

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			<p>Moors SPA. This may lead to the degradation and/or loss of internationally important habitats from within the two SACs and SPA and may lead to higher levels of disturbance to the nightjar within the SPA.</p> <p>This policy will be subject to Stage 2 (Appropriate Assessment) of the HRA process to determine if it will lead to adverse impacts on the integrity of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site, the Thorne Moor SAC, the Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA.</p>
CS8	Spatial Distribution of Housing	Yes	<p>Policy Type C2: This policy will lead to development in North Lincolnshire and will result in housing being constructed in different locations all over the area including locations in Scunthorpe, Barton upon Humber, Brigg, Crowle, Kirton in Lindsey and Winterton.</p> <p>As such this policy has the potential to lead to likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss: Loss of terrestrial habitat outside the designated site which may potentially be used by populations of bird species from the SPA/ Ramsar site at high tide (roosting or foraging grounds) to development; Pollution: The effects of air and water borne pollutants from development on SAC habitats; Disturbance: The visual and noise disturbance to birds from the SPA/Ramsar site from construction and operation of proposed development; and, Increased Recreational Pressure: A potential increase in levels of recreational activity within the SAC/SPA/Ramsar site may lead to higher levels of disturbance to the Annex I bird species (avocet, bittern, hen harrier, golden plover, bar-tailed godwit, ruff, marsh harrier and little tern). This is due to the increase in dwellings in the North Lincolnshire leading to more people living in the area and visiting the coast and countryside close to the international sites. <p>This policy also has the potential to lead to likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Thorne Moor SAC, the Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water abstraction: To supply new development with water it may be necessary for increased levels of water abstraction from the aquifer underlying the designated sites. This may potentially lead to a drying out of the degraded raised bogs still capable of regeneration, causing degradation and/or loss of this internationally important habitat. This may also affect the suitability of the habitats within the SAC and SPA to support populations of nightjar (which are qualifying features of the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA); Habitat loss: Loss of habitat outside of the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA for housing developments. These areas may potentially be used by populations of nightjar from the SPA and as such they may form a functional part of this international site; Pollution: The effects of air and water borne pollutants from development and industry on SAC and SPA habitats; and, Increased Recreational Pressure: A potential increase in levels of recreational activity within the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA. This may lead to the degradation and/or loss of internationally important habitats from within the two SACs and SPA and may lead to higher levels of disturbance to the nightjar within the SPA. <p>This policy will be subject to Stage 2 (Appropriate Assessment) of the HRA process to determine if it will lead to adverse impacts on the integrity of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site, the Thorne Moor SAC, the Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA.</p>
CS9	Affordable Housing	No	<p>This policy may lead to development (i.e. as a percentage of housing sites or rural exception sites). However, the policy does not state exact details of development nor when it may take place. Development is likely to come forward on a case by case basis and will not be allocated in any lower tier planning documents, but will be assisted through as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).</p> <p>Should any planning applications arise as a result of this policy, all other policies within the Plan will be taken into account and used as the basis for decision making to determine the application. Therefore, any planning application would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the international sites resulting from the proposed works, through consideration of Policies CS1 and CS17 (provisions are present within these policies that seek to protect the international sites). The Plan also commits to an HRA at the development control stage (as in accordance with the text in Section 3 of the Plan). The HRA of any proposed development will have to prove that the work will not have adverse effects on the international sites (or that adverse effects can be adequately mitigated). If it cannot be proven that there will be no adverse effects on these international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate for these impacts the council will not allow the development to be constructed.</p> <p>Furthermore, in accordance with the Habitats Regulations, an HRA of the SPD will be carried out. The HRA of the SPD will have to prove that the proposed sites (if locations are identified) will not have adverse effects on the international sites (or that adverse effects can be adequately mitigated). If it cannot be proven that there will be no adverse effects on these international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate for these impacts the council will not allow that particular site to be included in the DPD, and other sites will have to be sought to fulfil this policy.</p> <p>As no locations or quanta for development are provided within the policy, this approach to the HRA process will not affect the deliverability of the plan.</p>

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			Therefore, there are no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site or the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA from this policy.
CS10	Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Sites	No	<p>This policy may lead to development (i.e. residential and transit pitches for Gypsies and Travellers). However, the policy does not state exact details of development nor when it may take place. The locations of development will be determined in the Housing and Employment Land Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD).</p> <p>In accordance with the Habitats Regulations, an HRA of the Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD will be carried out. The HRA of the DPD will have to prove that the proposed Gypsy and Travellers sites will not have adverse effects on the international sites (or that adverse effects can be adequately mitigated). If it cannot be proven that there will be no adverse effects on these international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate for these impacts the council will not allow that particular allocation to be included in the DPD, and other sites will have to be sought to fulfil this policy.</p> <p>As no locations for development are provided within the policy, this approach to the HRA process will not affect the deliverability of the plan.</p> <p>Therefore, there are no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site or the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA from this policy.</p>
CS11	Provision and Distribution of Employment Land	Yes	<p>Policy Type C2: This policy outlines strategic employment sites at the following broad locations: Scunthorpe, Market Towns, Humberside Airport and Sandtoft Business Park. This will lead to development in North Lincolnshire.</p> <p>As such this policy has the potential to lead to likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss: Loss of terrestrial habitat outside the designated site which may potentially be used by populations of bird species from the SPA/ Ramsar site at high tide (roosting or foraging grounds) to development; • Pollution: The effects of air and water borne pollutants from development on SAC habitats; and, • Disturbance: The visual and noise disturbance to birds from the SPA/Ramsar site from construction and operation of proposed development. • Increased Recreational Pressure: A potential increase in levels of recreational activity within the SAC/SPA/Ramsar site may lead to higher levels of disturbance to the qualifying bird species as a result of an increased number of employees working in facilities immediately adjacent to the international sites and utilising the area in their lunch breaks and before and after shifts. <p>This policy also has the potential to lead to likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Thorne Moor SAC, the Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water abstraction: To supply new employment development with water it may be necessary for increased levels of water abstraction from the aquifer underlying the designated sites. This may potentially lead to a drying out of the degraded raised bogs still capable of regeneration, causing degradation and/or loss of this internationally important habitat. This may also affect the suitability of the habitats within the SAC and SPA to support populations of nightjar (which are qualifying features of the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA); • Pollution: The effects of air and water borne pollutants from development and industry on SAC and SPA habitats; and, • Habitat loss: Loss of habitat outside of the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA for housing developments. These areas may potentially be used by populations of nightjar from the SPA and as such they may form a functional part of this international site. • Increased Recreational Pressure: A potential increase in levels of recreational activity within the SAC/SPA may lead to higher levels of disturbance to the qualifying bird species as a result of an increased number of employees working in facilities utilising these area in their lunch breaks and before and after shifts. <p>This policy will be subject to Stage 2 (Appropriate Assessment) of the HRA process to determine if it will lead to adverse impacts on the integrity of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site, the Thorne Moor SAC, the Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA.</p>
CS12	South Humber Bank Strategic Employment Site	Yes	<p>Policy Type C1: This policy states that around 900 hectares of land at the South Humber Bank Strategic Employment Site will be reserved for employment uses (including B1, B2 and B8 port related activities). This strategic site is located immediately adjacent to the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site.</p> <p>As such this policy has the potential to lead to likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss: Loss of terrestrial habitat inside and outside the designated site which may potentially be used by populations of bird species from the SPA/ Ramsar site at high tide (roosting or foraging grounds) to development. May impact on the structure and function of the SAC/SPA/Ramsar site (e.g. through abstraction); • Pollution: The effects of air and water borne pollutants from development on SAC habitats and the effects of new outflows from new industrial plants on habitats; and,

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance: The visual and noise disturbance to birds from the SPA/Ramsar site from construction and operation of proposed development; Increased Recreational Pressure: A potential increase in levels of recreational activity within the SAC/SPA/Ramsar site may lead to higher levels of disturbance to the qualifying bird species as a result of an increased number of employees working in facilities immediately adjacent to the international sites and utilising the area in their lunch breaks and before and after shifts. <p>Given the distance of the South Humber Bank Strategic Employment Site from the Thorne Moor SAC, the Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA (all over 39 km) it is considered that there would not be any likely significant effects on these international sites as a result of this policy.</p>
CS13	Lifelong Learning and Skills	No	<p>This policy may lead to development (e.g. the construction of new schools). However, the policy does not state exact details of development nor when it may take place. Development is likely to come forward on a case by case basis and maybe allocated in the General Policies Development Plan Document..</p> <p>Should any planning applications arise as a result of this policy, all other policies within the Plan will be taken into account and used as the basis for decision making to determine the application. Therefore, any planning application would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the international sites resulting from the proposed works, through consideration of Policies CS1 and CS17 (provisions are present within these policies that seek to protect the international sites). The Plan also commits to an HRA at the development control stage (as in accordance with the text in Section 3 of the Plan). The HRA of any proposed development will have to prove that the work will not have adverse effects on the international sites (or that adverse effects can be adequately mitigated). If it cannot be proven that there will be no adverse effects on these international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate for these impacts the council will not allow the development to be constructed.</p> <p>Furthermore, in accordance with the Habitats Regulations, an HRA of the General Policies DPD will be carried out. The HRA of the DPD will have to prove that the proposed development sites will not have adverse effects on the international sites (or that adverse effects can be adequately mitigated). If it cannot be proven that there will be no adverse effects on these international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate for these impacts the council will not allow that particular site to be included in the DPD, and other sites will have to be sought to fulfil this policy.</p> <p>As no locations or quanta for development are provided within the policy, this approach to the HRA process will not affect the deliverability of the plan.</p> <p>Therefore, there are no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site or the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA from this policy.</p>
CS14	Retail Development	No	<p>This policy may lead to development (e.g. town centre development). However, the policy does not state exact details of development nor when it may take place. Development is likely to come forward on a case by case basis and will not be allocated in any lower tier planning documents. However, they will be assessed against the Core Strategy DPD and Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD.</p> <p>Should any planning applications arise as a result of this policy, all other policies within the Plan will be taken into account and used as the basis for decision making to determine the application. Therefore, any planning application would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the international sites resulting from the proposed works, through consideration of Policies CS1 and CS17 (provisions are present within these policies that seek to protect the international sites). The Plan also commits to an HRA at the development control stage (as in accordance with the text in Section 3 of the Plan). The HRA of any proposed development will have to prove that the work will not have adverse effects on the international sites (or that adverse effects can be adequately mitigated). If it cannot be proven that there will be no adverse effects on these international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate for these impacts the council will not allow the development to be constructed.</p> <p>As no locations or quanta for development are provided within the policy, this approach to the HRA process will not affect the deliverability of the plan.</p> <p>Therefore, there are no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site or the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA from this policy.</p>
CS15	Culture and Tourism	No	<p>The policy may lead to development (e.g. sustainable tourism). However, the policy does not state exact details of development nor when it may take place. Development is likely to come forward on a case by case basis and will not be allocated in any lower tier planning documents.</p> <p>The focus of the policy is to develop and to promote sustainable cultural tourism development. Sustainability is inherent in the policy and sustainability includes taking account of the effects on the qualifying features of the internationally important sites and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Should any planning applications arise as a result of this policy, sustainability of the proposal in relation to international sites will be taken into account. Furthermore, all other policies within the Plan will be considered and used as the basis for decision making to determine the application. Therefore, any planning application would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the international sites resulting from the proposed works, through consideration of Policies CS1 and CS17 (provisions are present within these policies that seek to protect the international sites). The Plan also commits to an HRA at the development control stage (as in accordance with the text in Section 3 of the Plan). The HRA of any proposed development will have to prove that the work will not have adverse effects on the international sites (or that adverse effects can be adequately mitigated). If it cannot be proven that there will be no adverse effects on</p>

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			<p>these international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate for these impacts the council will not allow the development to be constructed.</p> <p>As no locations or quanta for development are provided within the policy, this approach to the HRA process will not affect the deliverability of the plan.</p> <p>Therefore, there are no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site or the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA from this policy.</p>
CS16	North Lincolnshire's Landscape, Greenspace and Waterscape	No	<p>Policy Type A2: This policy is intended to protect the natural environment.</p>
CS17	Biodiversity	No	<p>Policy Type A2: This policy is intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity.</p> <p>Policy Type A3: This policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural environment.</p>
CS18	Sustainable Resource Use and Climate Change	No	<p>This policy provides qualitative criteria for development and, in most cases will not lead directly to development. However, point 11 states that the council will support renewable sources of energy in appropriate locations. As such this policy may lead to development (e.g. development to provide renewable sources of energy). However, the policy does not state exact details of development nor when it may take place. Development is likely to come forward on a case by case basis and will not be allocated in any lower tier planning documents but will be assisted through an SPD.</p> <p>Should any planning applications arise as a result of this policy, all other policies within the Plan will be taken into account and used as the basis for decision making to determine the application. Therefore, any planning application would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the international sites resulting from the proposed works, through consideration of Policies CS1 and CS17 (provisions are present within these policies that seek to protect the international sites). The Plan also commits to an HRA at the development control stage (as in accordance with the text in Section 3 of the Plan). The HRA of any proposed development will have to prove that the work will not have adverse effects on the international sites (or that adverse effects can be adequately mitigated). If it cannot be proven that there will be no adverse effects on these international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate for these impacts the council will not allow the development to be constructed.</p> <p>Furthermore, in accordance with the Habitats Regulations, an HRA of the SPD will be carried out. The HRA of the SPD will have to prove that the proposed renewable energy sites (if locations are identified in the SPD) will not have adverse effects on the international sites (or that adverse effects can be adequately mitigated). If it cannot be proven that there will be no adverse effects on these international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate for these impacts the council will not allow that particular site to be included in the SPD, and other sites will have to be sought to fulfil this policy.</p> <p>As no specific locations or quanta for development are provided within the policy, this approach to the HRA process will not affect the deliverability of the plan.</p> <p>Therefore, there are no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site or the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA from this policy.</p>
CS19	Flood Risk	No	<p>Policy Type A1: This policy relates to qualitative criteria that development must meet in order to be permitted and will not lead directly to development.</p>
CS20	Sustainable Waste Management	No	<p>This policy may lead to development (e.g. new waste treatment and management facilities). However, the policy does not state exact details of development nor when it may take place. Broad locations for possible future development are provided. Development is likely to come forward on a case by case basis and will be allocated within the Minerals and Waste DPD.</p> <p>Should any planning applications arise as a result of this policy, all other policies within the Plan will be taken into account and used as the basis for decision making to determine the application. Therefore, any planning application would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the international sites resulting from the proposed works, through consideration of Policies CS1 and CS17 (provisions are present within these policies that seek to protect the international sites). The Plan also commits to an HRA at the development control stage (as in accordance with the text in Section 3 of the Plan). The HRA of any proposed development will have to prove that the work will not have adverse effects on the international sites (or that adverse effects can be adequately mitigated). If it cannot be proven that there will be no adverse effects on these international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate for these impacts the council will not allow the development to be constructed.</p> <p>Furthermore, in accordance with the Habitats Regulations, an HRA of the Minerals and Waste DPD will be carried out. The HRA of the DPD will have to prove that the proposed minerals and waste sites will not have adverse effects on the international sites (or that adverse effects can be adequately mitigated). If it cannot be proven that there will be no adverse effects on these international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate for these impacts the council will not allow that particular allocation to be included in the DPD, and other sites will have to be sought to fulfil this policy.</p> <p>As no specific locations or quanta for development are provided within the policy, this approach to the HRA process will not affect the deliverability of the plan.</p> <p>Therefore, there are no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site or the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC</p>

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			and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA from this policy.
CS21	Minerals	Yes	<p>Policy Type C2: This policy states that the council will safeguard mineral resources from other development that would prejudice future mineral extraction. Ten Mineral Safeguarding Areas are identified. These areas may be worked for minerals in the future.</p> <p>As such this policy has the potential to lead to likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss: Loss of terrestrial habitat outside the designated site which may potentially be used by populations of bird species from the SPA/ Ramsar site at high tide (roosting or foraging grounds) to development; Pollution: The effects of air and water borne pollutants from development on SAC habitats; and, Disturbance: The visual and noise disturbance to birds from the SPA/Ramsar site from construction and operation of proposed development. Increased Recreational Pressure: A potential increase in levels of recreational activity within the SAC/SPA/Ramsar site may lead to higher levels of disturbance to the qualifying bird species as a result of an increased number of employees working in facilities immediately adjacent to the international sites and utilising the area in their lunch breaks and before and after shifts. <p>This policy also has the potential to lead to likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Thorne Moor SAC, the Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water abstraction: It is possible that mineral extraction may cause the alteration of the hydrology of the area around each quarry and as such this may affect the aquifer underlying the international sites. This may potentially lead to a drying out of the degraded raised bogs still capable of regeneration, causing degradation and/or loss of this internationally important habitat. This may also affect the suitability of the habitats within the SAC and SPA to support populations of nightjar (which are qualifying features of the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA); Pollution: The effects of air and water borne pollutants from development and industry on SAC and SPA habitats; and, Habitat loss: Loss of habitat outside of the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA for housing developments. These areas may potentially be used by populations of nightjar from the SPA and as such they may form a functional part of this international site. Increased Recreational Pressure: A potential increase in levels of recreational activity within the SAC/SPA may lead to higher levels of disturbance to the qualifying bird species as a result of an increased number of employees working in facilities visiting these sites during their lunch breaks and before and after shifts. <p>This policy will be subject to Stage 2 (Appropriate Assessment) of the HRA process to determine if it will lead to adverse impacts on the integrity of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site, the Thorne Moor SAC, the Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA.</p>
CS22	Community Facilities and Services	No	<p>This policy provides qualitative criteria for development and, in most cases will not lead directly to development. However, the policy states that the council will support the provision of new community facilities. As such this policy may lead to development. However, the policy does not state exact details of development nor when it may take place. Development is likely to come forward on a case by case basis and will not be detailed in any lower tier planning documents but will be assessed against the Core Strategy DPD and General Policies DPD.</p> <p>Should any planning applications arise as a result of this policy, all other policies within the Plan will be taken into account and used as the basis for decision making to determine the application. Therefore, any planning application would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the international sites resulting from the proposed works, through consideration of Policies CS1 and CS17 (provisions are present within these policies that seek to protect the international sites). The Plan also commits to an HRA at the development control stage (as in accordance with the text in Section 3 of the Plan). The HRA of any proposed development will have to prove that the work will not have adverse effects on the international sites (or that adverse effects can be adequately mitigated). If it cannot be proven that there will be no adverse effects on these international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate for these impacts the council will not allow the development to be constructed.</p> <p>As no specific locations or quanta for development are provided within the policy, this approach to the HRA process will not affect the deliverability of the plan.</p> <p>Therefore, there are no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site or the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA from this policy.</p>
CS23	Sport, Recreation and Open Space	No	<p>This policy provides qualitative criteria for development and, in most cases will not lead directly to development. However, the policy states that the council will ensure the provision of leisure, recreation and open space facilities. As such this policy may lead to development. However, the policy does not state exact details of development nor when it may take place (with the exception of one site, The Pods at Brumby Sports Ground, which has already been granted planning permission). Development is likely to come forward on a case by case basis and will not be allocated in any lower tier planning documents but land will be allocated for protection</p>

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			<p>in the emerging General Policies DPD.</p> <p>Should any planning applications arise as a result of this policy, all other policies within the Plan will be taken into account and used as the basis for decision making to determine the application. Therefore, any planning application would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the international sites resulting from the proposed works, through consideration of Policies CS1 and CS17 (provisions are present within these policies that seek to protect the international sites). The Plan also commits to an HRA at the development control stage (as in accordance with the text in Section 3 of the Plan). The HRA of any proposed development will have to prove that the work will not have adverse effects on the international sites (or that adverse effects can be adequately mitigated). If it cannot be proven that there will be no adverse effects on these international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate these impacts the council will not allow the development to be constructed.</p> <p>Furthermore, in accordance with the Habitats Regulations, an HRA of the General Policies DPD will be carried out. The HRA of the DPD will have to prove that the proposed development sites will not have adverse effects on the international sites (or that adverse effects can be adequately mitigated). If it cannot be proven that there will be no adverse effects on these international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate for these impacts the council will not allow that particular development to be included in the DPD, and other sites will have to be sought to fulfil this policy.</p> <p>As no specific locations or quanta for development are provided within the policy, this approach to the HRA process will not affect the deliverability of the plan.</p> <p>Therefore, there are no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site or the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA from this policy.</p>
CS24	Health Care Provision	No	<p>This policy provides qualitative criteria for development and, in most cases will not lead directly to development. However, the policy states that the council will support the implementation of health care provision and as such this policy may lead to development. However, the policy does not state exact details of development nor when it may take place. Development is likely to come forward on a case by case basis and will not be allocated in any lower tier planning documents but will be assessed against the Core Strategy DPD and General Policies DPD.</p> <p>Should any planning applications arise as a result of this policy, all other policies within the Plan will be taken into account and used as the basis for decision making to determine the application. Therefore, any planning application would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the international sites resulting from the proposed works, through consideration of Policies CS1 and CS17 (provisions are present within these policies that seek to protect the international sites). The Plan also commits to an HRA at the development control stage (as in accordance with the text in Section 3 of the Plan). The HRA of any proposed development will have to prove that the work will not have adverse effects on the international sites (or that adverse effects can be adequately mitigated). If it cannot be proven that there will be no adverse effects on these international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate for these impacts the council will not allow the development to be constructed.</p> <p>As no specific locations or quanta for development are provided within the policy, this approach to the HRA process will not affect the deliverability of the plan.</p> <p>Therefore, there are no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site or the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA from this policy.</p>
CS25	Promoting Sustainable Transport	No	<p>This policy provides qualitative criteria for development and, in most cases will not lead directly to development. However, the policy states that the council will support the improvement and enhancement of transport interchanges principally in Scunthorpe, Barton upon Humber, Brigg and Humberside Airport. As such this policy may lead to development. However, the policy does not state exact details of development nor when it may take place. Development is likely to come forward on a case by case basis and will not be allocated in any lower tier planning documents.</p> <p>Should any planning applications arise as a result of this policy, all other policies within the Plan will be taken into account and used as the basis for decision making to determine the application. Therefore, any planning application would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the international sites resulting from the proposed works, through consideration of Policies CS1 and CS17 (provisions are present within these policies that seek to protect the international sites). The Plan also commits to an HRA at the development control stage (as in accordance with the text in Section 3 of the Plan). The HRA of any proposed development will have to prove that the work will not have adverse effects on the international sites (or that adverse effects can be adequately mitigated). If it cannot be proven that there will be no adverse effects on these international sites and/or it is not possible to mitigate these impacts the council will not allow the development to be constructed.</p> <p>As no specific locations or quanta for development are provided within the policy, this approach to the HRA process will not affect the deliverability of the plan.</p> <p>Therefore, there are no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site or the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA from this policy.</p>
CS26	Strategic Transport Infrastructure Proposals	Yes	<p>Policy Type C2: This policy outlines the strategic infrastructure proposals to enhance internal and external transport connections (including road, rail, air, water and information technology). Eleven proposals are put forward including upgrades to the South Humber Main Line between Doncaster and Immingham to support access to the South Humber Ports.</p>

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			<p>As such this policy has the potential to lead to likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss: Loss of terrestrial habitat outside the designated site which may potentially be used by populations of bird species from the SPA/ Ramsar site at high tide (roosting or foraging grounds) to development; • Pollution: The effects of air and water borne pollutants from development on SAC habitats; • Disturbance: The visual and noise disturbance to birds from the SPA/Ramsar site from construction and operation of proposed development; and. • Increased Recreational Pressure: A potential increase in levels of recreational activity within the SAC/SPA/Ramsar site may lead to higher levels of disturbance to the Annex I bird species (avocet, bittern, hen harrier, golden plover, bar-tailed godwit, ruff, marsh harrier and little tern). This is due to the potential for an increase in accessibility to the habitats within and adjacent to the SAC/SPA/Ramsar site. <p>This policy also has the potential to lead to likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the Thorne Moor SAC, the Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss: Loss of habitat outside of the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA for housing developments. These areas may potentially be used by populations of nightjar from the SPA and as such they may form a functional part of this international site; • Water abstraction: It is possible that transport schemes may cause alter the hydrology of the area and as such this may affect the aquifer underlying the international sites. This may potentially lead to a drying out of the degraded raised bogs still capable of regeneration, causing degradation and/or loss of this internationally important habitat. This may also affect the suitability of the habitats within the SAC and SPA to support populations of nightjar (which are qualifying features of the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA); • Pollution: The effects of air and water borne pollutants from development and industry on SAC and SPA habitats; and, • Increased Recreational Pressure: A potential increase in levels of recreational activity within the Thorne Moor SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA. This may lead to the degradation and/or loss of internationally important habitats from within the two SACs and the SPA and may lead to higher levels of disturbance to the nightjar within the SPA. <p>This policy will be subject to Stage 2 (Appropriate Assessment) of the HRA process to determine if it will lead to adverse impacts on the integrity of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site, the Thorne Moor SAC, the Hatfield Moor SAC and the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA.</p>
CS27	Planning Obligations	No	Policy Type A1: This policy relates to qualitative criteria that development must meet in order to be permitted and will not lead directly to development.

Appendix B

Full Conservation Objectives for the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site

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