

Malton and Norton on Derwent Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report

27 July 2020

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document is the SEA scoping report for the Malton and Norton Neighbourhood Plan (the NP). It has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 12 (5) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (referred to from this point onwards in this report as the SEA Regulations). The statutory bodies, the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England will have a period of 5 weeks to respond to this report.
- 1.2 The start of this consultation period is **31 July 2020**.

Consultation Questions to the Environmental Bodies

- 1.3 Regulation 12 of the SEA Regulations states that when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the SEA report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies. To assist with this process, the consultation bodies are specifically requested to respond to the following questions:

Q1: Do you agree with the proposed scope of the SEA in particular that the SEA of the NP will be limited to assessing the impact of Policies RC1, RC2, CF2 and N1? See section 7 and section 8 of this report for a detailed explanation of this.

Q2: Do you agree with the proposed SEA objectives (Table 10.1) which will be used in assessing the environmental effects of the NP? See Table 10.3 of this report.

Q3: Do you agree with the proposed approach to assessing alternatives (see section 8 of this report) to the draft Policies RC1, RC2, CF2 and NI where this approach will focus on looking at alternative ways of realising the NP vision and objectives to the approach taken in the four policies and where these alternatives could include:

- Removal of these policies;
- Looking at alternative policy wording and alternative wording in the supporting text
- Incorporating the changes proposed by the HRA appropriate assessment

Q4: Do you consider anything to be missing from the environmental baseline and environmental issues? See section 9 of this report.

- 1.3 Due to the unusual context to the SEA of this NP (whereby on the one hand the SEA screening resulted in the three statutory bodies agreeing that the draft NP is not likely to result in likely significant environmental effects (and therefore initially concluded the NP did not trigger the need for a full SEA) and whereby on the other hand the NP triggered the need for an assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive), it is important this SEA scoping report is read in conjunction with the SEA screening report, dated 15 May 2020.
- 1.4 The purpose of the report is to agree with statutory consultees and Ryedale District Council on the appropriate scope of the environmental assessment of the draft NP under the SEA Regulations.
- 1.5 Following receipt of feedback from the statutory consultees, the environmental report will be prepared in line with the requirements of Regulation 12 of the SEA Regulations.

This will be referred to as the Malton and Norton NP SEA report and will be available for wider consultation alongside the draft NP itself.

- 1.6 This report has been prepared by Modicum Planning Ltd on the behalf of Malton and Norton Town Councils.

2 Background

- 2.1 During the summer of 2019, Modicum Planning Ltd prepared a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) screening report of the draft Neighbourhood Plan for Malton and Norton (the NP) in line with the SEA Regulations and on the behalf of Malton and Norton Town Councils.

- 2.2 This SEA screening report concluded the draft NP was not likely to have significant environmental effects. In accordance with the SEA regulations, Malton and Norton consulted the three statutory environmental bodies on this screening opinion report in August and September 2019. By October 2019, all three bodies had replied and all concurred with the findings as follows.

- The Environment Agency (EA) responded by email on 27 September 2019 confirming that *“it is unlikely that significant negative impacts on environmental characteristics that fall within our remit and interest will result through the implementation of the plan”*. In the same response, the EA did provide some comment on the draft plan itself. These comments will be considered as part of reviewing the draft plan.
- Historic England replied by letter on 30 September 2019 stating: *“On the basis of the information supplied, and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of ‘SEA’ Directive], Historic England concurs with your conclusion that as a result of the policies contained within the draft Neighbourhood Plan “no likely significant environmental effects resulting from the Malton and Norton NP have been identified” (section 4.1, page 27). Therefore the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required for the Malton and Norton Neighbourhood Plan.”*
- Natural England responded to both Ryedale District Council and Malton Town Council on 8 October 2019 on both the HRA screening report and the SEA screening report. This response primarily focused on the HRA screening work that had been undertaken on the NP. With respect to the SEA work NE wrote: *“Notwithstanding these issues Natural England is otherwise satisfied with the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment provided in support of the Pre-submission draft of the Neighbourhood Plan for Malton and Norton and has no other comments to make.”*

- 2.3 To see the actual responses to the initial SEA screening report, please refer to Appendix 1 to the 15 May 2020 SEA screening report.

- 2.4 The SEA process of the NP is however complicated by the HRA screening process; a process which took place in parallel to the SEA screening of the plan. Ryedale District Council is the competent authority with regards to the HRA process and joint responsible body (together with the qualifying body (Malton and Norton Town Councils) for the SEA screening determination of the NP.

- 2.5 In October 2019, Ryedale District Council advised Malton and Norton Town Councils that having considered the content of the draft NP, the HRA screening report and the SEA screening report, they considered an appropriate assessment was required of the

NP and because an appropriate assessment was required, the need for a full strategic environmental assessment was also triggered.

- 2.6 Ryedale District Council's decision that the NP triggers the need for a full SEA is based on wording of paragraph 3) in Regulation 5 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 which includes a description of plans where an environmental assessment is required which states *"the description is a plan or programme, which, in view of the likely effect on sites, has been determined to require an assessment pursuant to Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive"*
- 2.7 Because of this unique background and context, the starting point for this SEA scoping report is that it will be a focused piece of work which looks only at those elements of the NP which have triggered the need for an appropriate assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

3.0 Introduction to the Malton and Norton Neighbourhood Plan

- 3.1 For avoidance of unnecessary duplication, please refer to section 4 in Part Two of the 15 May 2020 SEA screening report. This provides an overview of the NP vision, objectives and 41 proposed planning policies. See also section 6 below which repeats the NP vision and objectives.

4 Legislative Background to the SEA scoping stage

- 4.1 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC which was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, often referred to as the *"SEA Regulations"*. Detailed guidance of these regulations can be found in the Government publication *"A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive"* (ODPM 2005) available to view at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-environmental-assessment-directive-guidance>

- 4.2 There is no formal requirement in the SEA Regulation for a formal SEA scoping report to be prepared. However, paragraph 5 of Regulation 12 states: "When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies". Paragraph 6 goes on to say "Where a consultation body wishes to respond to a consultation under paragraph (5), it shall do so within the period of 5 weeks beginning with the date on which it receives the responsible authority's invitation to engage in the consultation."
- 4.3 Planning practice guidance provides advice on how the strategic environmental assessment process can be applied to neighbourhood plan preparation. Of the SEA scoping stage, paragraph: 034 Reference ID: 11-034-20150209 states

"The scoping stage needs to identify the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report. It should set out the context, objectives and approach of the assessment; establish the baseline; and identify relevant environmental issues and objectives."

Although the scoping stage is a key stage of the process, a formal scoping report is not required by law but is a useful way of presenting information at the scoping stage. A key aim of the scoping procedure is to help ensure the strategic environmental assessment is proportionate and relevant to the neighbourhood plan being assessed.”

- 4.4 The purpose of the environmental assessment (comprising the SEA scoping report i.e. this report and the SEA environmental report) is to make sure the NP is compliant with the SEA Regulations. Unlike development plans produced by the local planning authority, there is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to have sustainability appraisal as set out in section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Planning practice guidance states that *Strategic environmental assessment considers only the environmental effects of a plan, whereas sustainability appraisal considers the plan’s wider economic and social effects in addition to its potential environmental impacts.* (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 11-007-20140306 Revision date: 06 03 2014).

5. Wider context to the SEA of the Malton and Norton NP.

- 5.1 There are a number of documents which provide important context to the SEA of the NP. This includes:
- The statutory development plan for Ryedale district.
 - Sustainability Appraisals/Strategic Environmental Assessments applicable to the statutory development plan for Ryedale district.
 - The HRA of the draft Malton and Norton NP.

Statutory development plan for Ryedale district

- 5.2 The adopted statutory development plan covering the district of Ryedale currently comprises the:
- Ryedale Plan Local Plan Strategy adopted in September 2013
 - Ryedale Plan Local Sites Document adopted in June 2019
 - Helmsley Plan adopted in 2015
 - Saved policies in the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Spatial Strategy to 2026
 - The Regional Strategy for Yorkshire and Humber (Partial Revocation) Order 2013
- 5.3 Of the above, only the Ryedale Plan Local Plan Strategy 2013 and the Ryedale Plan Local Sites document 2019 are applicable to the Malton and Norton NP area.

Ryedale Plan Local Plan Strategy 2013

- 5.4 The Ryedale Plan Local Plan Strategy 2013 sets out a long-term vision, objectives and strategy to guide development over a 15-year period. The document outlines:
- expected levels of development that will take place in the District up to 2027;
 - specific types of new development required to meet Ryedale's needs;
 - sorts of changes that will happen in different locations;

- types of projects and investment needed to successfully deliver the strategy and support growth and local communities; and
- provides a framework to assist in the determination of planning applications.

5.5 The Ryedale Plan Local Plan Strategy 2013 has the following objectives:

Objective 1: Plan for growth in Ryedale which is compatible with the principles of sustainable development which address local sustainability issues and which specifically helps to support a more balanced population structure in the longer term.

Objective 2: Enhance the role of the Market Towns as accessible, attractive and vibrant service centres, offering a range of homes, jobs, shops, entertainment, leisure and recreational facilities within a high quality public realm. Emphasise the role and regeneration of Malton and Norton as the District's Principal Town.

Objective 3: Focus development at those settlements where it will enhance accessibility to local services, shops and jobs and which provide sustainable access to major service centres outside of the District by promoting the use of public transport, walking and cycling, while reducing the need to travel by private car.

Objective 4: Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the distinctive character of the District's settlements, landscapes and biodiversity, safeguarding those elements of the historic and natural environment that are recognised as being of local, national or international importance.

Objective 5: Deliver new development alongside the provision of the necessary community, transport and utilities infrastructure and initiatives. Make best use of existing infrastructure and make best use of development to secure investment in improved and new infrastructure. Maximise opportunities to secure Green Infrastructure links between the towns, villages and the open countryside.

Objective 6: Support the delivery of new homes and to substantially increase the delivery of affordable housing; encouraging an appropriate mix and type of housing that will meet local housing needs and requirements of all in the community, including those of Ryedale's elderly population.

Objective 7: Protect and enhance the provision of community facilities, recognising the particular importance they play in supporting the District's rural and village communities.

Objective 8: Support new and existing businesses with the provision of a range of employment sites and premises, including higher quality purpose built sites, principally at the Market Towns.

Objective 9: Diversify the District's economy and enhance skills by building links with the York economy and science and knowledge sectors: supporting Ryedale's precision/advanced engineering cluster and using the District's strong rural identity and its historic, cultural and landscape assets as economic drivers.

Objective 10: Support the land-based economy through sustainable land management; promoting sustainable rural enterprises and activity that helps to retain traditional land uses

such as food production and horse racing, which help to retain land management and traditional building techniques and skills; supporting and facilitating the provision of local weekday and farmer's markets and the retention of a livestock market in the District.

Objective 11: Improve the quality of the environment and environmental systems and require that new development has as low an impact on the environment as possible.

Objective 12: Respond to climate change by reducing green house gas emissions and helping Ryedale to adapt to the impacts of climate change through flood risk minimisation and enhancing Green Infrastructure opportunities.

- 5.6 The Ryedale Plan Local Plan Strategy 2013 intends that Malton and Norton play a more strategic role for the district and in terms of their relationship with York. The plan seeks to rebalance the twin towns by placing a greater focus on locating new development at Malton and releasing greenfield sites around Malton. In addition, the plan identifies as an aspiration to bring forward a large brownfield site the 'Woolgrowers, Yorkshire Fertilisers site' (although this does not appear in the 2019 local sites plan). The Local Plan Strategy also refers to other brownfield sites within the Malton and Norton Rail/River corridor that are currently underused or which are vacant or derelict. The plan states *"they detract from the appearance of the towns and their redevelopment would provide an excellent opportunity to reinforce the physical and visual links between Malton and Norton."*
- 5.7 Policy SP1 'General Location of Development and Settlement Hierarchy' provides a settlement hierarchy where Malton and Norton are the primary focus of the district's growth. Sites are allocated via the later adopted document, the Ryedale Plan Local Sites Document.
- 5.8 Following Policy SP1, the Plan includes a section called 'Guiding Development at the Towns'. In this section, the plan identifies as opportunities for growth. *"Redevelopment of underused Town Centre/ edge of centre sites and rail/river corridor sites subject to flood risk, providing the opportunity to repair and improve the built fabric of the towns including, the Woolgrowers Site, Railway Street/Norton Road areas"*
- 5.9 The Ryedale Plan Local Plan Strategy 2013 refers to the River Derwent SAC in paragraphs 2.21 where it states *"The River Derwent is an internationally important site for wildlife conservation and is designated as a Special Area of Conservation under European legislation primarily for the presence of the River Lamprey. There are also other important species with Otters, Bull Lamprey and a flat fish called a Bullhead."* It is also referred to in paragraph 7.15 where it states *"Stretches of the River Derwent are protected under international law as a Special Area of Conservation and 32 Sites of Special Scientific Interest have been designated as areas of national interest by virtue of their flora, fauna or geological importance."*
- 5.10 This latter paragraph is included in the supporting text to Local Plan Policy SP14 'Biodiversity' which states:
- "In considering proposals for development – Proposals which would have an adverse effect on any site or species protected under international or national legislation will be considered in the context of the statutory protection which is afforded to them."*
- 5.11 Policy SP15 'Green Infrastructure Networks' also refers to the River Derwent. This policy states that, the quality and integrity of the River Derwent, among a number of other important sites, will be protected and enhanced.

- 5.12 The Ryedale Plan Local Plan Strategy 2013 has been subject to a strategic environmental assessment. The work is reported in a document published in May 2012 The Ryedale Plan Local Plan Strategy Sustainability Report which is no longer available to view on the district council's website. This document identifies, as a key environmental constraint and issue affecting the district, that *'pollution remains a risk to the River Derwent SAC with part of the river being defined as being at risk of diffuse agricultural pollution.'*
- 5.13 The following sustainability objectives were used to appraise the 2013 Ryedale Plan Local Plan Strategy 2013:

A1	To ensure that all groups of the population have access to health, education, leisure and recreation services that are required
A2	To provide the opportunity for all people to meet their housing needs
A3	To improve overall levels of health and reduce the disparities between different groups and different areas.
A4	To maintain and promote the distinctiveness of identifiable communities
A5	To reduce crime and the fear of crime
A6	To develop a more balanced population
B1	To maintain and enhance employment opportunities
B2	To maintain and enhance the vitality of the countryside, villages and town centres
B3	To retain and enhance the factors which are conducive to wealth creation, including personal creativity and attractiveness to investors
B4	To diversify the local economy
C1	To protect and enhance biodiversity and geo-diversity.
C2	To maintain and enhance the quality and character of the landscape, including the special qualities of remoteness and tranquillity
C3	Reduce long distance commuting and congestion by reducing the need to travel.
C4	To ensure future development is resilient to climate change such as development is not vulnerable to flooding, or will increase the risk of flooding elsewhere
C5	To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historical and cultural environment.
C6	To reduce the emission of greenhouse gases
C7	To encourage the use of renewable resources and the development of renewable energy sources within Ryedale
C8	To make the most efficient use of land
C9	To maintain a high quality environment in terms of air, soil and water quality
C10	Ensure that fossil fuel and water consumption is as low as possible, protect productive soils and maintain the stock of minerals
C11	To reduce the amount of waste produced and maximise the rates of re-use and recycling as locally as possible

Ryedale Plan Local Sites Document

- 5.14 The Ryedale Plan Local Sites Document was adopted in June 2019 and allocates two sites in the plan area as follows:
- Land to the east of Beverley Road (600 homes on a site of 24.29 hectares). This is in the south east of Norton on Derwent.

- Land at old Maltongate (60 homes on a 1.44 hectare site). This is in Malton.
- 5.15 The Ryedale Plan Local Sites Document has been subject to a sustainability appraisal (SA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA). The SA/SEA document is available to view on the Ryedale District Council website.
- 5.16 The sustainability objectives used to appraise the Ryedale Plan Local Sites Document were identical to those used to appraise the Local Plan Strategy 2013 – see Table 5.1 above, with the exception of minor changes to C4 (where the words ‘is resilient to climate change such as development’ are omitted and C11 (where the words ‘as locally as possible) were omitted.
- 5.17 The SA/SEA of the Ryedale Plan Local Sites Document identifies some key sustainability issues which are of relevance to the Malton and Norton on Derwent NP area. These are taken from page 8 of the October 2017 SA/SEA environmental report and are repeated below:

Table 5.2: Place-specific sustainability issue relevant to Malton and Norton as set out in the SA/SEA of the Local Sites Document
• Ability of social and physical infrastructure to cope with additional development due to timing – in particular transport and schools
• Additional capacity needed at both primary and secondary school levels
• The need for extra-care facilities
• Highest concentration of affordable homes need in the district
• Lack of open space provision especially for children and young people, both indoor and outdoor sport provision, allotments and cemeteries/churchyards
• Traffic congestion through the towns
• Sewerage capacity – constraints in Norton
• River Derwent Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and 500 m buffer which identifies the area of a presumption against development ‘unless it can be demonstrated through an appropriate assessment that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC alone or in combination with other plans and projects.’
• River Derwent SSSI
• SINCs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Malton Bypass Cuttings - Lady Spring Wood - Bazeleys Lane
• A number of ponds present in Norton
• Green Infrastructure Corridors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Derwent - Rye - Howardian Hills
• Visually Important Undeveloped Areas (VIUA) throughout the towns
• The Howardian Hills AONB designation is immediately to the west of Malton
• Grade 2 and 3 Agricultural Lane surrounds Malton and Norton
• Scheduled Monuments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Orchard Fields – Roman Fort and Site of Malton Castle, Malton - Old Malton Priory Church, Old Malton - The Three Dykes or Five Riggs, Langton
• Archaeologically significant areas of Mediaeval and post-Mediaeval character
• A large number of listed buildings (especially around Castlegate, Yorkersgate and Market Place, Malton and Town Street, Old Malton)
• Malton, Old Malton and Norton Conservation Area

Table 5.2: Place-specific sustainability issue relevant to Malton and Norton as set out in the SA/SEA of the Local Sites Document
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas subject to flood as identified on the Environment Agency Flood Map Flood zones 2 and 3 and drainage sensitive area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of the town at risk of surface water flooding as identified by the Environment Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater Source Protection Zone – Howe Hill Norton
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality Management Area in Malton/Norton

5.18 The SA/SEA of the Ryedale Plan Local Sites Document identifies sources of information relevant to the Malton and Norton area. These are taken from page 8 of the October 2017 SA/SEA environmental report and are repeated below:

Table 5.3: Sources of information relevant to the Malton and Norton area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ryedale Plan : Local Plan Strategy (2013)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitats Regulations Assessment (2009)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ryedale Plan: Local Plan Strategy Examination document Reference DDH20 – Settlement Analysis (2012)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryedale Special Qualities Study Report (2011)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North East Yorkshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2006) and update (2010)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EA Flood Map, Surface water Map and Groundwater map
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan Strategy SA Report (May 2012)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Howardian Hills AONB Management Plan (2009 – 2014)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic Environment Record/Heritage Gateway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural England – Green Infrastructure dataset
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape Character Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality Study 2012 Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment.

5.19 The SA/SEA of the Ryedale Plan Local Sites Document has been reviewed for the purpose of identifying any minor or major negative impacts associated with the Local Plan allocated sites within the NP area (i.e. the sites Land to the east of Beverley Road in Norton on Derwent and Land at old Maltongate in Malton). None were found in the SA/SEA work prepared by Ryedale District Council.

HRA of the draft Malton and Norton NP.

5.20 A HRA screening assessment was undertaken on the draft NP in August 2019. Natural England and Ryedale District Council were engaged in this process and a key output of this was a decision that four policies in the draft NP triggered the need for an appropriate assessment under the HRA legislation. These policies were:

RC1: Malton and Norton River Corridor Development
RC2: Regeneration of Land North and South of County Bridge
CF1: Norton’s Swimming Pool
N1: Land to the Rear of Commercial Street

- 5.21 Please see Table 8.1 below to see the draft wording of these four policies.
- 5.22 The HRA screening assessment process concluded that likely significant effects could not be ruled out for four policies alone: RC1, RC2, CF1 and N1 because of a range of possible effects on the River Derwent SAC.
- 5.23 The HRA appropriate assessment was subsequently completed in May 2020. This found that provided mitigation measures were adopted, including the removal of some types of proposed development, adverse effects on the integrity on the River Derwent SAC could be ruled out for Policies RC1, RC2 and N1. Adverse effects from Policy CF1 could be ruled out without the need for mitigation.

6. Compatibility assessment between the NP objectives and the Ryedale Local Plan objectives

- 6.1 At this scoping stage, a compatibility assessment has been undertaken between the proposed NP objectives and the Local Plan objectives on the one hand (See Table 6.1)
- 6.2 The purpose of these assessments is to highlight area of potential conflict between the NP objectives and the Local Plan objectives. This exercise also helps build an understanding with regards to reasonable alternatives in approach to the one chosen in the draft Neighbourhood Plan.
- 6.3 The Vision underpinning the plan is as follows:

Malton and Norton boast a rich heritage and culture, from their historical origins and archaeological and architectural legacy to their surviving traditional horse racing and food-based industries. These are the bedrocks on which our future vision for the towns are based.

As such, by the end of the plan period in 2027, our three conservation areas will be better understood, their assets better protected as a result, and their appearance and character enhanced by new development and other improvements in keeping with their key elements and features. This enlightened approach to development and design will also be reflected in the wider Neighbourhood Area.

The local food and horse-racing industries which are so much a part of the towns and their hinterland will be confirmed in their status and have developed further within a climate of promotion and encouragement.

The tourism which is vital to our towns will have continued to grow powered by the twin engines of heritage and culture.

The River Derwent, separating the two towns and running through the heart of the area is the other jewel in our crown but also the potential thorn in our sides! It is rich ecologically, and acknowledged as such by a European wildlife designation, while providing an important leisure resource for all. Conversely, it carries an ever present flood risk, acts as a barrier to movement between the towns and through the very thing that makes it so special (its wildlife) poses challenges to more productive and positive use. The town councils' vision is of a Derwent that floods less (or not at all), remains ecologically rich but which yields up its potential for sympathetic riverside enhancements and the positive use of under-utilised riverside land. The hope too is that new river crossings will have been created, allowing for much improved road,

cycling and pedestrian links between Malton and Norton and, through them and other highway improvements, the alleviation of traffic congestion and air pollution in our town centres.

At root, we want the people in our towns to be able to freely enjoy an abundance of simple pleasures in a well- supported and fully serviced community. We aspire to culturally rich and vibrant leisure opportunities, including improvement of existing services and the development of new facilities and wellness activities.

We look forward to enjoying two towns which have enjoyed appropriate housing and employment growth and opportunity, within the context of an even higher quality environment, consistent with their status as Ryedale's principal towns.

6.4 Underpinning this vision, the plan defines the following eleven objectives:

1. To protect and improve the local environment and particularly the ecological quality of the river corridor.
2. To cut congestion and improve air quality.
3. To improve connectivity between Malton and Norton.
4. To improve access to the river for the community.
5. To build upon local distinctiveness in order to enhance the visual quality and appearance of the towns.
6. To protect heritage assets.
7. To encourage regeneration and redevelopment of vacant plots.
8. To capitalise on the history and culture of Malton and Norton to develop the tourism industry.
9. To build upon the economic strengths of the towns and address deficiencies in the economy.
10. To protect and improve community services and facilities.
11. To encourage housing provision that meets local needs.

- 6.5 The Ryedale Plan Local Plan Strategy 2013 eleven objectives are set out in paragraphs 5.5 above.
- 6.6 Table 6.1 below shows there are no areas of conflict or tension between the objectives in the higher-level Ryedale Local Plan Strategy and the objectives in the draft Neighbourhood Plan. The assessment also shows that every Local Plan objective has a positive link with an objective in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Table 6.1: Compatibility assessment between the NP objectives and the Local Plan objectives

Local Plan Objective	Draft Neighbourhood Plan Objectives ¹										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	0
4	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0
5	✓	0	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓
7	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	0
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	0
9	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	0	0
11	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Key to Table 6.1:

Key to compatibility assessment:

✓ = Compatible

X = Not compatible

0 = No discernible relationship

? = Uncertain

7. Compatibility assessment between the NP objectives and the NP policies

- 7.1 The purpose of this assessment is to highlight area of potential conflict between the NP policies and the NP objectives. This exercise also helps build an understanding with regards to possible alternative approaches (i.e. different planning policies) to realising the NP vision and objectives.
- 7.2 Table 7.1 below shows there are four areas of potential conflict between the NP policies and the NP objectives. These relate to policies RC1, RC2, CF1 and N1.
- 7.3 The identified conflict is informed by the HRA and SEA screening which identified potential conflict between Policies RC1, RC2, N1 and CF1 and the conservation objectives of the European SAC. Policies N1 and RC2 support regeneration at locations which are in or close to

¹ Taken from draft NP available in May 2020

the River Derwent SAC/SSSI. The policies do not allocate sites for development but support it in the event that any proposals are compatible with Policy SP14 of the Local Plan Strategy Policy. These policies are aspirational, and no work has been undertaken on deliverability or viability of any scheme. Policy CF1:Norton’s Swimming Pool supports in principle the improvement of the swimming pool in order to increase capacity. The swimming pool is located very close to the River Derwent corridor. This has therefore been flagged as a potential area of incompatibility. The policy has been subject to HRA assessment. Policy RC1 is primarily about increasing access to the river for the community. A tension has been identified between the policy and the conservation objectives of the River Derwent SAC.

7.3 Policy RC1 can be linked to NP objective 4. This NP objective has a strong compatibility relationship to the Local Plan objectives namely Local Plan objective 1, 2, 5, 7, 9 and 12. Policies CF1 is primarily about improving community services and facilities and can be linked directly to NP objective 10. This NP objective has a strong compatibility relationship with Local Plan objective 1, 2, 5 and 7. Policy N1 supports regeneration at land to the rear of Commercial Street and Policy RC2 supports development related regeneration on land to the north and south of County Bridge. Both these objectives can be directly linked with NP objective 7 and 9. Both these objectives have strong compatibility relationship with Local Plan objectives 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 and 9.

7.3 Also noteworthy, is that all four policies that introduce tension with Objective 1 in the NP have are high degrees of compatibility with other NP objectives.

7.4 To conclude, the compatibility assessments shown in Tables 6.1 and 7.1 indicate that the added value that can be provided by the SEA work is by identifying minor amendments to the NP rather than more significant amendments. Reasonable alternatives are discussed further in section 8 of this report.

Table 7.1 Compatibility assessment between the NP objectives and the NP policies.

NP Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Objectives										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
TM1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0
TM2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0
TM3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0
TM4	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TM5	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TM6	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RC1	?x	0	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0
RC2	?x	0	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	0	0
E1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0
E2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0
E3	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0
E4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0
E5	0	0	? ²	0	✓	0	0	✓	0	0	0
E6	0	✓	0	0	0	✓ ³	0	0	0	0	0

² Key views may strengthen sense of place and intervisibility between two settlements

³ Key views may be of heritage assets or provide setting to heritage assets

Table 7.1 Compatibility assessment between the NP objectives and the NP policies.											
NP Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Objectives										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
CF1	?x	0	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0
CF2	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0
CF3	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0
TC1	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	0	✓	0	✓	0
TC2	0	0	?	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	✓	0
TC3	0	0	?	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	0
TC4	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓ ⁴	✓	✓	✓	0
HRI1	0	0	?	0	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0
HRI2	0	0	?	0	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0
HRI3	0	0	?	0	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0
HRI4	0	0	?	0	✓	0	0	✓	0	✓	0
HD1	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0	0
HD2	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0	0
HD3	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0	0
HD4	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0	0
HD5	0	✓ ⁵	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0	0
HD6	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0	0
HD7	0	✓ ⁶	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0	0
HD8	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0	0
HD9	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0	0
HD10	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	✓	0
HD11	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0	0
H1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓
EM1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0
M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0
M2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0
N1	?x	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	✓	0	0

Key to Table 7.1:

Key to compatibility assessment:

✓ = Compatible

X = Not compatible

0 = No discernible relationship

? = Uncertain

⁴ Wentworth Street not a vacant site as such but a car park.

⁵ Due to specific landscaping schemes mentioned.

⁶ See Footnote 1.

8. Proposed objectives and approach (including reasonable alternatives to be assessed) to be taken in the SEA of the Malton and Norton Neighbourhood Plan

8.1 The August 2019 SEA screening assessment (which was undertaken in parallel to the HRA screening assessment work) reported on potential significant environmental effects from the draft NP under Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations. As part of this, the criteria specified in Schedule 1 to the SEA Regulations was taken into account and the three consultation bodies were consulted. This part of the assessment concluded

- Whilst parts of the NP area are vulnerable in terms of biodiversity (River Derwent SAC and SSSI – see Figures 1 and 2), landscape (See Figure 3) and in relation to flood risk (see Environment Agency flood maps which show the River Derwent Corridor as falling within Flood Zone 3) the plan does not allocate sites for development and this itself restricted the extent to which the NP could trigger likely significant environmental effects under the SEA regulations.
- The policies are focused on shaping and influencing development when planning applications are brought forwards and from this point of view a range of minor positive effects could occur particularly in relation to the historic environment.
- There are a number of site-specific policies which highlight specific locations where certain types of investment would be supported. This includes sites which are in or close to areas which are sensitive in biodiversity or flood risk terms. However, in the main, the type of development being supported is minor public enhancement initiatives such as provision of picnic benches, boat moorings etc.
- There is one specific policy which deserves particular attention. This is Policy RC2: Regeneration of Land North and South of County bridge. Again, the policy does not allocate the site for development and neither does it accept or establish the principle of development. The policy is carefully worded to state *“in the event that the principle of development on this site is accepted via the Local Plan or otherwise, relative to the requirements of Local Plan Strategy Policy SP14”*, the policy sets out specific criteria which will be also be sought as part of a proposal (being found as acceptable through a mechanism other than through the Neighbourhood Plan). The policy is an aspirational one where the deliverability of the policy is dependent on a range of other factors not demonstrated (viability or deliverability or availability of land). Whilst not explicitly clear in the policy wording, the supporting text to the policy is clear in stating *“any projects or development would need to take full account of the ecological value of the river corridor, as reflected in its SAC and SSSI status. In addition, flood risk is a recognised issue, especially in light of forecasting models that are expected to inform future decisions concerning development opportunities.”*

8.2 The three consultation bodies agreed with this conclusion.

8.3 In this case the need for the SEA has been triggered only through the HRA screening work. It is therefore proposed that the scope of the SEA be limited to an assessment of the NP policies which triggered the need for HRA. These four policies are set out (in their current form) below in Table 6.1.

8.4 It is proposed that as part of the SEA of the NP, the appropriate assessment of these four policies, together with the recommendations for amendments (see paragraph 5.19 above) by

the Fleming Ecology will be carefully reviewed. In particular, the proposed HRA recommendations will be reviewed.

Reasonable Alternatives

- 8.5 In line with paragraph 12 of the SEA Regulations, the SEA environmental report will need to identify reasonable alternatives to the approach taken in the draft NP and an assessment will need to be done of the identified reasonable alternatives. The purpose of this will be to understand how the draft NP performs in sustainability terms compared to the proposed alternatives.
- 8.6 For reasons outlined above it is proposed the scope of this SEA will be restricted to just four policies in the NP. It is proposed that the reasonable alternatives to the proposed approach in the NP should **not** include an alternative NP vision or an alternative set of NP objectives. This is because, as seen in Table 6.1 above there is a high degree of compatibility between the NP objectives and the Local Plan Strategy 2013 objectives.
- 8.7 It is reasoned therefore that the reasonable alternatives to the proposed approach in the NP that should be included in the SEA assessment are quite limited in scope and will be focused on looking at alternative ways of realising the NP vision and objectives to the approach taken in the four policies RC1: Malton and Norton River Corridor Development, RC2: Regeneration of Land North and South of County Bridge, CF1 Norton’s Swimming Pool and N1: Land to rear of Commercial Street. Alternatives could include:
- removal of these policies;
 - looking at alternative policy wording and alternative wording in the supporting text; and
 - Incorporating the changes proposed by the HRA appropriate assessment

Table 8.1: Draft NP policies that have been subject to HRA appropriate assessment

RC1: Malton and Norton River Corridor Development

The following types of development proposals within the Malton and Norton River Corridor, as identified on the Neighbourhood Plan Proposals Map, will be supported:-

- Recreational enhancement works to include:-
 - A new picnic area
 - Improved riverside seating
 - Fishing platforms/pegs
 - Boat moorings
 - A bandstand/facilities to host performances and entertainment
- Enhanced footpath, cycleway and bridleway provision along the river frontage
- Café/refreshment facilities
- The appropriate change of use or redevelopment of existing buildings within the corridor.

The acceptability of any such development is subject to satisfying the requirements of Local Plan Strategy Policy SP14 in respect of biodiversity sites statutorily protected by international legislation.

Table 8.1: Draft NP policies that have been subject to HRA appropriate assessment
Development is also subject to the satisfaction of flood risk requirements, including sequential testing, as directed by the Environment Agency
RC2: Regeneration of Land North and South of County Bridge
<p>Development-related regeneration on land to the North and South of County Bridge, as shown on the Neighbourhood Plan Proposals Map, will be supported.</p> <p>In the event that the principle of any such development on this site is accepted via the Local Plan or otherwise, relative to the requirements of Local Plan Strategy Policy SP14 (in respect of biodiversity sites statutorily protected by international legislation), development of this site should have regard to the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The satisfaction of flood risk requirements, including sequential testing, as directed by the Environment Agency; - Preservation and/or enhancement of the character and appearance of the Malton Town Centre and Norton-on-Derwent Conservation Areas within which the site is located; - The maximisation of opportunities to improve pedestrian, cycle and motorised vehicular access across the River Derwent and the York-Scarborough Railway Line; - The incorporation of low emission measures to ensure that the overall impact on AQMA air quality is mitigated; - The retention/replacement of Yorkshire Water’s site access; - The retention/replacement of the on-site public conveniences.
CF1: Norton’s Swimming Pool
<p>Development of Norton Swimming Pool to provide additional capacity or improved leisure facilities for the benefit of the community, including its upgrading, extension or replacement, will in principle be supported.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to the need for any additional off-road car parking provision to serve any enhanced facility.</p>
N1: Land to the Rear of Commercial Street
<p>Regeneration of land to the rear of Commercial Street, as identified on the Neighbourhood Plan Proposals Map, including the development of a public car park, with associated service access to the rear of commercial properties in Commercial Street, will be supported.</p> <p>The acceptability of any such regeneration development is subject to satisfying the requirements of Local Plan Strategy Policy SP14 in respect of biodiversity sites statutorily protected under international legislation.</p>

9. The environmental baseline and environmental issues.

- 9.1 An important part of setting the scope for a SEA of a NP is establishing what the environmental baseline in the plan area is. Table 4 in the SEA screening report (May 2020) provides an overview of the environmental baseline alongside existing environmental issues. In addition, the sustainability issues identified by Ryedale District Council for Malton and Norton in 2017 as part of their SA/SEA of the Ryedale Local Sites Plan (see Table 5.2 above) are also relevant.
- 9.2 To keep the SEA of the NP proportionate to the influence of the NP and proportionate to the topics applicable to those four policies that have triggered the need for a HRA and (in this case) therefore the SEA, not all aspects of the environmental baseline and existing environmental issues covered in the SEA screening report and in Table 5.2 will be applicable to the SEA of this NP.
- 9.3 An overview has been provided (see Table 7.2 below) of the environmental baseline and environmental issues using the environmental topics set out in Schedule 2 to the SEA Regulations (biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, landscape). This has been drawn from the work undertaken as part of the SEA screening report May 2020 and as part of the SEA/SA of the Ryedale Local Sites Plan in October 2017. An assessment has then been undertaken to identify which aspects of the environmental baseline (including environmental issues) are applicable to the NP policies RC1, RC2, CF1 and N1. This is shown in the last column in the Table 7.2 below. The results of this assessment is shown in Table 7.2 below.

Table 9.1: Environmental topics to be included in the SEA of the Malton and Norton NP	
Environmental topic as per Schedule 2 in SEA Regulations	Aspects to be explored in the environmental assessment of the Malton and Norton NP.
Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora	Impact on River Derwent SAC and River Derwent SSSI
Human Health	Impact on access to indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities
Air	Relationship between NP policies RC1, RC2, CF1 and N1 and air quality
Climatic Factors	Relationship between NP policies RC1, RC2, CF1 and N1 and flooding to be explored
Cultural Heritage	Scoped in. Relationship between NP policies RC1, RC2, CF1 and N1 and heritage assets to be explored in the environmental assessment.
Landscape	Relationship between Policy RC1 and land designated as Visually Important Undeveloped Area in the Local Plan.
Interrelationship between landscape and open space environmental topics	Relationship between RC1 and RC3, open spaces and landscape quality to be explored in SEA environmental assessment

Table 9.2: Assessing the overall environmental baseline (including environmental issues) against Policies RC1, RC2, CF2 and N1 in the NP.

	Environmental baseline and issue in NP area	Applicable to the SEA of the NP?
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Environmental Topic as per Schedule 2 in the SEA Regulations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Biodiversity</p> <p>The River Derwent Special Area of Conservation runs through the plan area; it runs along the boundary between the two civil parishes of Malton and Norton. See Figure 1 in the SEA screening report.</p> <p>Ryedale District Council have designated a River Derwent Special Area of Conservation (SAC) 500 m buffer which identifies the area of a presumption against development ‘unless it can be demonstrated through an appropriate assessment that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC alone or in combination with other plans and projects.’</p> <p>Note: Table 1 in the HRA appropriate assessment report May 2020 (prepared by Fleming Ecology for the this NP) identifies that there is a potential credible risk to the River Derwent SAC from any plan that could affect aquatic features, any plan that could affect mobile species and finally any plan that could affect increase recreational pressure on European sites potentially vulnerable or sensitive to such pressure</p> <p>Note: Table 3 in the HRA appropriate assessment report, Fleming Ecology, May 2020 provides an up to date description of the River Derwent SAC and its qualifying features as follows:</p> <p><i>“The River Derwent represents one of the best examples in England of a lowland river stretching from Ryemouth in the north to its confluence with the Ouse in the south of the District – a small section lies within the Lower Derwent Valley National Nature Reserve. Not all of the river is designated though and a small stretch through Malton and Norton-upon-Derwent is excluded, reflecting its urbanised location here.</i></p> <p><i>It supports diverse communities of flora, notably floating vegetation dominated by water crowfoot, and fauna, comprising river lamprey, sea lamprey, bullhead and otter. The latter are mobile species with the potential/need to utilise extensive stretches of the river throughout the catchment beyond the boundaries of the SAC, and are critically dependent on the maintenance of a favourable hydrological (including physical and chemical) conditions throughout their range. They are therefore vulnerable to pollution events and the creation of physical or chemical barriers; for instance, lamprey migrate to the open sea via the Humber Estuary. In addition, otters also exploit riparian habitats for resting and breeding.</i></p> <p><i>The Derwent is meso/eutrophic and carries a high nutrient load providing a degree of resilience against air pollution, and whilst otter can be considered resilient, the floating vegetation communities and fish populations may be vulnerable. Overall though, the site can be considered relatively robust but vulnerable to changes in water quality (especially inputs of phosphate) from wastewater disposal, for instance.</i></p> <p><i>Restricted access to the river along much of its length reduces the impact of existing recreational pressure and the simple width of the channel effectively rules out harmful impacts on bullhead, both species of lamprey and the floating vegetation community. However, the otter population remains more vulnerable to disturbance.</i></p> <p><i>Natural England has assessed 99.2% of the River Derwent SSSI to be in ‘favourable’ or ‘unfavourable recovering’ condition; 0.8% is ‘unfavourable no change’ but the threat level is considered to be ‘high’ across a much wider area.”</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>

Table 9.2: Assessing the overall environmental baseline (including environmental issues) against Policies RC1, RC2, CF2 and N1 in the NP.

		Environmental baseline and issue in NP area	Applicable to the SEA of the NP?
	Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The River Derwent Special Site of Scientific Interest run through the plan area: it runs along the boundary between the two civil parishes of Malton and Norton. See Figure 2 in SEA screening report. 	Yes
	Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty lies adjacent to the NP area, to the west in the neighbouring parish of Broughton. See Figure 3 in SEA screening report. 	No. There is no relationship between NP policies RC1, RC2, CF1 and N1
	Population	<p>No specific issues identified in the SEA screening report. Population in Norton on Derwent as at 2011 Census = 7,387 (nomisweb.co.uk). Population in Malton as at 2011 Census = 4,888 (nomisweb.co.uk).</p> <p>The SEA/SA report for the Ryedale Local Sites document published in October 2017 notes the following concerns which are applicable to the population.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability of social and physical infrastructure to cope with additional development due to timing, in particular transport and schools. Traffic congestion through the towns. 	Yes. Policies RC1, and CF1 are focused on improving access to indoor and outdoor recreation activities. Policy RC2 may be applicable in that it seeks regeneration of land north and south of county bridge.
	Human Health	<p>The SEA/SA report for the Ryedale Local Sites document published in October 2017 notes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a need for extra-care facilities in Malton and Norton; a lack of open space provision especially for children and young people, both indoor and outdoor sports provision, allotments and cemeteries/churchyards 	Yes. There is no relationship between NP policies RC1, RC2, CF1 and N1 and extra care facilities. However there is a relationship between these policies and open space provision.

Table 9.2: Assessing the overall environmental baseline (including environmental issues) against Policies RC1, RC2, CF2 and N1 in the NP.

	Environmental baseline and issue in NP area	Applicable to the SEA of the NP?
Fauna	<p>See biodiversity above. Otherwise, no specific problems identified relevant to the plan. Following species present in both Malton and Norton on Derwent civil parishes as recorded at magic.gov.uk (28 July 2019): 1) Corn Bunting, Curlew and Lapwing (all priority species for CS Targeting and grassland assemblage farmland birds) 2) Grey Partridge, tree sparrow and yellow wagtail (grassland assemblage farmland birds)s Curley (priority species for CS Targeting and grassland assemblage farmland bird), Lapwing; Grassland Assemblage Farmland Birds. Bats: one recorded granted European species application in Malton.</p> <p>The SEA/SA report for the Ryedale Local Sites document published in October 2017 notes a number of ponds present in Norton.</p>	Yes. There is a relationship between flora and Policies RC1, CF1, RC2 and N1.
Flora	<p>See biodiversity above. No specific problems identified relevant to the plan. As recorded at www.magic.gov.uk (28 July 2019) the Civil parish of Malton includes coastal and floodplain grazing marsh along the River Rye on the northern boundary, an area of good quality semi improved grassland in the north east and small area of woodpasture and parkland. Civil parish of Norton on Derwent includes an area coastal and floodplain grazing marsh in the north east. Both civil parishes include an area of lowland Fen along the River Derwent SSSI covering a small area in both civil parishes just to the south of Sheepfoot Hill, areas of deciduous woodland, areas of broadleaved woodland and areas of young trees, small areas of traditional orchards.</p> <p>The SEA/SA report for the Ryedale Local Sites document published in October 2017 notes a number of ponds present in Norton.</p>	<p>No relationship between NP policies RC1, RC2, CF1 and N1 and floodplain grazing marsh in plan area.</p> <p>Flora scoped in as far as policies RC1, RC2, CF1 and N1 are applicable.</p>
Soil	Grade 1 and 3 agricultural land surrounds Malton and Norton	No. No relationship between NP policies RC1, RC2, CF1 and N1 and agricultural land.
Water	The SEA/SA report for the Ryedale Local Sites document published in October 2017 notes sewerage capacity constraints in Norton.	No. No relationship between NP policies RC1, RC2, CF1 and N1 and sewerage capacity.

Table 9.2: Assessing the overall environmental baseline (including environmental issues) against Policies RC1, RC2, CF2 and N1 in the NP.

		Environmental baseline and issue in NP area	Applicable to the SEA of the NP?
	Air	There is the Malton Air Quality Management Area. This was established by Ryedale District Council in 2009 to reduce ambient levels of nitrogen dioxide in Malton. The area designated is the junction of Yorkersgate and Castlegate and extends approximately 400 metres along the roads in four directions from this junction. The community aspirations section of the plan includes aspirations to ban HGVs over 7.5 tonnes in the area on the level crossing, by pass signage to discourage driving through the two towns and provision of a shuttle bus network between the town centre and the Eden camp complex. Planning policy E6 in the draft NP look specifically at the managing the impact of proposals which may impact on this air quality management area.	Scoped in. Relationship between NP policies RC1, RC2, CF1 and N1 and air quality to be explored in the environmental assessment
	Climatic factors	The River Derwent corridor and surrounding land falls within fluvial flood zone 3. This applies to corridors of land running south from the River Derwent in the town of Norton (e.g. Mill Beck Corridor and Priorpot Beck). Flooding incidents have occurred in the two towns in the past.	Scoped in. Relationship between NP policies RC1, RC2, CF1 and N1 and flooding to be explored in the environmental assessment.
	Material assets.	No specific issues noted.	

Table 9.2: Assessing the overall environmental baseline (including environmental issues) against Policies RC1, RC2, CF2 and N1 in the NP.

	Environmental baseline and issue in NP area	Applicable to the SEA of the NP?
Cultural Heritage.	<p>The plan area includes many heritage assets which are recognised and protected in the plan. The plan area includes three conservation areas (Malton Town Centre, Norton-on-Derwent and Malton Old Town). Policy HD1 in the draft NP focuses on managing development in these conservation areas with an overall view to ensuring development that conserves or enhances the conservation areas. The community aspirations chapter includes an aspiration to introduce Article 4 Directions across the three conservation areas to remove some permitted development rights, aspirations to refurbish six listed K6 telephone kiosks, initiative improved street signage with a view to securing more sympathetic street signage, appropriate to the appearance of the conservation area, aspirations to review all 3 conservation area (the update of the appraisal of Malton town centre and the production of appraisals for Norton-on-Derwent and Malton Old Town conservation areas.</p> <p>As recognised in Chapter 4.7 of the NP, there are records of extensive archaeological remains from the pre-historic, Romano-British, Medieval and Post-Medieval periods. Planning policy HD11 in the NP seeks to ensure these remains are taken fully into account as development comes forward.</p>	<p>Scoped in. Relationship between NP policies RC1, RC2, CF1 and N1 and heritage assets to be explored in the environmental assessment.</p>
Landscape	<p>An area adjacent to the plan area in the north west is the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty AONB. This area is away from the settlements in the towns and there are no proposals for development near to this area.</p>	<p>No. No relationship between NP policies RC1, RC2, CF1 and N1 and the Howardian Hills AONB.</p>

Table 9.2: Assessing the overall environmental baseline (including environmental issues) against Policies RC1, RC2, CF2 and N1 in the NP.

	Environmental baseline and issue in NP area	Applicable to the SEA of the NP?
Landscape	<p>The Ryedale Local Plan Sites Document adopted in June 2019 includes areas of Visually Important Undeveloped Areas in the plan area – see policy SD16. This applies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land at Folliot Ward Close, Middlecave Road, Malton - Land to the north of Peasey Hills, - Land between Welham Road and Langton Road, Norton - Land north of Westgate Lane, Old Malton <p>The effect of this is applying a designation that exists via the Local Plan Strategy in Policy SP16 (Design) of that document.</p> <p>The Local Plan Strategy (adopted 2013) had already designated further Visually Important Undeveloped Area in the plan area. This applies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land in Norton on Derwent following the River Derwent corridor and up to the settlement boundary of Norton on Derwent (exact extent shown on the Malton and Norton Policies Map). - A stretch of Land in Norton on Derwent and Malton all on open land, again following the River Derwent corridor and surrounding open space up to the settlement boundary 	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Relationship between Policy RC1 and land designated as Visually Important Undeveloped Area in the Local Plan.</p>
Landscape	<p>Applicable designations in the Ryedale Local Plan 2002 also still exist: Area of High Landscape Value in the south of Norton on Derwent known as The Wolds Area of High Landscape Value</p>	<p>No. No relationship between NP policies RC1, RC2, CF1 and N1 and the Wolds Area of High Landscape Value.</p>
Landscape	<p>The NP does propose designation of seven Local Green Spaces. These includes areas that fall within Visually Important Undeveloped Areas: Lady Spring Wood and River Walk to Malton, North East of Castlegate, adjacent to the Old Lodge Hotel and Orchard Fields, East of Castlegate, north of Commercial Street, Norton, between railway line and River Derwent, Orchard Fields adjacent to Old Maltongate, the Old Lodge and Lady Spring Wood, Mill Beck Corridor adjacent to Lakeside and Welham Road housing, Orchard Fields/Old Malton Recreation Land,</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Relationship between RC1 and RC3 and the proposed NP Local Green Spaces. to be explored in SEA environmental assessment</p>

10. Proposed SEA framework

- 10.1 An important role of the scoping stage of SEA is to propose and agree a framework to be used to identify and explore in more detail how the NP will impact on the environment. The SEA framework will include a set of SEA objectives, indicators and proposed tools for measuring impacts.
- 10.2 A logical starting point for identifying appropriate SEA objectives is to review the framework with Ryedale District Council have used in the SEA of their Local Plan. This was done most recently for the Local Sites Document. The SEA objectives used in the SA/SEA of the Local Site Document is explained above in section 5.
- 10.3 As can be seen in the table below, the Ryedale SEA/SA have provided the basis for the proposed SEA objectives for the Malton and Norton SEA. Not all the SEA/SA objectives used by Ryedale are considered applicable to the Malton and Norton SEA. This is because the Malton and Norton NP has a more localised focus than the Local Plan and also because this SEA is focusing only on four proposed NP policies RC1, RC2, CF2 and N1. The third column under 'Commentary' explains where a different approach for the Malton and Norton SEA has been proposed.

Ryedale Local Plan SA/SEA objective	Proposed Malton and Norton NP SEA objective	Commentary
A1: To ensure that all groups of the population have access to health, education, leisure and recreation services that are required	SEA 1: To ensure the Malton and Norton local population have access to health, education, leisure and recreation services that are required.	Applicable to SEA topics population and health. Wording made more specific to the NP area.
A2: To provide the opportunity for all people to meet their housing needs	SEA 2: To provide the opportunity for all people to meet their housing needs.	Applicable to SEA topics population and health
A3: To improve overall levels of health and reduce the disparities between different groups and different areas.	None proposed	Considered too big an issue to be influenced by this NP and specifically the four policies falling within the scope of this SEA.
A4: To maintain and promote the distinctiveness of identifiable communities	SEA 3: To maintain and promote the distinctiveness of communities within Malton and Norton	Wording made more specific to the NP area.
A5: To reduce crime and the fear of crime	SEA 4: To reduce crime and the fear of crime in Malton and Norton	Wording made more specific to the NP area.
A5: To develop a more balanced population	None proposed.	The NP does not allocate any residential development sites so this measurement would not help to distinguish between the proposed policies and alternative approaches. Considered too big an issue to be

Table 10.1 Proposed Malton and Norton NP SEA objectives		
Ryedale Local Plan SA/SEA objective	Proposed Malton and Norton NP SEA objective	Commentary
		influenced by this NP and specifically the four policies falling within the scope of this SEA.
B1: To maintain and enhance employment opportunities	SEA 5: to maintain and enhance employment opportunities in the NP area.	The NP policies RC2 and N1 are aspirational policies applicable to regeneration and employment.
B2: To maintain and enhance the vitality of the countryside, villages and town centres	SEA 6: To maintain and enhance the vitality of the countryside and town centres.	Made more applicable to the plan area that does not include villages.
B3: To retain and enhance the factors which are conducive to wealth creation, including personal creativity and attractiveness to investors	SEA 7: To retain and enhance the factors which are conducive to wealth creation, including personal creativity and attractiveness to investors	
B4: To diversify the local economy	SEA 8: To diversify the local economy	
C1: To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity.	SEA 9: To protect and enhance biodiversity in the River Derwent SAC and SSSI	Made more specific to the scope of the NP.
C2: To maintain and enhance the quality and character of the landscape, including the special qualities of remoteness and tranquillity	SEA 10: To maintain and enhance the quality and character of the landscape	Made more specific to scope for the NP policies subject to this SEA which do not cover remote areas.
C3: Reduce long distance commuting and congestion by reducing the need to travel.	SEA 11: Reduce long distance commuting and congestion by reducing the need to travel.	Applicable to plan area which is subject to congestion.
C4: To ensure future development is resilient to climate change such as development is not vulnerable to flooding, or will increase the risk of flooding elsewhere	SEA 12: To ensure future development is resilient to climate change such as development is not vulnerable to flooding, or will increase the risk of flooding elsewhere	Applicable to plan area which includes areas of flood risk including the area impacted by the NP policies subject to this SEA.
C5: To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historical and cultural environment.	SEA 13: To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historical and cultural environment.	Applicable to plan area which includes important heritage assets which are relevant to the NP policies subject to this SEA.
C6: To reduce the emission of greenhouse gases	None proposed	An important issue but more applicable to higher level plans. The NP four NP policies subject to this SEA will have very limited influence on this.

Ryedale Local Plan SA/SEA objective	Proposed Malton and Norton NP SEA objective	Commentary
C7: To encourage the use of renewable resources and the development of renewable energy sources within Ryedale	SEA 14: To encourage the use of renewable resources and the development of renewable energy sources within Malton and Norton	Made more specific to the NP area.
C8: To make the most efficient use of land	SEA 15: To make the most efficient use of land	
C9: To maintain a high quality environment in terms of air, soil and water quality	SEA 16: To maintain a high quality environment in terms of air quality	Made more specific to the NP area and the scope of the policies being assessed.
C10: Ensure that fossil fuel and water consumption is as low as possible, protect productive soils and maintain the stock of minerals	None proposed.	This is considered too big a issue falling outside the scope of this NP and the four policies subject to this SEA.
C11: To reduce the amount of waste produced and maximise the rates of reuse and recycling as locally as possible	None proposed.	An important issue but more applicable to higher level plans. The NP four NP policies subject to this SEA will have very limited influence on this.

10.4 It is proposed to assess the four NP policies using the same scoring system which Ryedale District Council have used in the SA and SEA of their Local Sites Plan. This is shown below:

Symbol	Score	Definition
++	Strongly positive impact	Positively influencing change in accordance with the objective
+	Positive impact	The policy is consistent with meeting the objective
=	Neutral impact	The policy will have neither and positive nor a negative impact upon this objective
-	Negative impact	This policy may hinder achievement of this objective
--	Negative impact	This policy would hinder achievement of this objective
U	Uncertain impact	The policy may hinder achievement of this objective, but may have no negative impact. This will depend on implementation.
O	No direct link	There is no direct link between the nature of the policy and the nature of this objective.

10.5 Consistent with Schedule 2 to the SEA Regulations, it is proposed any effects will be considered in terms of short, medium and long term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects.

10.6 Table 8.3 below provides further guidance on how it is proposed the SEA objectives will be used to assess the four NP policies.

Table 10.3: Proposed prompts to help assess the NP policies against the SEA objectives.	
Proposed SEA objective	Appraisal prompts
SEA 1: To ensure the Malton and Norton local population have access to health, education, leisure and recreation services that are required.	Does the policy result in the loss of a community facility or poorer access to a community facility? Does the policy result in improved access to community facility
SEA 2: To provide the opportunity for all people to meet their housing needs.	Does the policy deliver homes which will address and identified local need such as affordable homes?
SEA 3: To maintain and promote the distinctiveness of communities within Malton and Norton	Would the policy lead to loss of an existing use which contributes to the social character and distinctiveness of Malton and Norton? Would the policy involve new public realm or enhancements to the public realm?
SEA 4: To reduce crime and the fear of crime in Malton and Norton	Would the policy deliver development that would incorporate the principles of Secure by Design, reducing the potential for crime and discouraging anti-social behaviour.
SEA 5: to maintain and enhance employment opportunities in the NP area.	Will this policy deliver or help to deliver improved employment opportunities?
SEA 6: To maintain and enhance the vitality of the countryside and town centres.	Will the policy protect or enhance the viability and vitality of the town centres? Will the policy protect or enhance open areas outside the town centre?
SEA 7: To retain and enhance the factors which are conducive to wealth creation, including personal creativity and attractiveness to investors	Does the policy protect, employment opportunities in plan area? Does the policy encourage or deliver more employment opportunities in accessible locations?
SEA 8: To diversify the local economy	Does the policy assist in diversifying the local economy in Malton and Norton?
SEA 9: To protect and enhance biodiversity in the River Derwent SAC and SSSI	Does the policy protect or enhance the River Derwent SAC and SSSI? Does the policy protect or enhance protected flora and fauna? Does the policy provide opportunities for provision of green infrastructure including linking in with existing green infrastructure?
SEA 10: To maintain and enhance the quality and character of the landscape	What impact would this policy have on the Visually Important Undeveloped Areas in the plan area?
SEA 11: Reduce long distance commuting and congestion by reducing the need to travel.	Would this policy encourage people to walk and cycle rather than travel by car? Would this policy lead to highway impacts that would require highway mitigation measures?

Table 10.3: Proposed prompts to help assess the NP policies against the SEA objectives.	
Proposed SEA objective	Appraisal prompts
	Will the policy protect or enhance access to public rights of way?
SEA 12: To ensure future development is resilient to climate change such as development is not vulnerable to flooding, or will increase the risk of flooding elsewhere	Does the policy lead to development in areas at risk of flooding e.g. within the Flood Zone 3 or b or within the rapid inundation zone? Does the policy lead to increases in flood risk to people and property in the plan area?
SEA 13: To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historical and cultural environment.	Does the policy conserve or enhance designated heritage asset? Does the policy conserve or enhance non-designated heritage assets?
SEA 14: To encourage the use of renewable resources and the development of renewable energy sources within Malton and Norton	Does the policy facilitate the delivery of renewable energy schemes?
SEA 15: To make the most efficient use of land	Does the policy focus development towards previously developed land. Does the policy focus on maximising efficient uses of land?
SEA 16: To maintain a high quality environment in terms of air quality	Does the policy have an adverse impact on the Malton Air Quality Management area?