

# Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Rufforth with Knapton Neighbourhood Plan

Environmental Report

Project Number: 60537981

January 2018

## Quality information

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Revision	Revision date	Details	Name	Position
v1	28/06/2017	Draft for internal review	Graham McGrath	Assistant Consultant
v2	29/06/2017	Draft for client review	Alastair Peattie	Principal Consultant
v3	05/07/2017	Final report following client review	Alastair Peattie	Principal Consultant
V4	31/01/2018	Revised to reflect consultation responses and the emerging Local Plan	Alastair Peattie	Principal Consultant

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## Table of Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1	Background .....	1
1.2	Relationship of the Neighbourhood Plan with the City of York Local Plan .....	2
1.3	SEA explained .....	2
1.4	Structure of this Environmental Report .....	3
<b>2.</b>	<b>What is the scope of the SEA?</b> .....	<b>5</b>
2.1	SEA Scoping Report.....	5
2.2	Key issues and objectives for the SEA .....	5
2.3	SEA Framework.....	7
2.4	Consultation on the scope .....	8
<b>3.</b>	<b>What has plan-making / SEA involved up to this point?</b> .....	<b>10</b>
3.1	Introduction.....	10
3.2	Developing reasonable alternatives for the Neighbourhood Plan .....	10
3.3	Assessment of reasonable alternatives .....	17
3.4	Developing the preferred approach .....	19
<b>4.</b>	<b>Assessment of the Draft Plan</b> .....	<b>21</b>
4.1	Introduction.....	21
4.2	Biodiversity .....	22
4.3	Climate change.....	23
4.4	Historic environment and landscape.....	24
4.5	Land, soil and water resources .....	25
4.6	Population and community .....	26
4.7	Health and wellbeing .....	27
4.8	Transport .....	28
4.9	Conclusions at this current stage.....	29
<b>5.</b>	<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>30</b>
5.1	Introduction.....	30
5.2	Plan finalisation and adoption.....	30
	<b>Appendix A : Regulatory requirements</b> .....	<b>31</b>
	<b>Appendix B : Context review and baseline information</b> .....	<b>34</b>

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent strategic environmental assessment (SEA) in support of Rufford with Knapton's emerging Neighbourhood Plan (NP). SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely significant effects of an emerging plan, and potential alternatives in terms of key environmental issues.

The Rufford with Knapton NP (hereafter referred to as 'the NP') is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Plan under the Localism Act 2012. The NP covers the Parish of Rufford with Knapton and is being produced by the Neighbourhood Planning Group on behalf of the Parish Council. It has been prepared in the context of the emerging City of York Local Plan. Key information relating to the NP is presented in Table 1.1 below.

**Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the Rufford with Knapton Neighbourhood Plan**

Name of Responsible Authority	Rufford with Knapton Parish Council
Title of Plan	Rufford with Knapton Neighbourhood Plan
Subject	Neighbourhood Plan
Purpose	The Rufford with Knapton Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Plan under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan will be in conformity with the emerging City of York Local Plan and will help to guide the nature, location and design of new development in the Parish until 2033.
Timescale	To 2033
Area covered by the plan	Rufford with Knapton Parish  (Figure 1.1 on the next page)
Summary of content	The NP will set out a vision, strategy and range of policies for the plan area. These are set out below.

### The vision of the NP is as follows:

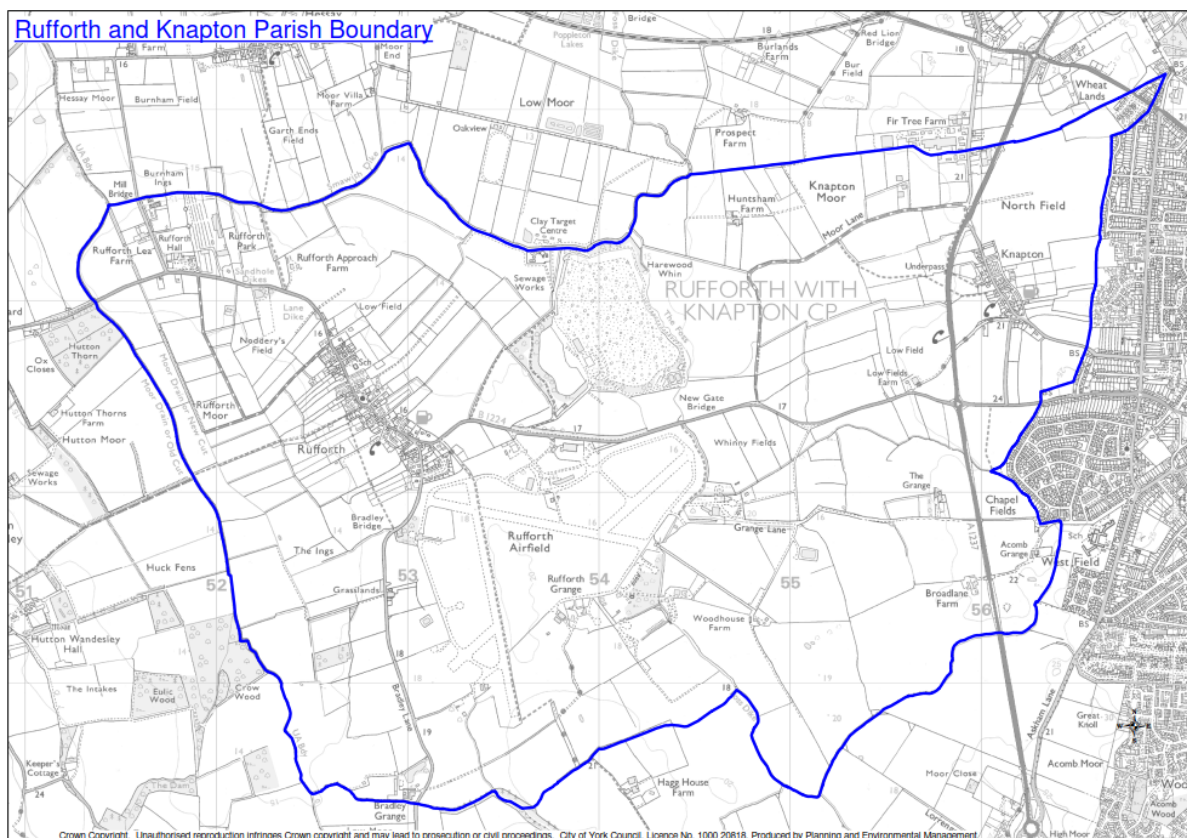
"To sustain the distinctive rural character and identity of the Parish, whilst encouraging a vibrant environment and community for families and people of all ages to live and work within a thriving local economy."

### The aims of the NP are as follows:

- To protect the Green Belt.
- To ensure all new development maintains the physical separation of the Parish from the City of York.
- To ensure Rufford is surrounded by green fields outside the ring road and that Knapton and Boroughbridge Road area are protected from coalescence with City of York.
- To support appropriate small scale residential development that meets local needs and is designed to enhance the character of the villages in which it is to be built.
- To encourage a mix of housing suitable for families and people of all ages. In particular, to enable young people to remain in the Parish if they so wish.

- To encourage a thriving rural economy by supporting agriculture and small scale commercial development where possible, including through the conversion of existing buildings.
- To support and enhance facilities and services to meet local need.
- To protect, improve and, where necessary, extend the current network of footpaths and cycle ways to ensure good links between villages and in to the countryside.

Figure 1.1: NP area, also representing Rufford with Knapton Parish Boundary



## 1.2 Relationship of the Neighbourhood Plan with the City of York Local Plan

The NP is being prepared in the context of the emerging City of York Local Plan which covers the period 2011 to 2032 plus a further 5 years to 2037 to provide a degree of permanence to the Green Belt boundaries to be set through the plan. The 'development plan' for the area will be composed of the Local Plan once adopted and NP when made (brought into legal force) by City of York Council (CYC). The Local Plan policies will be used to facilitate development and decide planning decisions in the City of York administrative area at a strategic level, and the NP will decide those at a more local level.

## 1.3 SEA explained

SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely significant effects of an emerging plan, and reasonable alternatives in terms of key environmental issues. The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding or mitigating negative environmental effects and maximising positive effects. Through this approach, the SEA seeks to maximise the emerging Neighbourhood Plan's contribution to sustainable development.

The SEA has been prepared in line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations) which transpose into national law



the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive<sup>1</sup>. The NP has been ‘screened in’ to require SEA by City of York Council. To meet this requirement, the NP is undergoing an SEA process.

The SEA Regulations require that a report is published for consultation alongside the draft plan that ‘identifies, describes and evaluates’ the likely significant effects of implementing ‘the plan, and reasonable alternatives’. The report must then be taken into account, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the plan.

In line with the SEA Regulations this Environmental Report must essentially answer four questions:

1. What’s the scope of the SEA?
2. What has Plan-making / SEA involved up to this point?  
(‘Reasonable alternatives’ must have been appraised for the plan.)
3. What are the appraisal findings at this current stage? (i.e. in relation to the draft plan.)
4. What happens next?

These questions are derived from Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, which present ‘the information to be provided within the report’. **Table 1.1** presents the linkages between the regulatory requirements and the four SEA questions.

## 1.4 Structure of this Environmental Report

This document is the Environmental Report for the NP and hence needs to answer all four of the questions listed above with a view to providing the information required by the Regulations. Each of the four questions is answered in turn within this report, as follows:

**Table 1.1: Questions that must be answered by the Environmental Report in order to meet Regulatory<sup>2</sup> requirements**

Environmental Report question	In line with regulations, the report must include...
Part 1: What’s the scope of the SEA?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What’s the plan seeking to achieve?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
What’s the sustainability ‘context’?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What’s the sustainability ‘context’?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The relevant environmental protection objectives, established at international or national level.</li> <li>• Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
What’s the sustainability ‘baseline’?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What’s the sustainability ‘baseline’?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan.</li> <li>• The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.</li> <li>• Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
What are the key issues & objectives that should be a focus?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the key issues &amp; objectives that should be a focus?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key problems / issues and objectives that should be a focus of (i.e. provide a ‘framework’ for) assessment.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Part 2: What has plan-making / SEA involved up to this point?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 2: What has plan-making / SEA involved up to this point?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with (and thus an explanation of the ‘reasonableness’ of the approach).</li> <li>• The likely significant effects associated with alternatives.</li> <li>• Outline reasons for selecting the preferred approach in-light of alternatives appraisal / a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the draft plan.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Part 3: What are the assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 3: What are the assessment                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The likely significant effects associated with the draft plan.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

<sup>2</sup> Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

findings at this current stage?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the draft plan.</li></ul>
Part 4: What happens next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The next steps for plan making / SEA process. N.B. This is not a regulatory requirement.</li></ul>

N.B. The right-hand column of Table 1.1 does not quote directly from Schedule II of the Regulations. Rather, it reflects a degree of interpretation. This interpretation is explained in Appendix A of this report.

## 2. What is the scope of the SEA?

### 2.1 SEA Scoping Report

The SEA Regulations require that: “*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*”. In England, the consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England.<sup>3</sup> These authorities were consulted on the scope of the NP SEA in April 2017.

The purpose of scoping was to outline the ‘scope’ of the SEA through setting out:

- A context review covering the key environmental and sustainability objectives of national, regional and local plans and strategies relevant to the NP;
- Baseline data against which the Neighbourhood Plan can be assessed;
- The key sustainability issues for the Neighbourhood Plan; and
- An ‘SEA Framework’ of objectives against which the Neighbourhood Plan can be assessed (presented in table 4.2).

The context review and baseline information are presented in **Appendix B**.

Comments received on the Scoping Report, and how they were considered and addressed, are presented **Table 2.1**.

### 2.2 Key issues and objectives for the SEA

#### 2.2.1 Key sustainability issues

Drawing on the review of the sustainability context and baseline data, the SEA Scoping Report was able to identify a range of sustainability issues that should be a particular focus of SEA. It should be noted that the scoping stage found that there were no key issues in relation to air quality and that this theme could therefore be scoped ‘out’ of the SEA process. The key issues identified at the scoping stage are set out below and presented under seven themes:

##### 2.2.1.1 Biodiversity

- The NP area contains an Ancient Woodland to the south east of Rufforth Airfield.
- There are a number of priority habitats, including deciduous woodland and traditional orchards within the NP area.

##### 2.2.1.2 Climate Change

- An increase in the built footprint of the Rufforth with Knapton NP area (associated with the delivery of new housing and employment land) has the potential to increase overall greenhouse gas emissions and surface water runoff.
- Per capita greenhouse gas emissions at the York level are lower than the Yorkshire and the Humber and England averages. Furthermore, the York per capita total value is falling at a faster rate than the Yorkshire and the Humber and national average. Nevertheless, it is still well above the per capita value envisioned for 2050 by the Committee on Climate Change (2 t CO<sub>2</sub>/e).
- Flooding is an issue for the Rufforth with Knapton NP area. This risk is likely to increase in line with predicted increases in winter precipitation as a result of climate change.
- The NP should seek to increase the Parish area’s resilience to the effects of climate change through supporting adaptation to the risks associated with climate change.

<sup>3</sup> In-line with Article 6(3) of the SEA Directive, these consultation bodies were selected because ‘by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, [they] are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programme’.

### 2.2.1.3 Historic Environment and Landscape

- There are six Grade II listed buildings within the NP area.
- New development has the potential to lead to beneficial or adverse effects on the historic environment, including through affecting the setting of cultural heritage assets and landscape/village quality.
- New development could lead to pressures on non-designated sites and landscapes, including from the loss of key built and natural features.

### 2.2.1.4 Land, Soil and Water Resources

- The Rufforth with Knapton NP area contains Grade 2 and 3 agricultural land which should be retained if possible.
- Regional water supply deficits may grow under the effects of climate change.
- Most of the Rufforth with Knapton NP area is designated a groundwater and surface water Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.

### 2.2.1.5 Population and Communities

- Since 2001 the population of Rufforth with Knapton NP area has grown at a faster rate than the national average.
- The NP area has a lower proportion of people in the 16-24 and 25-44 age groups than the national average and a higher proportion of residents within the 45-59 and 60+ age groups than the national average.
- When compared to other areas there is little deprivation within the NP area. However, there are pockets of deprivation through geographical and housing barriers<sup>4</sup>.
- Like many other areas of the UK, the NP area is shown to have an ageing population. The population of the Rufforth with Knapton NP area demonstrates a strong skew towards older people relative to the national average.
- Unemployment is currently low compared to the national average.
- Growth is expected to continue and provide employment to a growing population. However, the lack of employment opportunities within the Parish means that transport connections will be a critical factor in the sustainability of any growth.

### 2.2.1.6 Health and Wellbeing

- More people within the NP area identify as being in 'very good' health than the district, regional and national averages.
- There is also a slightly lower prevalence of disability in the Rufforth with Knapton NP area than the national average.
- The population age structure of the Rufforth with Knapton NP area shows a greater proportion of older people and this has the potential to affect the prevalence of both health and disability within the area in the future.
- The Rufforth with Knapton NP area is dependent on other areas' local service centres for many services; this situation is unlikely to change due to the population of the Parish and its proximity to external services and facilities. It will be important to improve links to these external facilities/services where possible. Existing facilities are highly valued and should be kept or improved where possible.

### 2.2.1.7 Transportation

- There are no mainline or branch line railway stations present in the NP area.

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<sup>4</sup>: 'Geographical barriers' relate to the physical proximity of local services, and 'housing barriers' includes issues relating to access to housing such as affordability.

- A small number of residents walk or cycle to work, although in both cases the proportion doing so is higher than the regional and national averages. Both modes of transport should be encouraged, facilitated and supported through future development.
- There are regular bus services to York and Wetherby, the former of which has a major railway station connected to London and major northern cities including Edinburgh, Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle.
- Ownership of multiple cars is very high. New development areas should be situated in accessible locations which limit the need to travel by private car.

## 2.3 SEA Framework

The issues identified above were then translated into an 'SEA Framework' of objectives and assessment questions. This SEA Framework provides a methodological basis for the appraisal of likely significant effects on the baseline. The SEA framework for the NP is presented below.

**Table 2.1: SEA Framework**

SEA topic	SEA Objective	Assessment questions (Will the option/proposal help to.....)
Biodiversity	Protect and enhance the NP area's biodiversity.	Protect and enhance the Ancient Woodland and priority habitats within the NP area? Ensure that development respects biodiversity of any quality and seeks to enhance the quality, quantity and connectivity of all habitats?
Climatic Change	Promote climate change mitigation in the Neighbourhood Area.	Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport? Increase the number of new developments meeting sustainable design criteria? Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources? Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources?
	Support the resilience of the NP area to the potential effects of climate change.	Ensure that no development takes place in areas at highest risk of flooding, and ensure that sufficient mitigation is planned for development in areas at risk, taking the likely effects of climate change into account? Improve green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? Sustainably manage water run-off, ensuring that the present or future risk of flooding is not increased (either within the NP area or downstream) and where possible reduce flood risk? Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the plan area? Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the plan area to the effects of climate change by improving habitat extent, condition and connectivity?
Historic environment and landscape	Conserve and enhance the NP area's historic environment, heritage assets, and their settings.	Conserve and enhance buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest? Support the integrity of the historic setting of key buildings of cultural heritage interest and scheduled monuments? Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?
	Conserve and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	Conserve and enhance buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest? Conserve and enhance landscape and village character features?
Land, soil and water	Ensure the efficient use of land.	Promote the use of previously developed Land? Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural

resources		land, which includes Grade 2 and 3a agricultural land within the NP area?
	Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	Minimise water consumption? Minimise impacts on water quality?
Population and communities	Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve access to local, high quality community services and facilities.	Promote the development of a range of high quality accessible community facilities? Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents? Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities including specialist services for disabled and older people? Ensure adequate school and leisure facilities for children including sports fields and recreational space?
	Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? Meet the needs of ALL sectors of the community? Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in constructions? Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?
Transport	Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel .	Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development? Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel? Enable transport infrastructure improvements? Facilitate working from home and remote working?

## 2.4 Consultation on the scope

The SEA Regulations require that: “*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*”. In England, the consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England.

As such, these authorities were consulted on the scope of The NP SEA in April 2017 and responses were received from the Environment Agency and Natural England. No response was received from Historic England. Table 2.2. sets out the comments received and how these have been taken into account.

**Table 2.2 Consultation responses received on the SEA Scoping Report**

Consultation response	How the response was considered and addressed
<b>Environment Agency</b>	
<i>"We are satisfied that the key issues that fall within our remit have been identified and given consideration. We are satisfied that the proposed objectives and sub-objectives are appropriate and are pleased to see that the SEA framework contains aspirational objectives (i.e. the aim is to protect and also enhance/improve wherever possible)."</i>	Noted.
<p><i>"You may also wish to review the following documents which are also of relevance:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="231 593 1005 627">1. <i>River Ouse Catchment Flood Management Plan</i></li> <li data-bbox="231 627 1005 694">2. <i>Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS) licensing documents in relation to water availability"</i></li> </ol>	Noted.
<b>Natural England</b>	
<i>"We have no specific comments to make other than to commend the approach and the topics covered (i.e. biodiversity, green infrastructure and soils, along with the recognition of protected sites)."</i>	Noted.

### 3. What has plan-making / SEA involved up to this point?

#### 3.1 Introduction

In accordance with the SEA Regulations, the Environmental Report must include:

- An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with; and
- The likely significant effects on the environment associated with alternatives / an outline of the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of alternatives appraised.

The 'narrative' of plan-making / SEA up to this point is told within this part of the Environmental Report. Specifically, this section explains how alternatives have been considered through plan-making and the SEA to inform the preparation of the current version of the NP.

#### 3.2 Developing reasonable alternatives for the Neighbourhood Plan

##### 3.2.1 City of York Local Plan

A key element of the SEA process is the consideration of 'reasonable alternatives' for the NP. A neighbourhood plan must be in general conformity with and support the strategic development needs set out in the Local Plan. As a starting point, it is therefore important to set out what is being proposed through the City of York Local Plan as this will have an influence on the consideration of alternatives through plan-making and the SEA for the NP.

Currently there is no up to date adopted Local Plan; the 2005 City of York Draft local plan is still used as the basis for development management decisions.

CYC consulted on the Preferred Options Local Plan and its supporting evidence base documents in June 2013. The document proposed one allocation within the Rufforth with Knapton Neighbourhood Plan Area (NPA) to help meet the housing requirements of the city identified in the evidence base:

- H38 Land Rear of Rufforth Primary School, Rufforth - 28 dwellings

A Further Sites Consultation Document was published for consultation in June 2014, which presented the results of testing the suggested modifications and new sites received since 2013 against the site selection methodology and with relevant technical officers. Consultation on the Preferred Options and Further Sites helped CYC to develop a portfolio of sites to meet the identified housing and employment needs of the city for the Publication Draft Local Plan. The Local Plan Publication draft was taken to Members of the Local Plan Working Group (LPWG) and Executive in September 2014, who voted to take the draft Plan out to public consultation. However, this plan was halted by Members from progressing to consultation following a motion at a Full Council Meeting on 9th October 2014 to review the overall housing requirements included in the plan.

It is understood that the preferred approach was to provide about 995 homes per annum (+ a 20% buffer in supply for the first five years) in the Local Plan. The Local Plan Publication draft did include two site allocations within/partly within the Rufforth with Knapton NPA to help meet the housing requirements of the city identified in the evidence base, these were:

- ST29 Land at Boroughbridge Road - 135 dwellings
- H38 Land Rear of Rufforth Primary School, Rufforth - 28 dwellings

Subsequently, Members agreed at the LPWG 27/06/16 and Executive on 30/06/16 a Preferred Sites Document to go out for city-wide public consultation. This document set out CYC's revised housing and employment quanta as well as an updated portfolio of sites to meet housing and employment demands within York. In this portfolio of sites, the following are included within the Rufforth with Knapton NPA:

- H38 Land Rear of Rufforth Primary School, Rufforth - 33 dwellings
- H53 Land at Knapton Village - 11 dwellings



- A Pre-Publication draft Local Plan was published for consultation from 18 September to 30 October 2017. It proposed the following sites for allocation within the Rufforth with Knapton NPA: H38 Land Rear of Rufforth Primary School, Rufforth - 33 dwellings
- H53 Land at Knapton Village - 4 dwellings

### 3.2.2 The amount of housing

With regard to the amount of housing to be provided by the NP, it has been concluded at this stage that there are no reasonable alternatives to test. This is due to the fact that there is an absence of any other inputs from which to generate a number to test (e.g. no indicative figure from an adopted or emerging Local Plan or a Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) for the NPA. It might be feasible to assess theoretical alternatives but the value this would provide is limited.

AECOM are mindful to follow direction from the Planning Inspectorate (2007) that “*meaningful options should be developed...*” Although the NP needs to be in general conformity with the CYC Local Plan, bearing in mind the Planning Inspectorate advice it is sensible to test alternatives, in this case alternative capacity led options (remembering that the Local Plan may allocate land for up to around 40 dwellings as per the Preferred Sites Consultation Document (2016) and Pre-Publication draft Local Plan (2017) which proposed two allocations (H38 and H53)).

### 3.2.3 Sites

In June 2015 the NPG carried out a survey to gather the views of residents, businesses and landowners within the NPA. A questionnaire was circulated to all 427 households and a letter sent to all land owners within the NPA calling on them to submit potential sites for development. A 73% response rate on the questionnaire was achieved and a detailed analysis of the results undertaken. A report on the results was circulated to residents during September 2015. A follow up letter was sent to all land owners within the NPA in February 2016, asking them again to submit any potential sites that should be considered through plan-making.

The NPG’s call for sites in June 2015 and February 2016 identified nine potential sites for development within the NPA, which are illustrated in the figures below. This included the two sites proposed as allocations through the City of York’s Preferred Sites Consultation Document (2016) and Pre-Publication draft Local Plan (2017).

Figure 3.1: Sites identified within and around Knapton

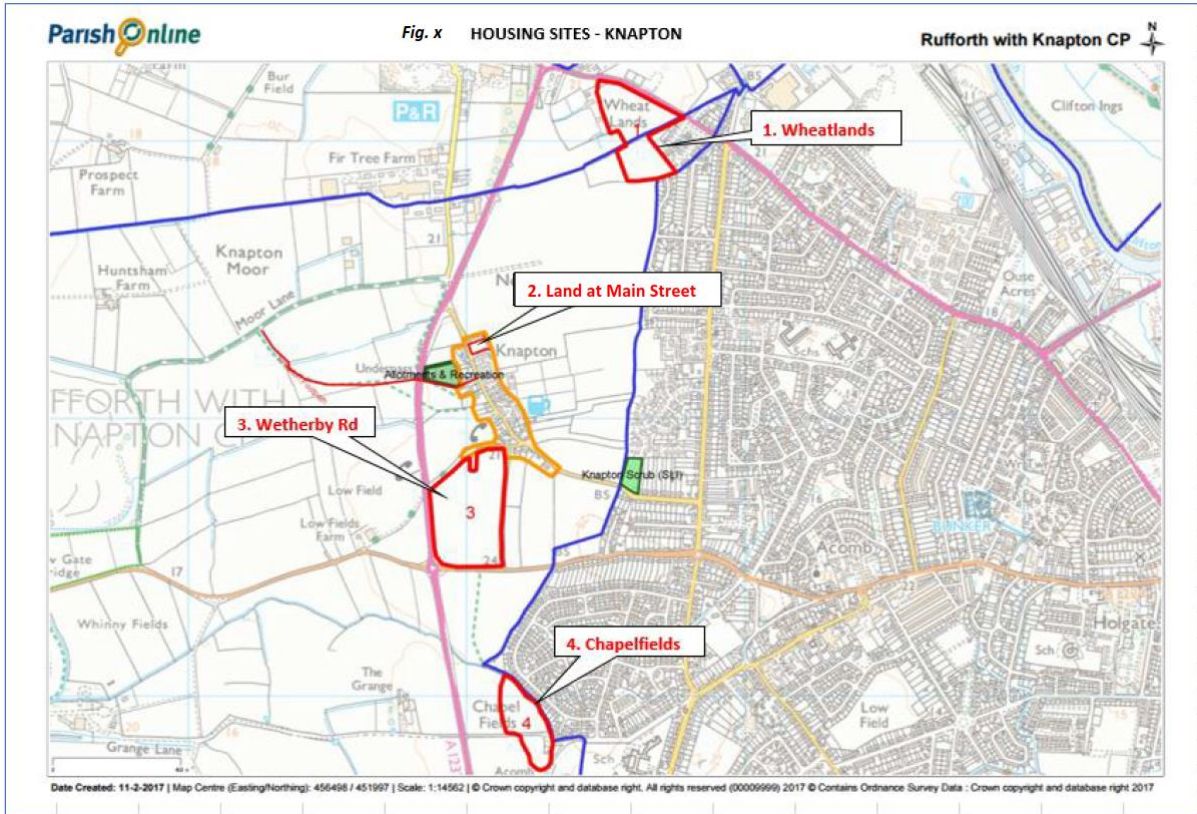
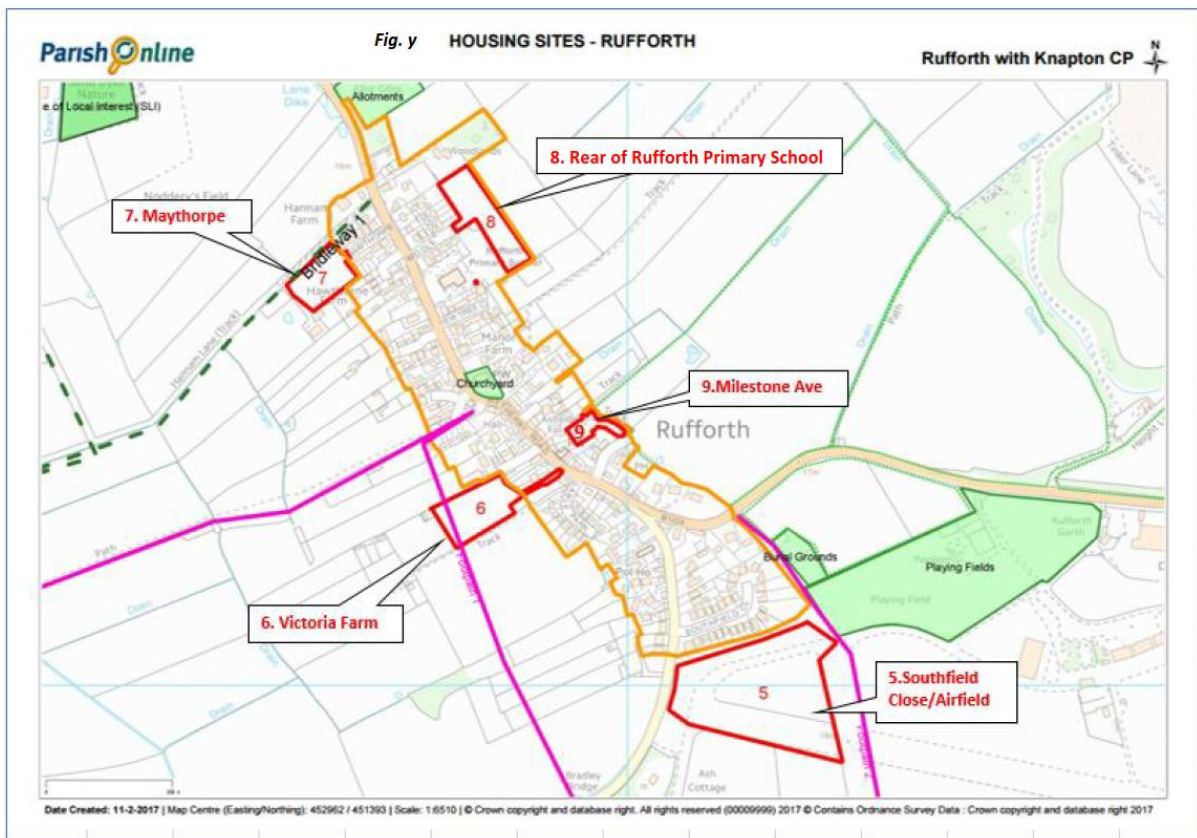


Figure 3.2: Sites identified within and around Rufforth



Each of the nine sites were considered by the NPG in turn, to determine if they could be considered a reasonable site option and therefore warranted further consideration through the NPG's Site Selection

Criteria (SSC) and the SEA. An important consideration that has informed the decision of which sites should be progressed for further assessment is the emerging Local Plan, in particular the draft Green Belt and proposed settlement boundaries/ village envelopes.

York is one of only several authorities where a draft GB was identified for the purposes of conserving the historic character and setting of the city. Whilst the general extent of the draft GB was identified in the former RSS and is retained as applicable policy for York, the emerging Local Plan will be setting detailed GB boundaries for the first time. It is understood that work is currently ongoing to look at the parcels of land around York to understand their significance and contribution against the GB purposes, as set out in the NPPF.

The emerging Local Plan documents to date (Preferred Options in 2013, Publication Draft in 2014 and Pre-Publication draft in 2017) identified the village of Knapton as being 'washed over' by the draft GB. Policy GB2 of the Pre-Publication Draft Local Plan (2017) suggests that development would only be permitted within the built up area of this village and if it constituted limited infilling. Furthermore, development would only be permitted if it did not prejudice the openness of the draft GB. The village of Rufforth was identified by the Preferred Options (2013) as being 'washed over' by the GB; however, the subsequent versions of the Local Plan (Publication Draft in 2014 and Pre-Publication draft in 2017) proposed a site allocation at the village so it was no longer referred to as being 'washed over'. The settlement boundaries identified through the emerging Local Plan documents are supported by the NPG through the interim settlement envelopes.

It is important to note that the draft GB boundaries within the NP area can only be altered through the emerging Local Plan. This means that the NP cannot seek to extend the draft GB boundaries or allocate areas of land for development within it.

The table below sets out the reasons for why site options identified through the call for sites in 2015 and 2016 have either been rejected or progressed for further consideration through the NPG's SSC and the SEA.

**Table 3.1: NPG's reasons for progression or rejection of site options to the SSC and SEA**

Site	Comments	Reject/ Progress to SSC and SEA?
<b>1. Wheatlands</b>	<p>Site is situated adjacent to the city and falls within both the Rufforth with Knapton Parish and Poppleton Parish. Site was proposed as an allocation (ST29) in the Local Plan Publication Draft in 2014 for 135 dwellings; however, it should be noted that this proposed allocation was objected to by both Parish Councils. The site was subsequently rejected by CYC and not identified as an allocation within the Preferred Sites Consultation (PSC) Document in 2016 or the Pre-Publication draft Local Plan in 2017. CYC's reasons for rejection are as follows:</p> <p><i>"Site was removed from PSC due to greenbelt/setting concerns. Views over open countryside as travelling from York towards A59. Site is partially contained but open fields to southern boundary. Site has a role in separating the urban edge of York from Poppleton and preventing coalescence which has already been compromised by Manor School, new A59 roundabout and PFS development.</i></p> <p><i>Site discussed at technical officer workshop – concerns remain over impact of site on setting of city and coalescence between York main urban area and Poppleton. Also perception of openness, views of open countryside as you travel out of York. Agree that existing Manor School and extended roundabout have already compromised the area to a certain extent but that the development of this site would fill in the gap entirely. "</i><sup>5</sup></p> <p>The site is situated within the draft GB and given its location adjacent to the city would not help to meet the housing needs of the villages within the NPA. Taking this along with the reasons for rejection in CYC's SHLAA (2017) into account it was decided that this site should not progress for further consideration through the SSC and SEA.</p>	<b>Reject</b>
<b>2. Land at Main Street, Knapton</b>	<p>Site is situated within the interim village envelope for Knapton but is within the draft GB. A planning application for the site was submitted and refused at the October 2016 planning committee meeting on the grounds of the site being within the draft GB. It is proposed as an allocation (Site H53 Land at Knapton Village) within the Preferred Sites Consultation Document (2016) and Pre-Publication draft Local Plan (2017). The most recent SHLAA (2017) states:</p> <p><i>"Supports confirm that the site is suitable for housing but that the site capacity should be reduced to a maximum of 4 dwellings. Site is included as a potential site in the emerging neighbourhood plan for Rufforth and Knapton but with a maximum capacity of 4 units.</i></p> <p><i>Objections raised concerning the impact of 11 dwellings on the character of the village, housing number is too high, narrow lane which is not suitable for widening, current problems with existing drainage which will be exacerbated, loss of agricultural land and impact on mature trees. Also concerning lack of facilities within the village.</i></p> <p><i>Representation received from landowner/developer which supports the proposed allocation of land at Knapton village for residential use. Whilst Novus agrees the site is suitable to be allocated for residential use the assessments which have informed the planning application and subsequent feedback from the Council and local residents indicate that the indicative local plan capacity of 11 dwellings is too high. Technical site assessments undertaken to date suggest amendments are needed to the local plan site assessment proformas to indicate that access should be from Main Street and that the indicative capacity of 11 dwellings is too high. Site assessment work undertaken suggests that it is more appropriate to access the site from Main Street rather than Back Lane.</i></p> <p><i>The figure of 11 dwellings included within the PSC is derived by applying a standard density of 35 dph to the site area of 0.33ha assuming a net to gross ratio of 100%. The total site area of 0.33ha includes a small area of land, circa 150 sqm to the east of Knapton Grange which would not be suitable for development and would likely be retained as garden space. Factoring in the retention of trees and hedges also reduces the net developable area. Assessment of the local area suggests that a smaller number would more appropriately reflect the local character. This would</i></p>	<b>Progress to SSC and SEA</b>

<sup>5</sup> CYC (2017) SHLAA. Available online: <https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/download/4036/pre-publication-draft-local-plan-reg-18-consultation>

Site	Comments	Reject/ Progress to SSC and SEA?
	<p><i>also be more inkeeping with the Village Design Statement which states that new infill within the settlement limit should not be so intensive so as to change the open weave of the village's overall character. It is considered that four houses would reflect the character of Knapton and the surrounding density.</i></p> <p><i>Planning application for four houses (16/00542/FUL) refused at October Planning Committee. Reasons for refusal are stated as inappropriate development in the greenbelt and no very special circumstances put forward that would outweigh harm incl. impact on openness of greenbelt, conflict with purposes of including land within the greenbelt. ”<sup>6</sup></i></p> <p>While it is acknowledged that this site is within the draft GB it is also proposed as a site allocation within the Preferred Sites Consultation Document (2016) as well as the Pre-Publication draft Local Plan (2017). Taking this into account, it was decided that this site should progress for more detailed consideration through the SSC and SEA.</p>	
<b>3. Wetherby Road, Knapton</b>	<p>The site was proposed as an allocation for Show People in the Local Plan Preferred Options (2013) but was objected to by the Parish Council. It was then rejected by CYC in 2014 through the Further Site Consultation Document (2014) as it failed Criteria 4 of the Council's site selection method (access to services and transport).</p> <p>The site is situated outside the interim village envelope and within the draft Green Belt. Taking these factors into account it was decided that this site should not progress for further consideration through the SSC and SEA.</p>	<b>Reject</b>
<b>4. Chapelfields</b>	<p>Site considered by CYC and rejected in 2013 and then in 2014 for the following reason:</p> <p><i>“The site previously failed due to landscape comments. These comments still stand as development in this area is considered to undermine the setting of the city and also, be in an unsustainable location. The rural edge of the city would be lost as a result of development which is experienced on the approach along the A1237. The ring road has a tall hedge but new landscaping would not provide sufficient mitigation for loss of openness that contributes to the setting of the city. (Some extensions of Chapel Fields may be viable but not the extent proposed in the submitted material)”<sup>7</sup></i></p> <p>It is important to note that the site submitted through the NP call for sites is much smaller than that previously considered by CYC in 2013 and 2014. However, the reduced site is still situated within the draft GB and given its location adjacent to the city would not help to meet the housing needs of the villages within the NPA. Taking the above into account it was decided that this site should not progress for further consideration through the SSC and SEA.</p>	<b>Reject</b>
<b>5. Southfield Close/Rufforth Airfield</b>	<p>The site was considered by CYC in 2013 and rejected as it failed Criteria 4 of the Council's site selection method (access to services and transport). It was then reconsidered by CYC in 2014 and rejected through the Further Sites Consultation (2014) for the following reason:</p> <p><i>“A landscape assessment is required. Site would be a large extension to Rufforth Village which has limited local services and is served by limited sustainable transport options. Further impact of the adjacent airfield would also be required”.</i></p> <p>The site is situated outside the interim village envelope and within the draft GB. Taking these factors into account it was decided that this site should not progress for further consideration through the SSC and SEA.</p>	<b>Reject</b>
<b>6. Victoria Farm, Rufforth</b>	<p>This is a new site that has not previously been considered through CYC's site selection method. The majority of the site is situated outside the interim village envelope and within the draft GB. Access to the site would necessitate the removal</p>	<b>Reject</b>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.<sup>7</sup> CYC (2014) Further Sites Consultation. Appendix 2, Pgs. 163 & 164. Available online: [https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/download/1133/further\\_sites\\_consultation\\_report\\_2014\\_and\\_technical\\_appendices](https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/download/1133/further_sites_consultation_report_2014_and_technical_appendices)

Site	Comments	Reject/ Progress to SSC and SEA?
	of the tree which is the subject of a preservation order and is viewed by residents as being central to the character of the village.	
	Taking the above into account it was decided that this site should not progress for further consideration through the SSC and SEA.	
<b>7. Maythorpe, Rufforth</b>	<p>This is a new site that was first submitted to CYC in response to the Preferred Sites Consultation (PSC) in 2016. The SHLAA (2017) states the following for site 879 (Land at Maythorpe, Rufforth):</p> <p><i>“This is a new site submitted through the PSC. Site is 0.67 ha and could provide up to 22 dwellings. The site is currently used for grazing. Site access would be via Maythorpe. The site passes the site selection criteria and there are no showstoppers identified through the technical officer assessment.</i></p> <p><i>The site represents a small extension to the existing village envelope and is supported as a potential housing site through the emerging Rufforth Neighbourhood Plan. Officers suggest that that the site could be included with a total site area of 0.67 ha and up to 22 dwellings (95% @ 35dph).”</i><sup>8</sup></p> <p>Rufforth with Knapton Parish Council responded to the Pre-Publication draft Local Plan consultation in 2017 to state that this site was not being supported through the emerging Rufforth with Knapton Neighbourhood Plan. The site is situated outside the interim village envelope and within the draft GB. Furthermore, access to the site would be through a strip of land owned by a separate land owner and there is currently no agreement in place. For these reasons the site is not supported and not progressed for further consideration through the SSC and SEA.</p>	<b>Reject</b>
<b>8. Land at rear of (RO) Rufforth Primary School</b>	<p>Site is situated within the interim village envelope for Knapton, is not within the draft Green Belt and is proposed as an allocation (Site H38 Land Rear of Rufforth Primary School) within the Preferred Sites Consultation Document (2016) and the Pre-Publication draft Local Plan (2017). The SHLAA (2017) states the following:</p> <p><i>“Support for the site being included as an allocation focuses on the potential for the site to deliver small scale development/affordable housing in the village. Conditional support from Rufforth and Knapton Parish Council and from the emerging Rufforth and Knapton Neighbourhood Plan points to the need for further consideration to be given to an appropriate mix/type of housing, parking provision, sewerage and drainage.</i></p> <p><i>The developer supports the site’s development, noting that the site was assessed as part of CYCs rigorous site selection methodology and as a result of passing the process the site was proposed as a housing allocation in previous versions of the draft local plan. Suitability of the site is not therefore in question. They also confirm that the site is available, and deliverable.</i></p> <p><i>Those objecting to the site’s development point to the likely negative impact on local amenity, namely in terms of additional traffic, impact on village character and community, poor sewerage and drainage (potential for flood risk) and lack of local facilities, including school spaces. Development of green belt land is also a concern. A number of objections comment on the approval of a pig-breeding barn adjacent to the site, bringing it closer to domestic dwellings than when approval was granted.</i></p> <p><i>As part of the developer’s representation a boundary extension was submitted for the site. In the PSC (2016) Site H38 was allocated for 0.99ha and up to 33 dwellings. The additional land could increase the site by a further 1.42ha (+47 dwellings). The extended site follows the existing field boundary to the rear of the school. The site is well contained with clearly defined boundaries including existing residential properties and tall/extensive hedgerows. The original site (H33) is included within the emerging Rufforth Neighbourhood Plan as a potential residential site.</i></p> <p><i>Officers suggest that the site could be extended to a total site area of 2.41ha and up to 80 dwellings. This is based on a large village archetype of 95% @ 35dph.”</i><sup>9</sup></p>	<b>Progress to SSC and SEA</b>

<sup>8</sup> CYC (2017) SHLAA. Available online: [https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/download/4036/pre-publication\\_draft\\_local\\_plan\\_reg\\_18\\_consultation](https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/download/4036/pre-publication_draft_local_plan_reg_18_consultation)

<sup>9</sup> CYC (2016) Preferred Sites Consultation, Pg. 163. Available online: [https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/download/3333/local\\_plan\\_preferred\\_sites\\_consultation\\_documents](https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/download/3333/local_plan_preferred_sites_consultation_documents)

Site	Comments	Reject/ Progress to SSC and SEA?
	It should be noted that following further correspondence with the landowner for this site that an extended boundary is not being pursued. This is reflected through the boundary being proposed for the allocation in the Pre-Publication draft Local Plan (2017). Taking the above into account it was decided that this site should progress for more detailed consideration through the SSC and SEA.	
<b>9. Milestone Avenue, Rufforth</b>	This is a new site that has not previously been considered through CYC's site selection method. It is situated within the interim village envelope and outside the draft GB. It was decided to progress this site for further consideration through the SSC and SEA.	<b>Progress to SSC and SEA</b>

### 3.3 Assessment of reasonable alternatives

#### 3.3.1 Assessment of site options

To support the consideration of the suitability of the three reasonable site options, the SEA process has involved an appraisal of the key environmental constraints and opportunities present at each of the sites and potential effects that may arise. In this context, the sites have been considered in relation to the SEA Framework of objectives and decision making questions developed during SEA scoping (Section 2) and the baseline information assembled (see Appendix B).

It should be noted that two of the reasonable site options (Site 2 Land at Main Street, Knapton and 8 Land at rear of Rufforth Post Office) have been considered through the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating SEA) process for the emerging City of York Local Plan at various stages. The most recent appraisal of these sites was presented in the SA Report (2017)<sup>10</sup> that accompanied the Pre-Publication draft Local Plan on consultation in September 2017. This work informed the assessment of the sites presented below.

Each site option was assessed against the SEA topics and framework identified through the scoping stage (Section 2). A qualitative assessment was carried out which evaluated the 'likely significant effects' of each site option with respect to the baseline, guided by the sustainability objectives and assessment questions developed through scoping. The assessment was undertaken using professional judgment, supported by the baseline information and wider evidence where relevant.

SEA is informed by the best available information and data; however, data gaps and uncertainties exist and it is not always possible to accurately predict effects at a strategic level of assessment. Any residual effects were recorded and based on the significance key presented in Table 3.2 below.

**Table 2.2: Significance Key**

Symbol	Likely significant effect on the SEA Topic
++	Likely to have a significant positive effects
+	Likely to have a minor positive effect
0	Neutral effect
?	Uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine effect on the SEA framework.
-	Likely to have a minor negative effect
--	Likely to have a significant negative effect

<sup>10</sup> CYC (2016) Preferred Sites Consultation Interim SA Report. Available online: [https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/download/3333/local\\_plan\\_preferred\\_sites\\_consultation\\_documents](https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/download/3333/local_plan_preferred_sites_consultation_documents)

The assessment of the site options is presented in the table below and provides an indication of each site's sustainability performance in relation to the seven SEA topics.

**Table 3.3: SEA of site options**

SEA topics	Assessment commentary	Site 2: Main Street, Knapton	Site 8: RO Rufforth Primary School	Site 9: Milestone Avenue, Rufforth
<b>Biodiversity</b>	There are no designated sites within or in close proximity to any of the sites. Development at each of them would result in the loss of greenfield land but its value in terms of biodiversity is not known at this stage. Any proposal for development at any of the sites should be accompanied by an ecological survey. It is predicted that there will be suitable mitigation to address any issues that could arise; therefore, it is considered that development at any of the sites is likely to have a residual neutral effect on biodiversity.	0	0	0
<b>Climate change</b>	In terms of climate change mitigation, all of the sites are within approx. 400m of a bus stop with a service every 15 mins or more and within approx. Only site 2 (Land at Main Street, Knapton) is within close proximity to a cycle route and within a 15 min cycle ride to the York railway station.  In terms of climate change adaptation, sites 2 (Land at Main Street, Knapton) and 9 (Milestone Avenue, Rufforth) are situated in Flood Zone 1 and therefore do not fall within an area of high flood risk. Site 8 (Land RO Rufforth Primary School) falls within Flood Zone 2, which is an area of higher flood risk.  The uncertain effect against site 9 (Milestone Avenue, Rufforth) reflects that it is not as positive in terms of climate change as site 2 (Land at Main Street, Knapton) and it is not within a higher area of flood risk as site 8 (Land RO Rufforth Primary School).	+	-	?
<b>Historic Environment and Landscape</b>	In terms of the historic environment, there are no designated sites within or adjacent to any of the sites. However, it should be noted that there are listed buildings within both villages. The appraisal of site 2 (Land at Main Street, Knapton) by CYC through the SA for the Local Plan identified that there is the potential for archaeological deposits. However, this is uncertain at this stage and there is suitable mitigation such as an archaeological survey that could be carried out and submitted alongside any proposal for development. Sensitive design should ensure that there are no residual negative effects on the historic environment as a result of development at any of the sites.  In terms of the landscape, development at any of the sites would result in the loss of greenfield land which could have a negative effect on the setting of the village. The retention of boundary vegetation and landscaping should help to reduce the significance of any residual negative effects.	-	-	-
<b>Land, Soil and Water Resources</b>	Development at any of the sites would result in the loss of greenfield land and agricultural land (Grade 3). None of the sites are within close proximity to a water body. Site 8 (Land RO Rufforth Primary School) falls within Ground Source Protection Zones 3 & 4; however, it is not considered that this would result in any notable differences in terms of the nature and significance of effects against this SEA topic.	-	-	-
<b>Population and Community</b>	All of the sites are situated within settlement boundaries/ interim village envelopes. It is predicted that development at any of the sites could therefore integrate well with the villages. Development will help to meet the housing needs of the villages and wider Parish with a positive effect against this SEA Topic.  All of the sites have relatively poor access to existing services and facilities which is not surprising given their location within/ adjacent to Rufforth and Knapton villages. Site 2 (Land at Main Street, Knapton) performs worse in terms of walking distances to existing services/ facilities but is closer to the	+	+	+



SEA topics	Assessment commentary	Site 2: Main Street, Knapton	Site 8: RO Rufforth Primary School	Site 9: Milestone Avenue, Rufforth
	<p>services/ facilities on offer within the city. Of note is that there are no education facilities within 1km of this site. Sites 8 (Land RO Rufforth Primary School) and 9 (Milestone Avenue, Rufforth) are both within 800m of a shop, nursery and primary school; however, this reflects the differences in terms of offer between the villages themselves rather than anything else.</p> <p>Given the relatively small scale of development that is likely to come forward on the sites, there is unlikely to be any significant provision of new or improvements to existing services/ facilities. Residents of development at any of the sites will most likely travel into York to access the greater range of services and facilities on offer.</p> <p>On balance, it is considered that development at these sites will have a minor long term positive effect on this topic through the provision of housing for the community.</p>			
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	<p>All of the sites are within a 15 minute walk to a number of areas of open space; however, none of them are within 800m of a GP. Site 2 (Land at Main Street, Knapton) is within 50m of a cycling route. Development at site 8 (Land RO Rufforth Primary School) has the potential to provide a rear pedestrian entrance to the primary school, which could ease existing parking pressure on the surrounding roads and provide for safer access. Taking this into account it is considered that there is the potential for a positive effect of more significance as a result of development at site 8 compared to the other site options.</p>	+	++	+
<b>Transport</b>	<p>All of the sites are within walking distance (400m) to a bus stop with a service every 15 mins or more. None of the sites are within a reasonable walking distance to a railway station; however, it should be noted that site 2 (Land at Main Street, Knapton) is within a 15m cycle ride.</p> <p>There are no significant issues for any of the sites in terms of highways access. There is the potential development at all of the sites to have a minor negative effect on traffic in the short term during construction as well as in the longer term through an increased number of vehicles on the road. Given the scale of development it is unlikely that the longer term effects will be of significance. However, given the issues around traffic highlighted through engagement with the community, it is considered that there is the potential for a minor negative effect as a result of disturbance to the local highway network during construction. Any proposal for development at these sites should demonstrate how they will minimise disturbance to residents and the local highways network during construction.</p>	-	-	-

### 3.4 Developing the preferred approach

The work on sites set out above has identified three reasonable site options that could help to deliver circa 40 dwellings within the NPA. The findings of the NPG's SSC and the SEA demonstrated that there are some minor differences between the three sites but nothing that significantly differentiates between them in terms of sustainability performance.

Informed by the work on sites and taking into account the Pre-Publication draft Local Plan (2017), the NPG decided to progress with and allocate all three of the reasonable site options within the emerging draft NP. In terms of the amount of housing that each site could deliver during the life of the NP, a number of factors were taken into consideration by the NPG. These included the size of each site, discussions with landowners, density of existing development within the village, availability of services and the rural character of the villages.

The sites to be supported through the NP are as follows:

- RK H1: Land at rear of Rufforth Primary School (approx. 28 dwellings);
- RK H2: Milestone Avenue, Rufforth (approx. 9 dwellings)
- RK H3: Land at Main Street, Knapton (up to 4 to 5 dwellings)

The draft NP is proposing a slightly reduced quantum of development to be delivered at site RK H1 (Land at rear of Rufforth Primary School) compared to the Pre-Publication draft Local Plan (2017). The reasons for this are as follows:

- RK H1 (Land at rear of Rufforth Primary School) - Pre-Publication draft Local Plan (2017) proposes 33 dwellings and the draft NP proposes approx. 28 dwellings. The number of dwellings to be delivered was arrived at through discussions with the landowner. The draft NP seeks for development to provide a rear pedestrian entrance to the primary school in order to ease existing parking pressure on the surrounding roads and provide for safer access. This reduces the number of dwellings that could be delivered on the site.

The NPG considers that the sites and level of development proposed above strikes a balance between meeting local housing need, the sustainability of local services, retaining the rural character of the villages and minimising potential negative impacts that might arise. In terms of meeting needs, the NPG were strongly influenced by the age profile in the Parish and the need to encourage more families with young children to the NPA to ensure sustainability of valued services and amenities. As a result, a key objective in the plan is to provide a mix of new homes within the Parish and the site allocations above will help to achieve this.

## 4. Assessment of the Draft Plan

### 4.1 Introduction

The aim of this part of the report is to present an assessment of the Draft ('pre-submission') Plan, and also to present 'conclusions at the current stage'.

#### 4.1.1 Methodology

The assessment is structured using the seven SEA topics established through scoping, i.e.:

- Biodiversity;
- Climate change (including flood risk);
- Historic environment and landscape;
- Land, soil and water resources;
- Population and community;
- Health and wellbeing; and
- Transport.

For each topic a range of sustainability objectives (as identified through scoping) are listed. Taken together, the topics and objectives provide a methodological 'framework' for the assessment of likely significant effects on the baseline.

The assessment takes account of the criteria presented within Schedule 2 of the Regulations. So, for example, account is taken of the potential for effect significance to be a factor of the timescale and reversibility of effects. Cumulative effects are also considered, i.e. the potential for the plan to impact the baseline in combination with other plans, or unplanned activity.

Every effort is made to identify and evaluate effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given uncertainty regarding the 'on the ground' implications of policy. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by understanding of the baseline. The appraisal of the policies are therefore set out within a table that sets out the 'broad implications' for the SEA topics - it is important to note that these symbols are not used to indicate significant effects. The tables are for illustrative purposes.

The City Planning Department consider that a qualitative scoring system that has been used in the emerging Local Plan would be appropriate to assess the likely significant effects of the draft plan. This has been set out below:

**Table 4.1: Significance key**

**Symbol Likely Effect on the SEA Topic**

<b>++</b>	Likely to have a significant positive effects
<b>+</b>	Likely to have a minor positive effect
<b>0</b>	Neutral effect
<b>?</b>	Uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine effect on the SEA framework.
<b>-</b>	Likely to have a minor negative effect
<b>--</b>	Likely to have a significant negative effect

## 4.2 Biodiversity

The evidence base indicates that although there are no internationally designated sites for biodiversity or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within the NP area, there are a number of other important sites in, and in close proximity to the NP area. Clifton Ings and Rawcliffe Meadows SSSI lies just less than 1km away to the north east and there is a small area of Ancient Woodland to the south east of Rufforth Airfield. There are also a number of priority habitats within the NP area and these include deciduous woodland and traditional orchards. There are also a number of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and Sites of Local Importance (SLIs) within and surrounding the NP area.

In this context, although policy Rwk01 affords protection to the draft GB, it is likely to have negligible effects for biodiversity, as the key aim of this policy is to preserve the landscape character of the area, rather than to make provision for biodiversity enhancement within the green belt.

Policy Rwk02 is likely to have positive effects through preservation of features with high biodiversity value. The policy sets out that *“Existing green spaces [...] will be protected and where possible enhanced.”* While the SEA recognises that not all green spaces will have biodiversity value of significance, it is considered that the preservation of such spaces will contribute positively towards retaining high levels of biodiversity in the NP area.

Rwk03 should have a significant positive effect for the aspects of biodiversity discussed in the policy wording, namely *“wildlife, wild flowers, hedgerows and trees”*. However, the SEA recommends re-structuring the pre-amble to this policy to ensure that terms are referred to accurately. For instance, the preamble, by stating *“maintaining wildlife **and** biodiversity”* [emphasis added] implicitly suggests that these are two separate considerations - rather than wildlife being a component of the overall biodiversity of the NP area. The SEA also suggests that the Plan should explicitly define the terms *“green routes”* and *“green infrastructure”* and also including reference to these within the policy itself.

Policies Rwk04 and Rwk08 are likely to have indirect minor positive effects through inclusion of biodiversity features as part of cycle routes and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDs).

RKH1, RKH2, and RKH3 propose housing allocations at three sites. There are no sites designated for biodiversity within or adjacent to the sites. Development at each of them would result in the loss of greenfield land but its value in terms of biodiversity is not known at this stage. Any proposal for development at any of the sites should be accompanied by an ecological survey. It is predicted that there will be suitable mitigation to address any issues that could arise; therefore, it is considered that development at any of the sites is likely to have a residual neutral effect on biodiversity.

Rwk01	Rwk02	Rwk03	Rwk04	Rwk05	Rwk06	Rwk07	Rwk08	Rwk09	Rwk10	Rwk11	Rwk12
0	+	++	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
RKH1	RKH2	RKH3	Rwk13	Rwk14	Rwk15						
0	0	0	0	0	0						

### 4.3 Climate change

Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the Rufford with Knapton NP area, with increases in mean summer and winter temperatures, increases in mean precipitation in winter and decreases in mean precipitation in summer. This is likely to increase the risks associated with climate change (including fluvial flooding) with an increased need for resilience and adaptation in affected areas.

In terms of climate change mitigation, the evidence base noted that per capita emissions are likely to continue to decrease as energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies become more widely adopted. However, even slight increases in the population and built footprint of the Rufford with Knapton NP area may lead to increases in overall emissions.

The evidence base also notes that flooding is an issue for the Rufford with Knapton NP area, and that this risk is likely to increase in line with predicted increases in winter precipitation as a result of climate change. An increase in the built footprint of the Rufford with Knapton NP area (associated with the delivery of new housing and employment land) is also likely to increase surface water runoff, and therefore increase the severity of the effects of climate change.

As such, by allocating or supporting housing and employment provision, policies RKH1, RKH2, RKH3, RwK13, and RwK14 have the potential to increase the overall emissions from within the NP area, and also increase the risk of surface water flooding through increased built footprint, and as such have the potential for a minor negative effect with regards to both climate change mitigation and adaptation. However, Policy RwK08 drainage should have significantly positive effects for climate change adaptation by ensuring that that surface water runoff is minimised and flood risk is reduced. The SEA recommends that Policy RwK09 “design” is strengthened by including requirements for energy efficiency measures in new build homes and extensions.

The SEA considers that Policy RwK02 can be further strengthened with regards to climate change adaptation, by including specific reference to targeted use of green infrastructure to alleviate surface water runoff, and reduce the effects of summer time temperature increases.

RwK01	RwK02	RwK03	RwK04	RwK05	RwK06	RwK07	RwK08	RwK09	RwK10	RwK11	RwK12
0	0	0	+	?	+	0	++	0	0	0	+
RKH1	RKH2	RKH3	RwK13	RwK14	RwK15						
-	-	-	-	-	0						

### 4.4 Historic environment and landscape

The baseline data shows that there are six Grade II listed buildings within the NP area, and there could also be a number of important non-designated heritage assets which have significance for the local community. New development has the potential to lead to beneficial or adverse effects on the historic environment, including through affecting the setting of cultural heritage assets and landscape/village quality. New development could lead to pressures on non-designated sites and landscapes, including from the loss of key built and natural features.

Policy Rwk01 has the potential for a significant long term positive effect on the historic environment as it supports the continued designation of the draft Green Belt and interim village envelopes. This should help to avoid coalescence with the city and also help maintain the character and setting of the historic environment within the NP area. The protection and designation of areas of local green spaces, including the Burial Ground and Natural Burial Ground on Southfield Lane, through Policy Rwk02 also has the potential for a long term minor positive effect on the historic environment.

Policy Rwk09 requires development proposals to demonstrate high quality design, form and layout that respect the distinctive character of the Parish. Proposals must have regard to the design principles set out in the Rufforth Village Design Statement and Knapton Village Design Statement with particular regard to “*regard to scale, density, massing height landscape, materials and access as appropriate*”. This should result in a significant long term positive effect.

Three site allocations are proposed through policies RKH1, RKH2 and RKH3. There are no designated heritage assets within or adjacent to any of the sites. CYC undertook an appraisal of the site proposed in Policy RKH3 through the SA for the Local Plan, which identified that there is the potential for archaeological deposits. However, this is uncertain at this stage and there is suitable mitigation such as an archaeological survey that could be carried out and submitted alongside any proposal for development. It is predicted that the mitigation provided through other policies in the NP should ensure that there are no residual negative effects on the historic environment as a result of development at any of the sites.

Rwk01	Rwk02	Rwk03	Rwk04	Rwk05	Rwk06	Rwk07	Rwk08	Rwk09	Rwk10	Rwk11	Rwk12
++	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0
RKH1	RKH2	RKH3	Rwk13	Rwk14	Rwk15						
0	0	0	0	0	0						

### 4.5 Land, soil and water resources

The evidence base indicates that the NP area contains Grade 2 and 3 agricultural land which should be retained if possible, and that regional water supply deficits may grow under the effects of climate change. Most of the NP area is designated as a groundwater and surface water Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.

Policy RwK01 supports the draft Green Belt and the interim village envelopes set out through the emerging new Local Plan. This policy has the potential for a minor indirect long term positive effect as it will limit development within the draft Green Belt and therefore reduce the potential loss of greenfield and best and most versatile agricultural land within the NP area.

Policy RwK03 provides for tree and hedgerow protection. These can both be important for stabilising soil and minimising erosion. However, in the absence of the NP, woodland would be afforded protection via the NPPF; and those hedgerows bordering agricultural land would be protected through the Hedgerow regulations 1997. As such these policies are likely to have negligible effects relative to the baseline.

Policies RKH1, RKH2 and RKH3 allocate housing development on greenfield land. As such, these policies will have negative effects with regards to the efficient use of land. Evidence suggests that the sites contain Grade 3 agricultural land; however, at this stage it is uncertain if this is Grade 3a or 3b.

Policy RwK15 requires that any re-development occurring at Harewood Whin is limited to the current operational site footprint. While the primary purpose of this policy is to preserve the landscape character of the draft Green Belt this will also provide protection to land and soil resources in the form of minimising further potential land take onto high quality agricultural land. This policy may have a positive effect the significance of which depends on the type of land present at the site.

RwK01	RwK02	RwK03	RwK04	RwK05	RwK06	RwK07	RwK08	RwK09	RwK10	RwK11	RwK12
+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RKH1	RKH2	RKH3	RwK13	RwK14	RwK15						
-	-	-	0	0	+						

## 4.6 Population and community

The baseline information indicates that when compared to other areas there is little deprivation within the NP area. However, there are pockets of deprivation through geographical and housing barriers; and the population of the NP area demonstrates a strong skew towards older people relative to the national average. Unemployment is currently low compared to the national average. However, the lack of employment opportunities within the Parish means that transport will be a critical factor in the sustainability of any growth.

Overall the NP is shown to have broadly positive effects for the local population and community - and many of these effects cut across SEA topics (such as the provision of green space through policy Rwk02).

In the context of an ageing population, the policies which relate to housing delivery and transportation are of particular relevance. Policy Rwk06 should have positive effects for the local community, and in particular the older population who may be unable to drive, through ensuring the continued availability of public transport.

Policy Rwk10 is also likely to have significantly positive effects for population and community through the provision of community amenities, and thereby ensuring the continued sustainability of any population growth in Rufforth with Knapton.

Rwk11 and Rwk12 are concerned with the mix and type of housing and other issues which must be considered by developers as part of development coming forward in the NP area. By ensuring that developments meet the identified local needs of the parish, and ensuring that health and safety considerations such as traffic management are considered, these policies overall are likely to have positive effects (recognising that the constrained area for development within the NP area might otherwise act against mixed housing types in favour of those most economically viable for developers).

Rwk01	Rwk02	Rwk03	Rwk04	Rwk05	Rwk06	Rwk07	Rwk08	Rwk09	Rwk10	Rwk11	Rwk12
0	++	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	++	+	+
RKH1	RKH2	RKH3	Rwk13	Rwk14	Rwk15						
+	+	+	0	+	0						



## 4.7 Health and wellbeing

The baseline data shows that, generally speaking, the population of the NP area are in good health relative to the district, regional and national averages. There is also a slightly lower prevalence of disability in the NP area than the national average. However, the population age structure of the NP area shows a greater proportion of older people and this has the potential to affect the prevalence of both health and disability within the area in the future.

Overall the NP is shown to have broadly positive effects for health and wellbeing – and many of these effects cut across SEA topics, such as the provision of green space through policy RwK02 and biodiversity through RwK03. While the primary aims of these two policies are to provide protection of open green space and biodiversity, they are likely to have indirect positive effects for health and wellbeing as the provision of open and green space have been shown to have a positive effect on both mental and physical health through providing informal recreation space and acting to reduce urban heat effects and air pollution. Policy RwK04 requires that installation of cycle tracks are considered an integral part of future potential development sites. This could help to encourage a modal shift to sustainable and active transport. Active transport (such as cycling) is shown to have health benefits and therefore this is likely to generate positive effects in terms of health and wellbeing objectives (i.e. Improve the health and wellbeing of the NP area’s residents.)

RwK06 should also have significantly positive effects, in terms of promoting and protecting accessibility to facilities by public transport (e.g. for people unable to drive such as disabled and older people). Access to community spaces and facilities, particularly for older and disabled persons is important for combatting loneliness and isolation and therefore this policy will have a positive effect for health and wellbeing objectives (i.e. Facilitate access to the community and services for disabled people and older people).

RwK01	RwK02	RwK03	RwK04	RwK05	RwK06	RwK07	RwK08	RwK09	RwK10	RwK11	RwK12
+	++	+	0	+	++	0	0	0	++	+	+
RKH1	RKH2	RKH3	RwK13	RwK14	RwK15						
+	+	+	0	+	0						

## 4.8 Transport

The baseline indicates that there are no mainline or branch line railway stations present in the NP area. A small number of residents walk or cycle to work, although in both cases the proportion doing so is higher than the regional and national average. Both modes of transport should be encouraged, facilitated and supported through future development. Regarding available public transport, there are regular bus services to York and Wetherby, the former of which has a major railway station connected to London and major northern cities like Edinburgh, Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle. However, ownership of multiple cars is very high, and new development areas should be situated in accessible locations which limit the need to travel by private car.

Policy RwK04 aims to encourage opportunities to secure improvements in the network of footpaths and cycle ways, including through developer contributions. This policy is therefore likely to have positive effects for sustainable and active transport goals by providing the correct infrastructure for potential users; and thereby providing a route towards a modal shift to sustainable and active transport (in the case of journeys of a length where this is practical). This policy should therefore have a significantly positive effect for transport objectives (i.e. encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel).

Policy RwK05 proposes that the Parish Council will actively work with the City of York Council and other stakeholders to bring forward traffic management measures to improve vehicular and pedestrian safety and movement. It requires development proposals to demonstrate that any traffic generation created by the proposal does not result in severe direct or cumulative impacts on congestion or pedestrian safety. Policy has the potential for a significant long term positive effect on this SEA topic. Policy RwK06 acts to maintain and, where possible, improve the availability of public transport services. This should have a significant positive effect for the local community, and in particular the older population who may be unable to drive, through ensuring the continued availability of public transport.

Policy RwK14 outlines business and employment provision within the Parish area. This may contribute towards a more sustainable pattern of land use within the wider area, as an increase in local employment may reduce the volume of cars on the road network and reduce demand on public transport (relative to a scenario where a higher proportion of residents work outside of the NP area). However, provision of employment in the immediate area will result in a larger number of commuters which could have a knock on negative effect on localised traffic conditions. This may therefore have negative (although minor) effects with regard to promoting sustainable transport options. The SEA considers that this policy can be strengthened further through requiring provision of cycling and sustainable transport infrastructure as a condition of future employment provision in the NP area.

Site allocation policies (RKH1, RKH2, and RKH) are all likely to have negative (albeit minor) effects on the transport topic. As increasing the number of homes in the NP area will inevitably lead to increased pressure on the transport network. RKH1 provides a new pedestrian entrance to the school in order to alleviate parking pressure during opening and closing times, which should go some way to minimising pressure on transport network. However, the SEA recommends that these policies should be strengthened through inclusion of more stringent requirements on developers for contributing towards developing the active transport methods in the area.

RwK01	RwK02	RwK03	RwK04	RwK05	RwK06	RwK07	RwK08	RwK09	RwK10	RwK11	RwK12
0	0	0	++	++	++	+	0	0	0	0	+
RKH1	RKH2	RKH3	RwK13	RwK14	RwK15						
-	-	-	0	-	0						

## 4.9 Conclusions at this current stage

The assessment above found that the NP as a whole is likely to result in significant positive effects in relation to a number of SEA topics including biodiversity, the historic environment, population and communities as well as health and wellbeing. No significant negative effects are predicted, although the assessment has highlighted a number of instances where there is the potential for minor negative effects. The minor negative effects on land and soils cannot be avoided through the loss of green field land as a result of proposed allocations. The SEA does propose mitigation for other identified negative effects and also makes recommendations to help strengthen policies in order to enhance positive effects.

It will be the role of the Neighbourhood Plan Group to give consideration to 'striking the best balance' when finalising the plan for submission. However, the SEA recommends that a number of policy areas could be strengthened further in order to maximise sustainability outcomes. With regard to biodiversity, the SEA suggests that the NP should explicitly define the terms "*green routes*" and "*green infrastructure*" and also including reference to these within the relevant policies. While climate change adaptation is covered sufficiently by current policies, the NP could be strengthened with regards to climate change mitigation measures. For instance, Policy RwK09 "design" could be improved by including requirements for energy efficiency measures in new build homes and extensions to enhance the positive effects for climate change mitigation.

Additionally, site allocation policies (RKH1, RKH2, and RKH) are all likely to have negative (albeit minor) effects on Transport objectives. The SEA recommends that these policies could be strengthened through inclusion of more stringent requirements on developers for contributing towards developing the active transport routes in the NPA.

The Environmental Report and NTS accompanied the Regulation 14 Draft Plan on consultation from the 07 July to 20 October 2017. Only minor comments were received from Natural England and no responses on the Environmental Report were received from the Environment Agency or Historic England.

## 5. Next Steps

### 5.1 Introduction

This Part of the environmental report explains next steps (i.e. steps subsequent to consultation on the Pre-submission Plan in-line with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations) that will be taken as part of plan-making / SEA.

### 5.2 Plan finalisation and adoption

Regulation 15, of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, requires that the Parish submit (to the Local Authority) the 'Proposed' Plan and a 'Consultation Statement'. The Consultation Statement must describe issues or concerns raised through the current consultation and how these were addressed when preparing the 'Proposed Plan' for submission.

Regulation 16 then requires that the Local Authority 'publicises' the Proposed Plan so that stakeholders can make representations that may then be considered at Examination. It will be appropriate for the Local Authority to also publicise an updated version of this environmental report, with a view to informing representations.

Regulation 17 requires that the Local Authority submits (to the person appointed to carry out the Examination) the Proposed Plan and a copy of any representations which have been made in accordance with Regulation 16. It may be appropriate for the Local Authority to also submit the updated environmental report, with a view to informing the Examination.

Regulations 18 and 19 require that, subsequent to the Examination, the Local Authority publishes the Examiner's Report and a Decision Statement. The Decision Statement sets out whether or not the Local Authority is prepared to 'make' (i.e. adopt) the Plan. If the Local Authority is prepared to make the Plan, then a referendum can be held. It may be appropriate for the Local Authority to also publish an updated environmental report, with a view to informing the Referendum.

Regulation 20 states what the Local Authority must do when the Plan is 'made' (i.e. adopted). An SEA Statement must be published alongside the made Plan, with a view to providing:

- information on the decision, i.e. an explanation of why the final Plan approach was decided-upon in light of SEA and consultation; and
- measures decided concerning monitoring.

## Appendix A : Regulatory requirements

Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans Regulations 2004 explains the information that must be contained in the SA Report; however, interpretation of Schedule 2 is not straightforward. The table below interprets Schedule 2 requirements.

<u>Schedule 2</u>	<u>Interpretation of Schedule 2</u>	
<i>The report must include...</i>	<i>The report must include...</i>	
(a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	i.e. answer - <i>What's the plan seeking to achieve?</i>
(b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan	Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance The relevant environmental protection objectives, established at international or national level	i.e. answer - <i>What's the 'context'?</i>
(c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;		
(d) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan'	i.e. answer - <i>What's the 'baseline'?</i>
(e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	
(f) the likely significant effects on the environment including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors;	Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance	
(g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan;	Key environmental problems / issues and objectives that should be a focus of appraisal	i.e. answer - <i>What are the key issues &amp; objectives?</i>
(h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information	An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with (i.e. an explanation of the 'reasonableness of the approach')	i.e. answer - <i>What has Plan-making / SEA involved up to this point?</i> [Part 1 of the Report]
(i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring.	The likely significant effects associated with alternatives, including on issues such as... ... and an outline of the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of the alternatives considered / a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the draft plan.	
	The likely significant effects associated with the draft plan	i.e. answer - <i>What are the assessment findings at this current stage?</i> [Part 2 of the Report]
	The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the draft plan	
	A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring	i.e. answer - <i>What happens next?</i> [Part 3 of the Report]

The figure above signposts broadly how and where this report meets regulatory requirements. As a supplement, it is also helpful to present a discussion of more precisely how/where regulatory requirements are met.

### Regulatory requirement

### Discussion of how requirement has been met

#### Schedule 2 of the regulations lists the information to be provided within the Environmental Report

<i>“An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes”</i>	Environmental report
<i>“The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme”</i>	These matters are considered in detail within the scoping report. The outcome of the scoping report was an ‘SEA framework’, and this is presented in this environmental report). More detailed messages from the scoping report - i.e. messages established through baseline review and consultation - are presented within <b>Appendix B</b> .
<i>“The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected”</i>	
<i>“Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC”</i>	
<i>“The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation”</i>	These matters are considered in detail within the scoping report. The outcome of the scoping report was an ‘SEA framework’, and this is presented in this environmental report). More detailed messages from the scoping report - i.e. messages established through baseline review and consultation - are presented within <b>Appendix B</b> . With regards to explaining ‘how... considerations have been taken into account’, the aim this environmental report is to explain how SEA - and thus sustainability considerations - has fed-in ‘up to this point’.
<i>“The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects)”</i>	‘What has the plan making / SEA involved up to this point?’ presents alternatives assessment findings (in relation to each of the plan issues that are a focus of alternatives assessment at the current time). ‘Assessment of the draft Plan’ presents the draft plan assessment. As explained within the various methodology sections, as part of assessment work consideration has been given to the SEA scope, and the need to consider the potential to various effect characteristics/ dimensions.
<i>“The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme”</i>	‘Assessment of the draft Plan’ identifies ‘tensions’ and instances where policy might ‘go further’ in order to better address specific objectives. The Parish should respond explicitly in each instance, and ultimately be in a position to explain why the preferred approach is justified.
<i>“An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling</i>	‘What has the plan making / SEA involved up to this Point?’ deals with ‘Reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with’, in that there is an explanation of the reasons for focusing on particular issues and options. Also, this section explains the

*the required information”*

Council’s ‘reasons for selecting/developing the preferred approach’ in-light of alternatives assessment.

Methodology is discussed at various places, ahead of presenting assessment findings, and limitations are also discussed as part of assessment narratives.

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*“description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art. 10”*

‘Next steps’ presents information on monitoring.

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*“a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings”*

The NTS is a separate document.

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**The Environmental Report must be published alongside the draft plan**

*“[A]uthorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme.”*

The Environmental Report is published alongside the pre-submission plan, under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, so that responses might be received and taken into account by the Parish when finalising the plan for submission.

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**The SA Report must be taken into account, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the plan.**

*“The environmental report prepared pursuant to Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of any transboundary consultations entered into pursuant to Article 7 shall be taken into account during the preparation of the plan or programme and before its adoption or submission to the legislative procedure.”*

The Parish will take assessment findings presented within this report, and consultation responses received on the draft plan (as informed by this report) when finalising the plan for submission.

## Appendix B : Context review and baseline information

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### 1. Air Quality

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#### Focus of theme

- Air pollution sources;
- Air quality hotspots; and
- Air quality management.

#### 1.1 Sustainability context

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- 'Planning policies should sustain compliance with and contribute towards EU limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and the cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas is consistent with the local air quality action plan'.
- New and existing developments should be prevented from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of air pollution.

In terms of the local context, City of York Council is required to monitor air quality across York, report regularly to The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and take action where nationally set levels are likely to be exceeded. Monitoring is undertaken to assess levels of nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone, benzene and particulates. Where exceedances exist, areas are declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) and local authorities are required to produce an Action Plan to improve air quality in the area.

#### 1.2 Baseline summary

##### 1.2.1 Summary of current baseline

Air quality is not automatically monitored anywhere within the NP area as part of the Annual Status Report process<sup>11</sup> carried out by City of York Council. However, there is an automatic particulate matter ten (PM<sub>10</sub>) monitoring station just outside the NP area at Plantation Drive. There are no AQMA designated within the NP area.

##### 1.2.2 Summary of future baseline

While there is no evidence to suggest that air quality is currently a problem, new housing provision within and outside the NP area has the potential to have adverse effects on air quality through increased traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide. Evidence supplied to the Parish Council by Yorwaste indicates that there are currently 47,000 vehicle movements per annum, where one movement is a vehicle in and out of the landfill site. Future plans for Harewood Whin landfill site could increase these movements by approximately 10%. This is considered unlikely to result in a significant effect on air quality during the life of the NP. It is also considered unlikely that the NP itself will propose any development of a scale that is likely to significantly increase traffic and therefore atmospheric pollution. As a result, it is unlikely that there will be any significant effects in relation to air quality. The third City of York Local Transport Plan (2011-2031)<sup>12</sup> includes provisions, including the promotion of public transport and electric vehicles, which may help to mitigate arising negative air quality impacts associated with small-scale residential developments.

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<sup>11</sup> City of York Council (2016) 2016 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR).

<sup>12</sup> City of York Council (2011) East Sussex Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2011-2031.



### 1.2.3 Scoped in or out?

Taking the above into account, including the current baseline and future baseline without the implementation of the plan, it is considered that air quality should not be the focus of further assessment work and that air quality should be scoped out for the purposes of the SEA process.

## 1.3 Headline sustainability issues

There are no current or future issues identified in relation to air quality within the NP area.

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## 2. Biodiversity

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### Focus of theme

- Nature conservation designations;
- Habitats;
- Species; and
- Geodiversity.

### 2.1 Sustainability context

At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy<sup>13</sup> was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to 'halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020'.

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Contribute to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity by minimising impacts and achieving net gains in biodiversity wherever possible.
- Promote the 'preservation, restoration and recreation of priority habitats, ecological networks' and the 'protection and recovery of priority species'. Plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries.
- Set criteria based policies for the protection of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites, giving weight to their importance not just individually but as a part of a wider ecological network.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including green infrastructure (i.e. 'a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities').
- Plan positively for 'green infrastructure' as part of planning for 'ecological networks'.
- High quality open spaces should be protected or their loss mitigated, unless a lack of need is established.

The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)<sup>14</sup> sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It was in part a response to the UK's failure to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2010 and it signalled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The NEWP also aims to create a green economy in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature. It includes commitments to:

- Halt biodiversity loss, support functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks by 2020;
- Establish a new voluntary approach to biodiversity offsetting to be tested in pilot areas;
- Enable partnerships of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and conservation organisations to establish new Nature Improvement Areas; and
- Address barriers to using green infrastructure to promote sustainable growth.

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<sup>13</sup> European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1\\_EN\\_ACT\\_part1\\_v7%5b1%5d.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5b1%5d.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Defra (2012) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (Natural Environment White Paper) [online] available at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf>

At the local level the North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Partnership (LNP) works to “see the natural environment of North Yorkshire and York conserved, enhanced and for the benefit of wildlife, people and the economy”<sup>15</sup>. LNPs are partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people who aim to help bring about improvements in their local natural environment.

## 2.2 Baseline summary

### 2.2.1 Summary of current baseline

There are no internationally designated sites for biodiversity or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within the NP area, although the Clifton Ings and Rawcliffe Meadows SSSI lies just under 1km away to the north east. There is a small area of Ancient Woodland to the south east of Rufforth Airfield. There are a number of priority habitats within the NP area and these include deciduous woodland and traditional orchards. These areas are illustrated in Figure 3.1. There are also a number of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and Sites of Local Importance (SLIs) within and surrounding the NP area, which are illustrated in Figure 3.2.

### 2.2.2 Summary of future baseline

The NP area contains an Ancient Woodland a priority habitats, including traditional orchards. City of York Council is setting up a York Heritage Orchard Group, which will encourage individuals and communities to play a vital role in finding and preserving existing orchards in and around York.

### 2.2.3 Scoped in or out?

Taking the above into account, including the current baseline and future baseline without the implementation of the plan, it is considered that **biodiversity should be scoped in** to the SEA process.

## 2.3 Headline sustainability issues

- The NP area contains an Ancient Woodland to the south east of Rufforth Airfield.
- There are a number of priority habitats, including deciduous woodland and traditional orchards within the NP area.

## 2.4 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the biodiversity SEA theme?

**Table 2.1: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions for biodiversity**

SEA objective	Assessment questions
Protect and enhance the NP area's biodiversity.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and enhance the Ancient Woodland and priority habitats within the NP area?</li> <li>• Ensure that development respects biodiversity of any quality and seeks to enhance the quality, quantity and connectivity of all habitats?</li> </ul>

<sup>15</sup> North Yorkshire and York (undated) Local Nature Partnership Strategy [online] Available at: <http://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=28988&p=0> Accessed March 2017.

Figure 2.1: Biodiversity designations and priority habitats within and around the NP area (MAGIC, Natural England 2016)



**Legend**

- Parishes (GB)
- Local Nature Reserves (England)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England)

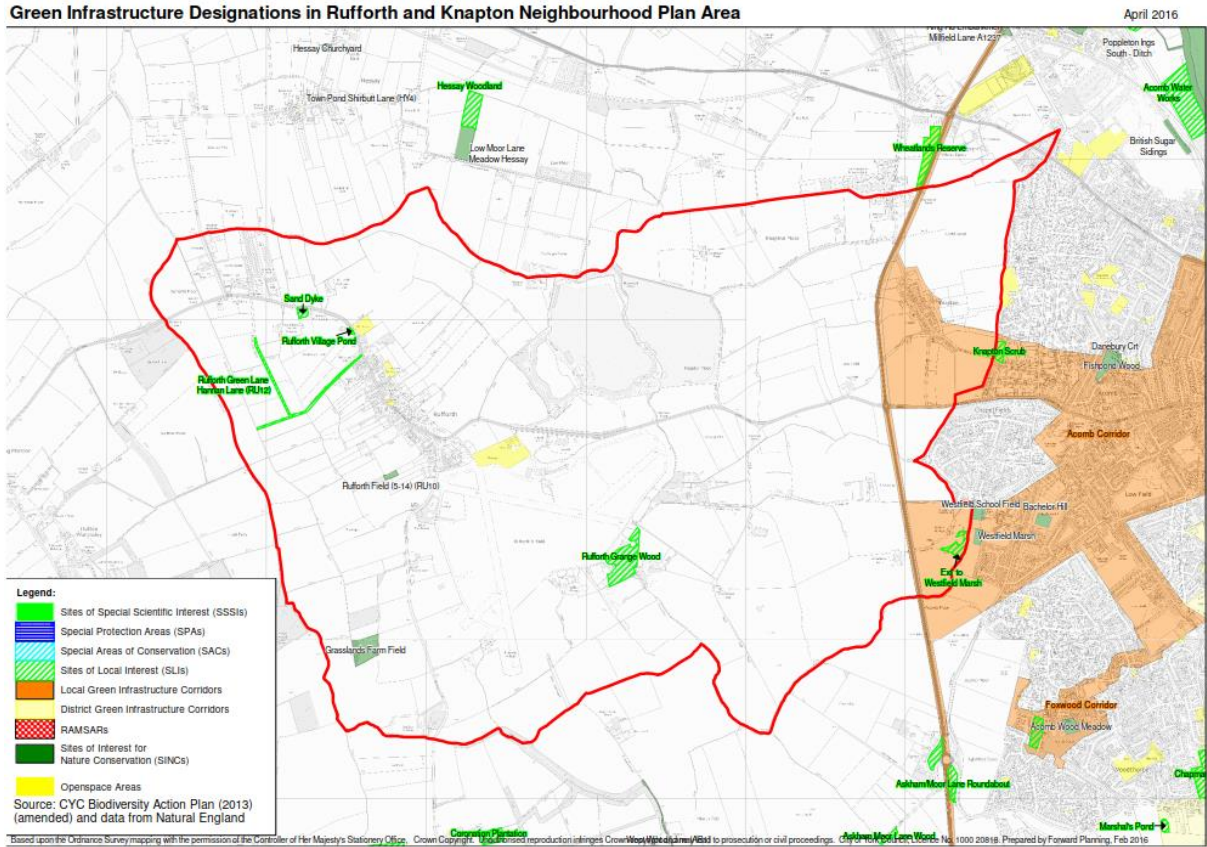
**Ancient Woodland (England)**

- Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland
- Ancient Replanted Woodland
- Priority Habitat Inventory - Deciduous Woodland (England)
- Priority Habitat Inventory - Traditional Orchards (England)
- Priority Habitat Inventory - No main habitat but additional habitat exists (England)

Projection = OSGB36  
 xmin = 446200  
 ymin = 447400  
 xmax = 462200  
 ymax = 455600

Map produced by MAGIC on 22 March, 2017.  
 Copyright resides with the data suppliers and the map must not be reproduced without their permission. Some information in MAGIC is a snapshot of the information that is being maintained or continually updated by the originating organisation. Please refer to the metadata for details as information may be illustrative or representative rather than definitive at this stage.

Figure 2.2: Green infrastructure designations within and surrounding the NP area



## 3. Climate Change

### Focus of theme

- Greenhouse gas emissions by source;
- Greenhouse gas emissions trends;
- Effects of climate change;
- Climate change adaptation; and
- Flood risk.

### 3.1 Sustainability context

In its 2007 strategy on climate change, the European Commission assesses the costs and benefits of combating climate change and recommends a package of measures to limit global warming to 2° Celsius.<sup>16</sup> In relation to energy, the Commission recommends that the EU's energy efficiency improves by 20% and the share of renewable energy grows to 20% by 2020.

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate as a 'core planning principle'.
- There is a key role for planning in securing radical reductions in greenhouse gases (GHG), including in terms of meeting the targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008<sup>17</sup>. Specifically, planning policy should support the move to a low carbon future through:
  - planning for new development in locations and ways which reduce GHG emissions;
  - actively supporting energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings;
  - setting local requirements for building's sustainability in a way that is consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy;
  - positively promoting renewable energy technologies and considering identifying suitable areas for their construction; and
  - Encouraging those transport solutions that support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and reduce congestion.
- Direct development away from areas highest at risk of flooding, with development 'not to be allocated if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower probability of flooding'. Where development is necessary, it should be made safe without increasing levels of flood risk elsewhere.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term, taking into account a range of factors including flooding. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

The Flood and Water Management Act<sup>18</sup> highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:

- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fitting properties at risk (including historic buildings);
- Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water;

<sup>16</sup> Commission of the European Communities (2007) Limiting Global Climate Change to two degrees Celsius: The way ahead for 2020 and beyond [online] available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2007:0002:FIN:EN:PDF>

<sup>17</sup> The Climate Change Act 2008 sets targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions through action in the UK of at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO2 emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.

<sup>18</sup> Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

- Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere;
- Planning to roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion; and
- Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).<sup>19</sup>

Further guidance is provided in the document planning for SuDS<sup>20</sup>. This report calls for greater recognition of the multiple benefits that water management can present. It suggests that successful SuDS are capable of 'contributing to local quality of life and green infrastructure'.

## 3.2 Baseline summary

### 3.2.1 Summary of current baseline

#### 3.2.1.1 Potential effects of climate change

The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2009 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team<sup>21</sup>. UKCP09 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.

As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change for Yorkshire and the Humber by 2050 for a medium emissions scenario<sup>22</sup> are likely to be as follows:

- The central estimate of increase in winter mean temperature is 2.2°C; it is very unlikely to be less than 1.1°C and is very unlikely to be more than 3.4°C. A wider range of uncertainty is from 0.9°C to 3.7°C.
- The central estimate of increase in summer mean temperature is 2.3°C; it is very unlikely to be less than 1.1°C and is very unlikely to be more than 3.9°C. A wider range of uncertainty is from 0.9°C to 4.4°C.
- The central estimate of increase in summer mean daily maximum temperature is 3.1°C; it is very unlikely to be less than 1.2°C and is very unlikely to be more than 5.4°C. A wider range of uncertainty is from 1°C to 6.1°C.
- The central estimate of increase in summer mean daily minimum temperature is 2.6°C; it is very unlikely to be less than 1.1°C and is very unlikely to be more than 4.4°C. A wider range of uncertainty is from 1°C to 5°C.
- The central estimate of change in annual mean precipitation is 0%; it is very unlikely to be less than -4% and is very unlikely to be more than 4%. A wider range of uncertainty is from -5% to 4%.
- The central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is 11%; it is very unlikely to be less than 1% and is very unlikely to be more than 24%. A wider range of uncertainty is from 0% to 27%.
- The central estimate of change in summer mean precipitation is -19%; it is very unlikely to be less than -36% and is very unlikely to be more than 1%. A wider range of uncertainty is from -38% to 9%.

Defra announced in January 2016 that the UK Climate Projections will be updated following the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (December 2015).<sup>23</sup>

<sup>19</sup> N.B. The provisions of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 will come into force on the 1st of October 2012 and makes it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDS.

<sup>20</sup> CIRIA (2010) Planning for SuDS – making it happen [online] available at: <http://www.ciria.org/service/knowledgebase/AM/ContentManagerNet/ContentDisplay.aspx?Section=knowledgebase&NoTemplate=1&ContentID=18465>

<sup>21</sup> The data was released on 18th June 2009 [online] available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/> Accessed March 2016.

<sup>22</sup> UK Climate Projections (2009) Yorkshire and the Humber 2050 Medium Emissions Scenario [online] Available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/23715?emission=medium> Accessed March 2017.

Resulting from these changes, a range of risks may exist for the Rufforth with Knapton Parish NP area. These include:

- increased incidence of heat related illnesses and deaths during the summer;
- increased incidence of illnesses and deaths related to exposure to sunlight (e.g. skin cancer, cataracts);
- increased incidence of pathogen related diseases (e.g. legionella and salmonella);
- increase in health problems related to rise in local ozone levels during summer;
- increased risk of injuries and deaths due to increased number of storm events;
- effects on water resources from climate change;
- reduction in availability of groundwater for abstraction;
- adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain;
- increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100 year floods;
- changes in insurance provisions for flood damage;
- a need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
- a need to upgrade flood defences;
- soil erosion due to flash flooding;
- loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution;
- spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
- deterioration in working conditions due to increased temperatures;
- increased difficulty of food preparation, handling and storage due to higher temperatures;
- an increased move by the insurance industry towards a more risk-based approach to insurance underwriting, leading to higher cost premiums for business;
- increased demand for air-conditioning;
- increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;
- risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature; and
- flooding of roads.

### 3.2.1.2 Flood risk

There is some flood risk identified in the NP area and these are identified in Figure 4.1. The Environment Agency Flood Maps for Planning show that parts of the NP area are within Flood Zone 2 or 3 (see Figure 4.1); these are associated with watercourses (the Foss Dike and the Smawith Dike)<sup>24</sup>. A strategic flood risk assessment (SFRA) for City of York Council<sup>25</sup> assessed the risk of flooding in York and found that the York catchment sub-area (in which Rufforth with Knapton Parish is situated) had a 'long history of regular flooding with a large number of properties at risk...' However, it is worth noting that neither the River Foss nor Ouse flow through the NP area.

The parish Council have indicated that over recent years there have been major issues with surface water drainage in both villages within the NP area, in particular Rufforth. A number of properties have been flooded after heavy rainfall. Problems have also been reported with the sewerage system

<sup>23</sup> Met Office. UK Climate Projections - UKCP18 Project announcement [online] available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/24125> Accessed Nov 2016.

<sup>24</sup> Environment Agency (2016) Flood Maps for Planning [online] available at: <http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?x=452500.0&y=451500.0&topic=floodmap&ep=map&scale=9&location=Rufforth.%20York&lang=e&layerGroups=default&distance=&textonly=off#x=453490&y=451717&lq=1.2.10.&scale=9> [Accessed 07 March 2017.]

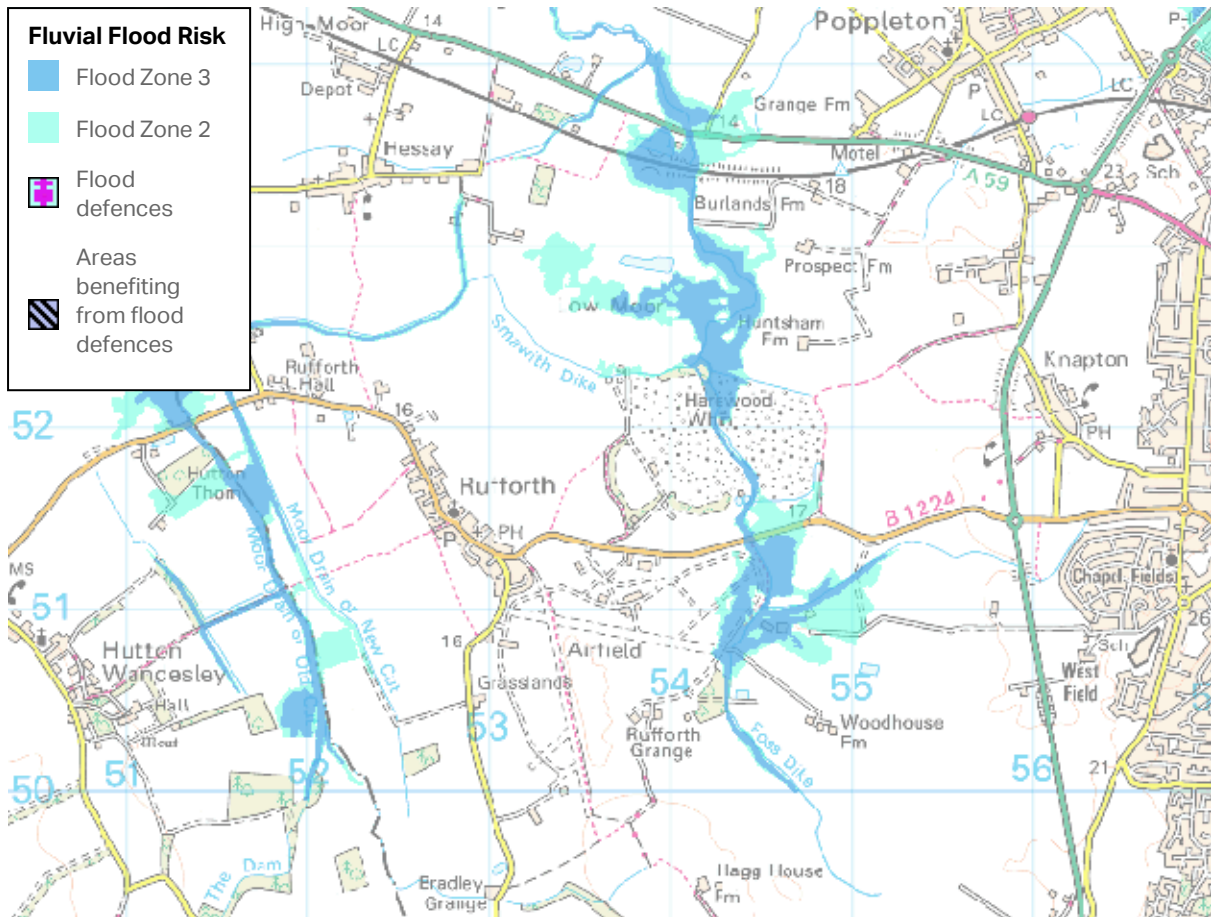
<sup>25</sup> City of York Council (2013) Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. [Online] Available at: [https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/6411/2013\\_strategic\\_flood\\_risk\\_assessment](https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/6411/2013_strategic_flood_risk_assessment) [Accessed 07 March 2017.]



although at this stage, it is not clear how much this is related to surface water entering the system. The issue was raised by a large number of residents in a survey carried out the by the Parish Council.

Surface water from parts of Rufforth, from the Church westward, drains in to Rufforth Pond, then follows the dyke alongside the B1224 before continuing through a system of dykes and drainage channels over the fields to the south. To the east of the Church, drainage is via a system of pipes culminating in a large pipe alongside Bradley Lane from where it discharges in to a drainage channel going westwards and then again south over the fields.

**Figure 3.1 Risk of flooding from rivers and other watercourses in the NP area (Environment Agency, 2017)**



### 3.2.1.3 Greenhouse gas emissions

In relation to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) suggests that York has had consistently and significantly lower per capita emissions than both Yorkshire and the Humber and England. The city has seen a higher reduction in per capita emissions between 2005 and 2013 (-24.9%) than the Yorkshire and Humber average (-22.1%) and national average (-21.2%).

**Table 3.1 Per capita local CO<sub>2</sub> emission estimates; industry, domestic and transport sectors, 2005-2013<sup>26</sup>**

	<b>Industrial and Commercial (t CO<sub>2</sub>)</b>	<b>Domestic (t CO<sub>2</sub>)</b>	<b>Road and Transport (t CO<sub>2</sub>)</b>	<b>Total (t CO<sub>2</sub>)</b>
<b>York</b>				
2005	2.9	2.5	1.7	7.0
2006	2.8	2.4	1.7	6.9
2007	2.3	2.3	1.7	6.3
2008	2.3	2.3	1.6	6.2
2009	2.0	2.1	1.5	5.6
2010	2.2	2.2	1.5	5.9
2011	1.9	1.9	1.4	5.3
2012	1.9	2.1	1.4	5.4
2013	1.9	2.0	1.4	5.3
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber</b>				
2005	5.5	2.6	2.3	10.4
2006	5.4	2.6	2.3	10.3
2007	5.2	2.5	2.3	10.0
2008	4.9	2.4	2.2	9.6
2009	4.0	2.2	2.1	8.3
2010	4.4	2.3	2.0	8.8
2011	4.1	2.0	2.0	8.2
2012	4.0	2.2	2.0	8.2
2013	4.0	2.1	2.0	8.1
<b>England</b>				
2005	3.8	2.5	2.3	8.5
2006	3.7	2.5	2.2	8.4
2007	3.6	2.4	2.2	8.2
2008	3.5	2.4	2.1	7.9
2009	3.0	2.1	2.0	7.1
2010	3.1	2.3	2.0	7.3
2011	2.8	2.0	1.9	6.6
2012	2.9	2.1	1.9	6.9
2013	2.8	2.0	1.9	6.7

### 3.2.2 Summary of future baseline

Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the Rufforth with Knapton NP area, with increases in mean summer and winter temperatures, increases in mean precipitation in winter and decreases in mean precipitation in summer. This is likely to increase the risks associated with climate change (including fluvial flooding) with an increased need for resilience and adaptation in affected areas.

In terms of climate change mitigation, per capita emissions are likely to continue to decrease as energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies become more widely adopted. However, even slight increases in the population and built footprint of the Rufforth with Knapton NP area may lead to marginal increases in overall emissions.

<sup>26</sup> Department of Energy and Climate Change (2015) UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005-2013 [online] available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/437502/2005\\_to\\_2013\\_UK\\_local\\_and\\_regional\\_CO2\\_emissions\\_full\\_dataset\\_ODS.ODS](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/437502/2005_to_2013_UK_local_and_regional_CO2_emissions_full_dataset_ODS.ODS)

### 3.2.3 Scoped in or out?

Taking the above into account, including the current baseline and future baseline without the implementation of the plan, it is considered that **climate change should be scoped in** to the SEA process.

## 3.3 Headline sustainability issues

- An increase in the built footprint of the Rufforth with Knapton NP area (associated with the delivery of new housing and employment land) has the potential to increase overall greenhouse gas emissions and surface water runoff.
- Per capita greenhouse gas emissions at the York level are lower than Yorkshire and the Humber and England averages. Furthermore, the York per capita total value is falling at a faster rate than the Yorkshire and the Humber and national average. Nevertheless, it is still well above the per capita value envisioned for 2050 by the Committee on Climate Change (2 t CO<sub>2</sub>/e)<sup>27</sup>.
- Flooding is an issue for the Rufforth with Knapton NP area. This risk is likely to increase in line with predicted increases in winter precipitation as a result of climate change.
- The NP should seek to increase the Parish area's resilience to the effects of climate change through supporting adaptation to the risks associated with climate change.

### 3.4 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the climate change SEA theme?

**Table 3.2 SEA Framework of objectives and questions for climate change**

SEA objective	Assessment questions
Promote climate change mitigation in the NP area.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport?</li> <li>• Increase the number of new developments meeting sustainable design criteria?</li> <li>• Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources?</li> <li>• Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources?</li> </ul>
Support the resilience of the NP area to the potential effects of climate change.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that no development takes place in areas at highest risk of flooding, and ensure that sufficient mitigation is planned for development in areas at risk, taking the likely effects of climate change into account?</li> <li>• Improve green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change?</li> <li>• Sustainably manage water run-off, ensuring that the present or future risk of flooding is not increased (either within the NP area or downstream) and where possible reduce flood risk?</li> <li>• Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the plan area?</li> <li>• Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the plan area to the effects of climate change by improving habitat extent, condition and connectivity?</li> </ul>

<sup>27</sup> Committee on Climate Change – Setting a target for emission reduction [online] available at: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/the-science-of-climate-change/setting-a-target-for-emission-reduction/>  
Accessed March 2017



## 4. Historic Environment and Landscape

### Focus of theme

- Designated and non-designated sites and areas;
- Setting of cultural heritage assets;
- Archaeological assets; and
- Landscape and townscape character.

### 4.1 Sustainability context

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Protect and enhance valued landscapes, giving particular weight to those identified as being of national importance.
- Heritage assets should be recognised as an ‘irreplaceable resource’ that should be conserved in a ‘manner appropriate to their significance’, taking account of ‘the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits’ of conservation, whilst also recognising the positive contribution new development can make to local character and distinctiveness.
- Set out a ‘positive strategy’ for the ‘conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment’, including those heritage assets that are most at risk.
- Develop ‘robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. Such policies should be based on stated objectives for the future of the area and an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics’.

The Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England<sup>28</sup> sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.

### 4.2 Baseline summary

#### 4.2.1 Summary of current baseline

Rufforth with Knapton Parish comprises two small villages (Rufforth and Knapton), with a principally rural heritage. The character of the settlements within the Parish is almost exclusively residential, although there is a primary school and public house (the Tankard Inn) in Rufforth, and a public house (the Red Lion) in Knapton. In addition, there are the remains of a World War II airfield in good survival at Rufforth. The heritage assets within and surrounding the NP area are presented in Figure 5.2.

The City of York Historic Environment Characterisation Project (2013) created a narrative and graphic baseline understanding of the character and significance of the suburban areas of York. Figure 5.2 illustrates that historic character and setting types within the NP area.

##### 4.2.1.1 Listed buildings, statutory designations and non-statutory designations

Scheduled monuments are sites of national importance and protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. According to the National Heritage List for England<sup>29</sup>, there are no Scheduled Monuments in the NP area. However, there are six Grade II listed buildings:

- Church of All Saints (Rufforth Main Street);
- Village pump and trough (Rufforth Main Street);

<sup>28</sup> HM Government (2010) The Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: [http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/publications/6763.aspx](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx)

<sup>29</sup> National Heritage List for England [online] Available at: <http://historicengland.org.uk/advice/hpg/hpr-definitions/n/1312822/> Accessed March 2017

- St Peter's Cottages (Knapton Main Street);
- St Peter's Farm Cottage and St Peter's Farmhouse (Knapton Main Street);
- Pear Tree Farmhouse (Rufforth Main Street); and
- Pinfold (Wetherby Road).

Since 2008, Historic England has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights the Grade I and Grade II\* listed buildings, and scheduled monuments, conservation areas, wreck sites and registered parks and gardens in England deemed to be 'at risk'. The 2016 Heritage at Risk Register<sup>30</sup> does not list any sites 'at risk' within Rufforth with Knapton Parish.

It should be noted that not all of the area's historic environment resource is subject to statutory designations, and non-designated features comprise a large part of what people have contact with as part of daily life - whether at home, work or leisure. For example, although not listed, many buildings and areas are of historic interest, and which are seen as important by local communities. Examples of these in the plan area are likely to include undesignated open spaces and the wider historic landscape. Undesignated actual or potential archaeological finds in the area are also of significance.

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<sup>30</sup> Historic England Heritage at Risk Register. Online] Available at: <http://risk.historicengland.org.uk/register.aspx> Accessed March 2017.

Figure 4.1: Designated heritage assets within and around the NP area (Magic, Defra)



**Legend**

- Parishes (GB)
- Scheduled Monuments (England) - points
- ▲ Listed Buildings (England)
- Registered Battlefields (England)
- Registered Parks and Gardens (England)

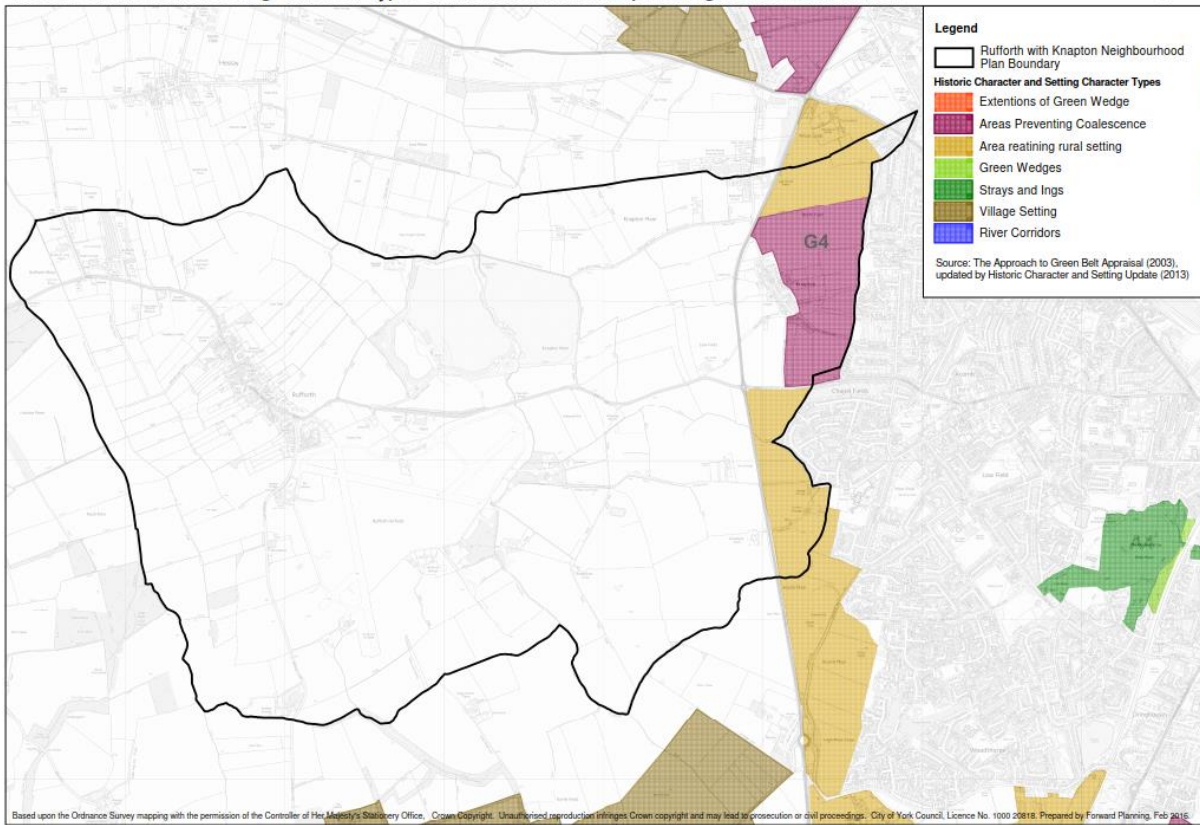
Projection = OSGB36  
 xmin = 446200  
 ymin = 447600  
 xmax = 462500  
 ymax = 455300

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Figure 4.1: Historic character and setting character types within the NP area

Historic Character and Setting Character Types within Rufforth and Knapton Neighbourhood Plan Area

February 2016





## 4.2.2 Summary of future baseline

New development in the Rufford with Knapton NP area has the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of cultural heritage assets, particularly Grade II listed buildings in the Parish. This includes through inappropriate design and layout. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations and Local Plan policies will offer a degree of protection to cultural heritage assets and their settings.

New development has the potential to lead to incremental but small changes in landscape and townscape character and quality in and around the NP area. This includes from the loss of landscape features and visual impact.

## 4.2.3 Scoped in or out?

Taking the above into account, including the current baseline and future baseline without the implementation of the plan, it is considered that the **historic environment and landscape should be scoped in** to the SEA process.

## 4.3 Headline sustainability issues

- There are six Grade II listed buildings within the NP area.
- New development has the potential to lead to beneficial or adverse effects on the historic environment, including through affecting the setting of cultural heritage assets and landscape/village quality.
- New development could lead to pressures on non-designated sites and landscapes, including from the loss of key built and natural features.

## 4.4 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the historic environment and landscape SEA theme?

**Table 4.1 SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions for historic environment and landscape**

SEA objective	Assessment questions
Conserve and enhance the NP area's historic environment, heritage assets, and their settings.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest?</li> <li>• Support the integrity of the historic setting of key buildings of cultural heritage interest and scheduled monuments?</li> <li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?</li> </ul>
Conserve and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance landscape and village character features?</li> </ul>

## 5. Land, Soil and Water Resources

### Focus of theme

- Soils resource;
- Soil quality;
- Waste management;
- Minerals;
- Watercourses;
- Water availability; and
- Water quality.

### 5.1 Sustainability context

The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy<sup>31</sup> presents a strategy for protecting soils resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity, and food safety.

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) drives a catchment-based approach to water management. In England and Wales there are 100 water catchments and it is Defra's intention is to establish a 'framework for integrated catchment management' across England. The Environment Agency established 'Significant Water Management Issues' within catchments and presented updated River Basin Management Plans to ministers in 2015. The plans seek to deliver the objectives of the WFD namely:

- Enhance the status and prevent the further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands which depend on aquatic ecosystems;
- Promote the sustainable use of water;
- Reduce the pollution of water, especially by 'priority' and 'priority hazardous' substances; and
- Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution.

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Protect and enhance soils. The value of best and most versatile agricultural land should also be taken into account.
- Prevent new or existing development from being 'adversely affected' by the presence of 'unacceptable levels' of soil pollution or land instability and be willing to remediate and mitigate 'despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate'.
- Encourage the effective use of land' through the reuse of land which has been previously developed, 'provided that this is not of high environmental value'. Whilst there is no longer a national requirement to build at a minimum density, the NPPF requires local planning authorities to 'set out their own approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances'.
- Produce strategic policies to deliver the provision of a variety of infrastructure, including that necessary for water supply.
- With regards to waste, the NPPF does not contain any specific waste policies as waste planning policy will be published as part of the National Waste Management Plan.

Other key documents at the national level include Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England<sup>32</sup>, which sets out a vision for soil use in England, and the Water White Paper<sup>33</sup>, which sets out the

<sup>31</sup> European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Policy [online] available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm)

<sup>32</sup> Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available at: <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/land/soil/documents/soil-strategy.pdf>

government's vision for a more resilient water sector. It states the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources. In terms of waste management, the Government Review of Waste Policy in England<sup>34</sup> recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.

The City of York Council, North Yorkshire County Council and North York Moors National Park Authority are developing a joint minerals and waste plan, which is due to be finalised in November 2017.

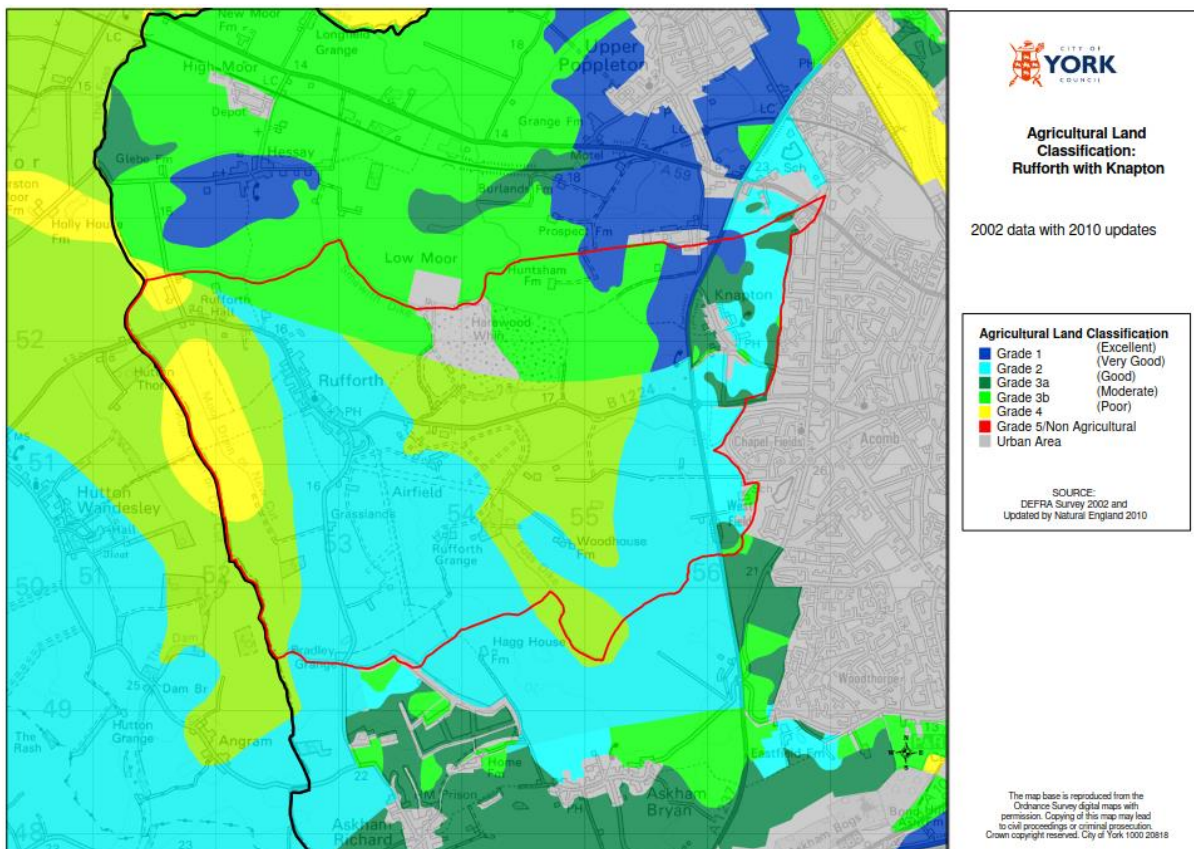
## 5.2 Baseline summary

### 5.2.1 Summary of current baseline

#### 5.2.1.1 Agricultural land classification

The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) classifies land into six grades and is used to determine the areas of best and most versatile agricultural land. The agricultural land within the NP area is classified as predominantly Grades 2, 3b and 4, with small areas of Grade 1 and 3a.<sup>35</sup> The NPPF classifies Grades 1 to 3a as best and most versatile agricultural land. Figure 5.1 illustrates the agricultural land quality within the NP area.

Figure 5.1: Historic character and setting character types within the NP area



#### 5.2.1.2 Waste and minerals

There are no Household Waste Recycling sites within the NP area, although there is a recycling bank at the Red Lion Inn in Knapton. Harewood Whin landfill site is situated within the NP area and operated by Yorwaste, a private company jointly owned by City of York Council and North Yorkshire

<sup>33</sup> Defra (2011) Water for life (The Water White Paper) [online] available at <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf>

<sup>34</sup> Defra (2011) Government Review of Waste Policy in England [online] available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf>

<sup>35</sup> Natural England (2010) Agricultural Land Classification Yorkshire and the Humber (ALC003) [online] available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/130043> Accessed March 2017.

County Council. It began operation in 1988 and was expected to have a lifespan of 20 years but this has been extended through a number of planning applications as well as allowed additional activities. The landfill site is identified as a strategic waste management site both in the City of York Draft Local Plan (2014) and the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan which is being undertaken with North Yorkshire County Council and North York Moors National Park Authority. Future plans for waste management in the City of York and North Yorkshire areas are centred on a move away from landfill and towards incineration at Allerton Park. The current landfill capacity at Harewood Whin will be full by mid-2017.

#### 5.2.1.3 Water availability

The NP area is located in Yorkshire Water's Grid Surface Water Zone<sup>36</sup> and Yorkshire Water provides water and wastewater services to the area. 45% of Yorkshire Water's water is drawn from impounding reservoirs, 25% from boreholes and 30% from rivers.

Water availability in the NP area is likely to be affected by climate change in the ways described in Section 4. Key issues include reduced summer precipitation and increased winter precipitation.

#### 5.2.1.4 Water quality

The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires Member States to identify areas where groundwaters have nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or are thought to be at risk of nitrate contamination. Areas associated with such groundwaters are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) within which, Member States are required to establish Action Programmes in order to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination. The vast majority of the NP area is covered by a groundwater and surface water NVZ which extends west into all neighbouring parishes. The only part of the NP area that is not covered by a groundwater and surface water NVZ is the extreme north-eastern tip.<sup>37</sup>

## 5.2.2 Summary of future baseline

The scale of anticipated growth is unlikely to have a significant impact on the availability of agricultural land in the district. However, where possible, development should be directed towards areas of poorer quality agricultural land or land that has already been taken out of agricultural use (with consideration of other sustainability themes). It is also unlikely to have significant impacts on water availability, although at a regional scale increased demand for water resources is still an issue and likely to be exacerbated by climate change. The presence of a groundwater and surface water NVZ is also an issue for the NP area. There are likely to be no future issues in relation to waste management or minerals without implementation of the NP.

## Scoped in or out?

Taking the above into account, including the current baseline and future baseline without the implementation of the plan, it is considered that land, soil and water resources **should be scoped in** to the SEA process.

## 5.3 Headline sustainability issues

- The Rufforth with Knapton NP area contains Grade 2 and 3 agricultural land which should be retained if possible.
- Regional water supply deficits may grow under the effects of climate change.
- Most of the Rufforth with Knapton NP area is designated a groundwater and surface water Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.

<sup>36</sup> Yorkshire Water (2014) Water Resources Management Plan. [Online] Available at: [https://www.yorkshirewater.com/sites/default/files/Water%20Resources%20Management%20Plan%20-%20Introduction%20and%20supply\\_0.pdf](https://www.yorkshirewater.com/sites/default/files/Water%20Resources%20Management%20Plan%20-%20Introduction%20and%20supply_0.pdf) Accessed March 2017.

<sup>37</sup> Defra. Magic Map. [Online] Available at: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/> Accessed March 2017.

## 5.4 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the land, soil and water resources SEA theme?

**Table 5.1 SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions for land, soil and water resources**

<b>SEA objective</b>	<b>Assessment questions</b>
Ensure the efficient use of land.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the use of previously developed land?</li> <li>• Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land, which includes Grade 2 and 3a agricultural land within the NP area?</li> </ul>
Protect and enhance the water environment.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise water consumption?</li> <li>• Minimise impacts on water quality?</li> </ul>

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## 6. Population and Communities

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### Focus of theme

- Population size;
- Population density;
- Age structure;
- Deprivation;
- House prices and affordability;
- Homelessness;
- Education and skills; and
- Local employment and employment types.

### 6.1 Sustainability context

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- To 'boost significantly the supply of housing', local planning authorities should meet the 'full, objectively assessed need for market and affordable housing' in their area. They should prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment should identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to need over the plan period.
- With a view to creating 'sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities' authorities should ensure provision of affordable housing onsite or externally where robustly justified.
- The role of the planning system is an economic role - contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure.
- In rural areas, when exercising the duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities, local planning authorities should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Authorities should consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.
- The NPPF attaches great importance to the design of the built environment. It explains how good design is a key aspect in sustainable development, and how development should improve the quality of the area over its lifetime, not just in the short term. Good architecture and landscaping are important, with the use of design codes contributing to the delivery of high quality outcomes. Design should reinforce local distinctiveness, raise the standard more generally in the area and address the connections between people and places.
- The social role of the planning system involves 'supporting vibrant and healthy communities'.
- The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion.

Places should contain clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public spaces, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.

- Ensuring that there is a 'sufficient choice of school places' is of 'great importance' and there is a need to take a 'proactive, positive and collaborative approach' to bringing forward 'development that will widen choice in education'.

## 6.2 Baseline summary

### 6.2.1 Summary of current baseline

#### 6.2.1.1 Population and age structure

The Parish is predominantly rural and comprises the two villages of Rufforth and Knapton, a small settlement on the Boroughbridge Road and a very small area, Acomb Grange, on the city boundary at Chapelfields.

According to the most recent census, in 2011 the total population of the Rufforth with Knapton Parish was 1,027. The area showed a population growth of 8.1% between 2001 and 2011. This is lower than the York growth rate for the same period, which was 9.36%. However, population growth in the Parish was higher than the average for Yorkshire and the Humber (6.42%) and the national population growth rate which was 7.31%.

**Table 6.1 Population growth (for Rufforth with Knapton Parish) 2001 – 2011<sup>38</sup>**

Date	Rufforth with Knapton Parish	York (unitary authority)	Yorkshire and the Humber	England
2001	950	181,094	4,964,833	49,138,831
2011	1,027	198,051	5,283,733	53,012,456
Population Change 2001-2011	8.1%	9.36%	6.42%	7.31%

The age structure of Rufforth with Knapton Parish in comparison to York, Yorkshire and the Humber and the national average is shown in Table 7.2.

**Table 6.2 Age structure (2011)<sup>39</sup>**

	Rufforth with Knapton Parish	York (unitary authority)	Yorkshire and the Humber	England
0-4	4.7%	5.4%	6.2%	6.3%
5-15	13.2%	10.6%	12.7%	12.6%
16-24	6.9%	16.9%	12.6%	11.9%
25-44	21.3%	26.7%	26.3%	27.5%
45-59	25%	18.4%	19.5%	19.4%
60+	28.8%	22.7%	22.7%	22.4%
Total population	1,027	198,051	5,283,733	53,012,456

Rufforth with Knapton Parish has a higher proportion of residents within the 5-15 age group (13.2%) than the national average of 12.6%. This value is also higher than York and county levels. However, there is a significantly lower proportion of residents within the 16-24 age group (6.9%) than York,

<sup>38</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011, Population Density, 2001 (QS102EW- 2011 ) [online] available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census>. Accessed March 2017.

<sup>39</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011, Age structure (KS102EW) [online] available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census>. Accessed March 2017.

regional, and national averages. There is also a significantly higher proportion of residents aged 60 or more in the Parish than York, regional and national averages.

The proportion of residents between the ages of 25 and 44 in Rufforth with Knapton Parish (21.3%) is significantly lower than the York (26.7%), regional (26.3%) and national average (27.5%). Conversely, the percentage of the population that falls within the 45-59 age bracket is significantly higher in Rufforth with Knapton (25%) than York (18.4%), Yorkshire and the Humber (19.5%) and England (19.4%).

The proportion of residents in Rufforth with Knapton Parish aged 60 and over (28.8%) is significantly higher than England's average of 22.4% and also higher than the regional and City of York averages.

#### 6.2.1.2 Deprivation

Census statistics measure deprivation across four 'dimensions' of deprivation<sup>40</sup> including: any member of a household not a full-time student is either unemployed or long-term sick; education (no person in the household has at least level 2 education, and no person aged 16-18 is a full-time student); health and disability (any person in the household has general health classed as 'bad or 'very bad' or has a long term health problem); and housing (household's accommodation is either overcrowded, with an occupancy rating -1 or less, or is in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating).

Broadly speaking, based on these dimensions, Rufforth with Knapton has lower overall deprivation levels than local, regional, and national averages. As shown in Table 7.2 there are more households classified as 'not deprived' in the Parish (54.3%), than in York (49.6%), Yorkshire and the Humber (40.9%), and England (42.5%).

**Table 6.3 Relative household deprivation dimensions<sup>41</sup>**

	<b>Rufforth with Knapton Parish</b>	<b>York</b>	<b>Yorkshire and the Humber</b>	<b>England</b>
Household not deprived	54.3%	49.6%	40.9%	42.54%
Deprived in 1 dimension	33.6%	32.2%	32.4%	32.65%
Deprived in 2 dimensions	9.8%	15.0%	20.6%	19.14%
Deprived in 3 dimensions	2.1%	3.0%	5.7%	5.14%
Deprived in 4 dimensions	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%	0.53%

Rufforth with Knapton Parish has significantly lower proportions of deprived households (in 2, 3 or 4 dimensions) than local, regional and national averages. The proportion of households deprived in two dimensions is particularly low – 9.8% of households in Rufforth with Knapton parish are deprived in two dimensions, compared to 15% in York, 20.6% in Yorkshire and the Humber, and 19.14% in England. However, the proportion of households deprived in one dimension is slightly higher than the average value for York, Yorkshire and the Humber, and England.

The more recent Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD) is an overall relative measure of deprivation constructed by combining seven domains of deprivation according to their respective weights, as described below. The seven domains of deprivation are as follows:

- The Income Deprivation Domain measures the proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income. The definition of low income used includes both those people that are out-of-work, and those that are in work but who have low earnings (and who satisfy the respective means tests).
- The Employment Deprivation Domain measures the proportion of the working-age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market. This includes people

<sup>40</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011, Households by Deprivation Dimensions, 2011 (QS119EW) [online] available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census> Accessed March 2017.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.



who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities.

- The Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain measures the lack of attainment and skills in the local population.
- The Health Deprivation and Disability Domain measures the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. The domain measures morbidity, disability and premature mortality but not aspects of behaviour or environment that may be predictive of future health deprivation.
- The Crime Domain measures the risk of personal and material victimisation at local level.
- The Barriers to Housing and Services Domain measures the physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services. The indicators fall into two sub-domains: 'geographical barriers', which relate to the physical proximity of local services, and 'wider barriers' which includes issues relating to access to housing such as affordability.
- The Living Environment Deprivation Domain measures the quality of the local environment. The indicators fall into two sub-domains. The 'indoors' living environment measures the quality of housing; while the 'outdoors' living environment contains measures of air quality and road traffic accidents.

The two supplementary indices, which are subsets of the Income Deprivation Domain (described above), are:

- The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families.
- The Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index measures the proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation.<sup>42</sup>

Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. They are standardised geographies designed to be as consistent in population as possible. The population of a LSOA is approximately 1,000 to 1,500 people. In relation to the IMD 2015, LSOAs are ranked out of the 32,844 LSOAs in England and Wales, with 1 being the most deprived.

There are two Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) that are either fully or partially in the Rufforth with Knapton NP area. Ranks for the two LSOAs for each of the above categories are presented in Table 7.3.

The table shows that LSOAs in the Rufforth with Knapton NP area are not deprived; however, there are low ranks for barriers to housing and geographical barriers (among the most deprived 10% in the country for geographical barriers, and among the most deprived 20% in the country for housing barriers in 011A). Other notable areas of deprivation include moderate levels of living environment and indoors sub-domain deprivation in 011A.

<sup>42</sup> DCLG (September 2015): Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015. [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015> Accessed March 2017.

**Table 6.4 Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (rank)<sup>43</sup>**

**LSOA name  
(York)**

	<b>Overall IMD</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Employment</b>	<b>Education, Skills and Training</b>	<b>Health Deprivation and Disability</b>	<b>Crime</b>	<b>Barriers to Housing and Services</b>	<b>Living Environment</b>	<b>Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index</b>	<b>Income Deprivation Affecting Older People</b>	<b>Children and Young People Sub-domain</b>	<b>Adult Skills Sub-domain</b>	<b>Geographical Barriers Sub-domain</b>	<b>Wider Barriers Sub-domain</b>	<b>Indoors Sub-domain</b>	<b>Outdoors Sub-domain</b>
011A (covering the majority of the Parish)	24952	27117	29606	28510	28756	18606	5657	11321	23036	29604	26094	28922	2832	20904	8419	17362
011B (NE corner of Parish)	28592	27631	31244	28374	28459	23997	7368	23480	24302	30801	24881	30030	3101	24248	27183	12550

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

The highest level of qualification of residents is presented in Figure 7.1. As highlighted below, Rufford with Knapton Parish NP area has fewer residents with no qualifications (15%) compared to district (17.9%) and regional (25.7%) averages. The proportion of residents holding Level 4 qualifications and above (39.7%) is significantly higher than district (32.4%), regional (23.3%) and national (27.3%) averages.

**Figure 6.1 Highest level of qualification (%)<sup>44</sup>**

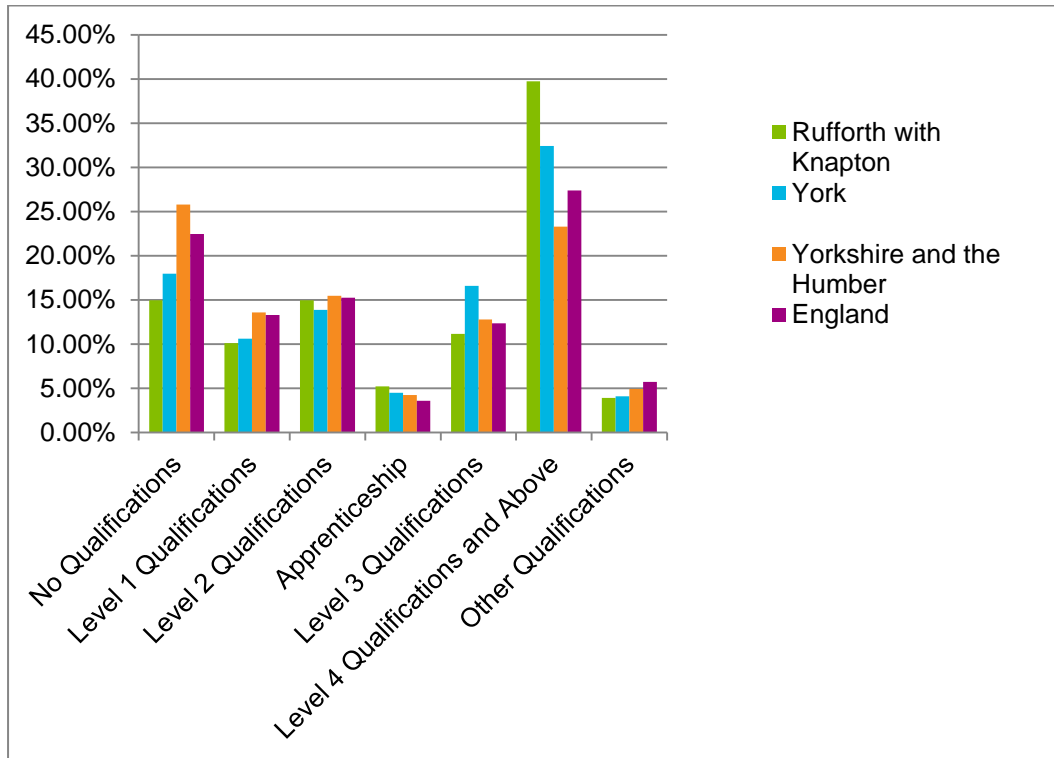


Table 7.5 shows that the proportion of Rufford with Knapton residents who are economically active is broadly consistent with national, regional and district averages. The proportion of these who are unemployed or students is lower than the national and regional average, but broadly consistent with the district averages.

<sup>44</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011, Highest Level of Qualification (QS501EW) [online] available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census> Accessed March 2017.

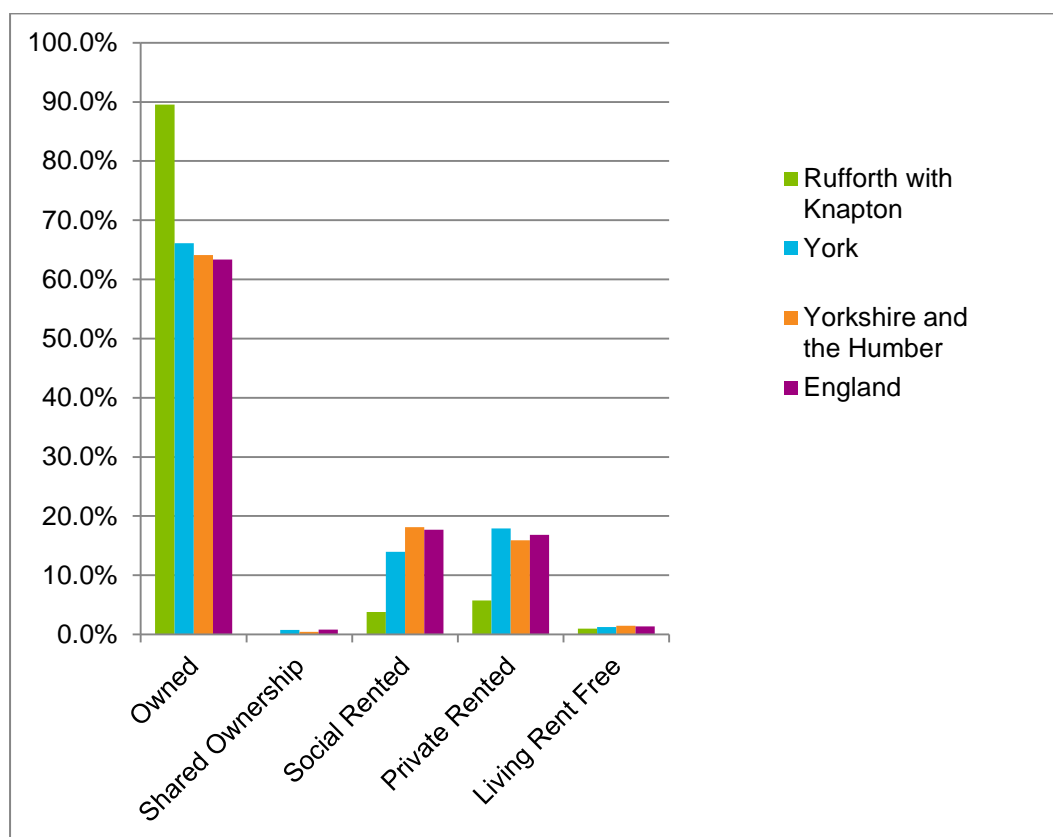
**Table 7.5: Employment in Rufforth with Knapton Parish**<sup>45</sup>

	Rufforth with Knapton Parish	York	Yorkshire and the Humber	England
Economically Active; Total	73.5	70.1	68.4	69.9
Economically Active; Employee; Part-Time	16.5	15.0	14.6	13.7
Economically Active; Employee; Full-Time	37.8	38.1	37.0	38.6
Economically Active; Self-Employed with Employees; Part-Time	0.81	0.30	0.37	0.38
Economically Active; Self-Employed with Employees; Full-Time	4.19	1.60	1.75	1.84
Economically Active; Self-Employed Without Employees; Part-Time	3.79	2.17	2.08	2.55
Economically Active; Self-Employed Without Employees; Full-Time	5.01	4.16	4.20	4.99
Economically Active; Unemployed	3.1	3.1	4.8	4.4
Economically Active; Full-Time Student	2.3	5.7	3.5	3.4
Economically Inactive; Total	26.5	29.9	31.6	30.1
Economically Inactive; Retired	16.5	13.8	14.7	13.7
Economically Inactive; Student (including Full-Time Students)	3.1	9.6	5.9	5.8
Economically Inactive; Looking After Home or Family	3.5	2.7	4.3	4.4
Economically Inactive; Long-Term Sick or Disabled	2.0	2.5	4.5	4.0
Economically Inactive; Other	1.4	1.3	2.2	2.2

Figure 7.2 shows the tenure of households in Rufforth with Knapton Parish compared to those in York, Yorkshire and the Humber, and England. The proportion of people owning a home outright or with a mortgage in Rufforth with Knapton (89.5%) is substantially higher than the York average (66%) and national average (63.3%).

The proportion of socially rented houses in Rufforth with Knapton Parish (3.8%) is significantly lower than the York average (13.9%), regional average (18.1%) and national average (17.7%). The proportion of privately rented households in Parish is also significantly lower than the York, regional and national averages.

<sup>45</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011: Economic Activity, 2011 (QS601EW) [online] available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census> Accessed March 2017.

Figure 6.2: Tenure of households (%)<sup>46</sup>

#### 6.2.1.3 Current Community Facilities

The NP area contains a range of community facilities, the following of which have been identified as being especially important to the community:

- Allotments in Rufford and Knapton;
- Knapton recreational field;
- Rufford playing fields;
- Rufford Primary School;
- All Saints Rufford (Church of England);
- Rufford Methodist Church;
- Rufford Institute;
- Rufford Community Hall;
- Out Reach Post Office, Rufford;
- Old School shop and tearoom;
- Gliding club at Rufford Airfield;
- The Tankard Inn, Rufford; and
- The Red Lion public house, Knapton.

The 2008 PPG17 assessment for City of York Council found that respondents generally favoured the provision of more facilities for children, and the improvement of existing ones.

<sup>46</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011, QS405EW – Tenure, Households [online] available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census> Accessed March 2017.

## 6.2.2 Summary of future baseline

As shown in Table 7.1, the population of the Rufford with Knapton NP area grew at a lower rate than the York average, but higher than regional and national averages between 2001 and 2011. This population growth has the potential to continue, as evidenced by the recent addition of housing to the plan area. The Rufford with Knapton NP area has a population structure with a stronger-than-average skew towards older generations, especially generations aged 45-59 and 60 or more. As such, it may face challenges associated with an aging population to a greater extent than York, Yorkshire and the Humber, and the nation as a whole.

Despite the generally low levels of deprivation in the NP area, the issue of barriers to housing and geographical isolation should be investigated and improved where possible. The area could be expected to experience continued growth in employment (in line with population group) over the plan period, though this will largely be dependent on economic growth in York and other more substantial local settlements. The relatively highly educated population will likely continue to make the wider area a relatively attractive place for businesses to locate themselves.

## 6.2.3 Scoped in or out?

Taking the above into account, including the current baseline and future baseline without the implementation of the plan, it is considered that **population and communities should be scoped in** to the SEA process.

## 6.3 Headline sustainability issues

- Since 2001 the population of Rufford with Knapton NP area has grown at a faster rate than the national average.
- The NP area has a lower proportion of people in the 16-24 and 25-44 age groups than the national average and a higher proportion of residents within the 45-59 and 60+ age groups than the national average.
- When compared to other areas there is little deprivation within the NP area. However, there are pockets of deprivation through geographical and housing barriers.
- Like many other areas of the UK, the NP area is shown to have an ageing population. The population of the Rufford with Knapton NP area demonstrates a strong skew towards older people relative to the national average.
- Unemployment is currently low compared to the national average.
- Growth is expected to continue and provide employment to a growing population. However, the lack of employment opportunities within the Parish means that transport will be a critical factor in the sustainability of any growth.

## 6.4 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the population and communities SEA theme?

**Table 6.6 SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions for population and communities**

SEA objective	Assessment questions
Cater for the existing and future needs of all residents, and improve access to local, high-quality community services and facilities.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet the housing and employment needs for all members of the community, whilst reducing housing barriers and making greater housing provision for younger people?</li> </ul>
Reduce deprivation and promote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities, with consideration given to the high proportion of older residents?</li> </ul>

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community cohesion.

- Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities?
  - Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents?
  - Encourage and promote local employment and training opportunities?
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## 7. Health and Wellbeing

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### Focus of theme

- Health indicators;
- Health deprivation; and
- Open space provision.

## 7.1 Sustainability context

Key messages from the NPPF include:

- The social role of the planning system involves ‘supporting vibrant and healthy communities’.
- A core planning principle is to ‘take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all’.
- The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities’
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Set out the strategic policies to deliver the provision of health facilities.
- Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

In relation to other key national messages in relation to health, Fair Society, Healthy Lives<sup>47</sup> (‘The Marmot Review’) investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is: “overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities”.

The increasing role that local level authorities are expected to play in providing health outcomes is demonstrated by recent government legislation. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred responsibility for public health from the NHS to local government, giving local authorities a duty to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. This will require a more holistic approach to health across all local government functions.

## 7.2 Baseline summary

### 7.2.1 Summary of current baseline

#### 7.2.1.1 Health and deprivation indicators

Deprivation is a significant contribution to poor health and an adverse effect on wellbeing, and elements related to the poor quality of housing and income deprivation are a key influence. These issues have been discussed in detail in Chapter 7.

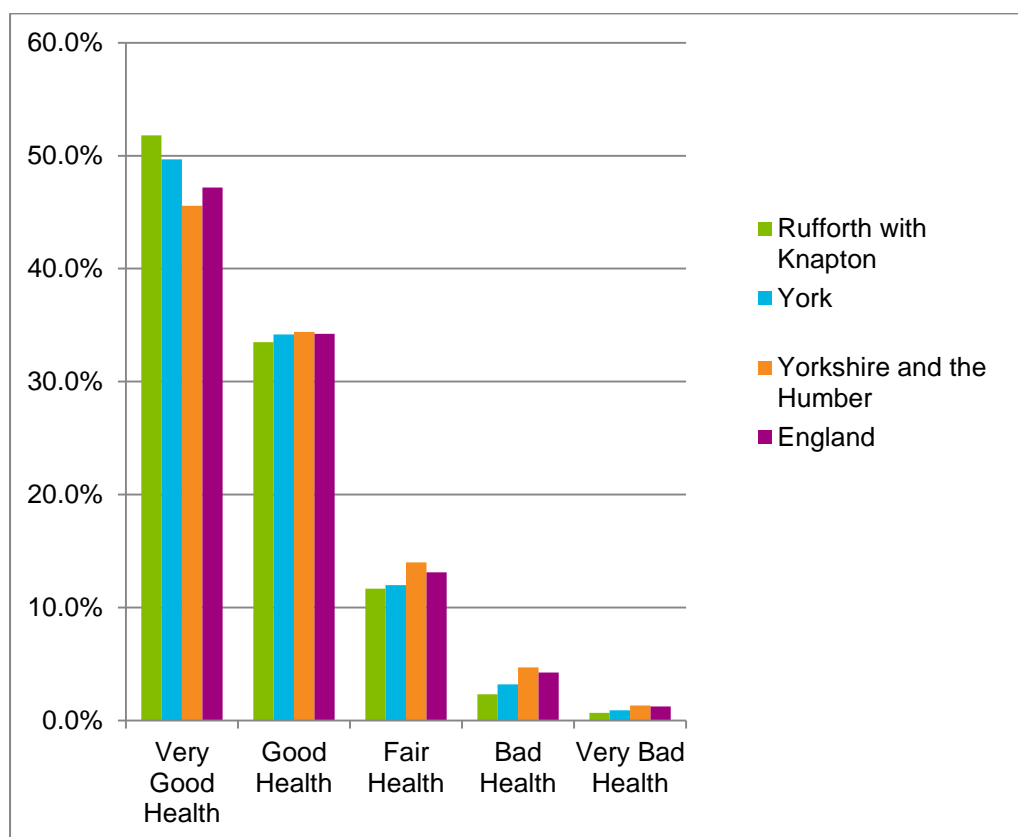
As highlighted in Figure 8.1 there are more residents in the Rufford with Knapton NP area in very good health (51.8%) when compared with City of York (49.7%), regional (45.6%) and national averages (47.2%).

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<sup>47</sup> The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available at: <http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/12111/53895/53895.pdf>



Figure 7.1 General health of Rufford with Knapton Parish residents in 2011<sup>48</sup>



However, the proportion of residents in ‘good’ health is marginally lower (33.5%) than York (34.2%) and regional (34.4%) averages and consistent with the national (34.2%) average. Additionally, the Rufford with Knapton NP area shows a lower proportion of those reporting themselves in ‘fair health’.

The proportion of residents in the Rufford with Knapton NP area who consider themselves in bad health and very bad health is lower than York, regional, and national averages. 0.68% of Rufford with Knapton NP area residents reported that they were in very bad health. This is lower than the national average which is 1.2%.

In terms of reported disabilities, the proportion of residents in the Rufford with Knapton NP area reporting that their day-to-day activities are limited ‘a lot’ by disability (5.5%) is lower than the York, regional and national average (8.3%). The proportion of residents in the Rufford with Knapton NP area who feel that their day to day activities are limited ‘a little’ by disability (9.5%) is higher than the York (8.8%) and national (9.3%) average, but lower than the regional average (9.8%). The proportion of residents who feel their day-to-day activities are not limited by disability (83.0%) is slightly higher than the district and national averages but lower than the average for the South East. This is shown in Table 8.1.

Table 7.1 Disability in Rufford with Knapton Parish<sup>49</sup>

	Rufford with Knapton	York	Yorkshire and the Humber	England
Day-to-day activities limited a lot (%)	5.5	6.6	9.1	8.3
Day-to-day activities limited a little (%)	9.5	8.8	9.8	9.3
Day-to-day activities not limited (%)	85	84.7	81.2	82.4

<sup>48</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011, QS302EW- General Health [online] available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census> Accessed March 2017.

<sup>49</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011, QS303EW - Long-term health problem or disability [online] available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census> Accessed March 2017.

### 7.2.1.2 Green Space Assessment

The overall provision of greenspace in York was found to be varied by the facility/greenspace type. Key requirements at the city level were for more open space provision for children and teenagers, and to a lesser degree outdoor sports facilities.<sup>50</sup>

The evidence provided by Rufforth with Knapton Parish Council in support of the NP notes that there are playing fields in Rufforth, with tennis courts, cricket and football pitches, and a small children's play area by the Rufforth Club House. In Knapton, there is a recreational field.

### 7.2.1.3 Recreation and healthcare facilities

The NP area contains a range of recreational areas, which include:

- Allotments in Rufforth and Knapton;
- Knapton recreational field;
- Rufforth playing fields; and
- Gliding club at Rufforth airfield.

The 2008 PPG17 assessment for City of York Council found that respondents generally favoured the provision of more facilities for children, and the improvement of existing ones. In addition, respondents favoured an increase in the provision of facilities for 13-18 year olds and sports facilities<sup>50</sup>. Whilst there are no healthcare facilities within the NP area, there are GP Practices in Askham Richard, Upper Poppleton, Acomb and on Cornlands Road in York.<sup>51</sup>

## 7.2.2 Summary of future baseline

In general, the health of the population in the NP area is slightly better than York, regional and national averages. There is a higher proportion of residents considering themselves in 'very good health' and a slightly lower proportion of residents who consider themselves in 'very bad health' than the national average. Disability prevalence is approximately in line with national averages.

As discussed in this scoping report, the population structure in the Rufforth with Knapton NP area is shown to have a proportionally higher number of older people in it. Older people are more likely to experience health problems and disability and therefore these patterns have the potential to change over the plan life time. An ageing population has the potential to increase pressures on healthcare services and ongoing cuts to community services have the potential to lead to effects on health and wellbeing over the longer term including specialist care for older people. The accessibility of healthcare facilities (in terms of transport) may become a severe problem as the population ages further.

In addition to this, obesity is seen as an increasing issue by health professionals, and one that will contribute to significant health impacts on individuals, including increasing the risk of a range of diseases, including heart disease, diabetes and some forms of cancer. The generally high rates of car ownership and car use in the Parish may exacerbate this issue.

## 7.2.3 Scoped in or out?

Taking the above into account, including the current baseline and future baseline without the implementation of the plan, it is considered that **health and wellbeing should be scoped in** to the SEA process.

## 7.3 Headline sustainability issues

- More people within the NP area identify as being in 'very good' health than district, regional and national averages.

<sup>50</sup> City of York (2014) Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study [online] available at: [https://www.york.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/2096/open\\_space\\_study.pdf](https://www.york.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/2096/open_space_study.pdf)

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

- There is also a slightly lower prevalence of disability in the Rufforth with Knapton NP area than the national average.
- The population age structure of the Rufforth with Knapton NP area shows a greater proportion of older people and this has the potential to affect the prevalence of both health and disability within the area in the future.
- The Rufforth with Knapton NP area is dependent on other areas' local service centres for many services; this situation is unlikely to change due to the population of the Parish and its proximity to external services and facilities. It will be important to improve links to these external facilities/services where possible. Existing facilities are highly valued and should be kept or improved where possible.

## 7.4 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the health and wellbeing SEA theme?

**Table 7.2 SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions for health and wellbeing**

<b>SEA objective</b>	<b>Assessment questions</b>
Improve the health and wellbeing of the NP area's residents.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote and protect accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups?</li> <li>• Facilitate access to the community and services for disabled people and older people?</li> <li>• Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green and open space?</li> </ul>

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## 8. Transport

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### Focus of theme

- Transportation infrastructure;
- Traffic flows and congestion;
- Accessibility;
- Car ownership; and
- Travel to work.

### 8.1 Sustainability context

European and UK transport policies and plans place emphasis on the modernisation and sustainability of the transport network. Specific objectives include reducing pollution and road congestion through improvements to public transport, walking and cycling networks and reducing the need to travel. National policy also focuses on the need for the transport network to support sustainable economic growth.

City of York Council's Local Transport Plan 3, 2011 to 2031 sets out the following high-level objectives for transport in the County:

- Providing quality alternatives to the car to provide more choice and enable more trips to be undertaken by sustainable means;
- Improving strategic links to enhance the wider connections with the key residential and employment areas in and around York, and beyond;
- Encouraging behavioural change to maximise the use of walking, cycling and public transport and continue improving road safety;
- Tackling transport emissions to reduce the release of pollutants harmful to health and the environment; and
- Enhancing public streets and spaces to improve the quality of life, minimise the impact of motorised traffic and encourage economic, social and cultural activity<sup>52</sup>.

### 8.2 Baseline summary

#### 8.2.1 Summary of current baseline

##### 8.2.1.1 Rail network

No mainline or branch railway stations are present in the NP area. However, York Station is approximately 5.5km by road from centre of Rufforth village. Services from York Station include a service to London King's Cross (approximately half-hourly) currently operated by Virgin Trains East Coast. Virgin Trains East Coast also serves cities to the north including Edinburgh and Newcastle. There is also a TransPennine Express service to Leeds, Manchester and Liverpool, with trains leaving roughly every 15 minutes. It should be noted that a HS2 station is proposed in the Church Fenton area, which will allow connections with trains into the City of York.

##### 8.2.1.2 Bus network

The bus connections of the Parish are described online at the 'Bus Services in York' website.<sup>53</sup> The NP area is served by the 412, which runs every two hours weekdays between Wetherby and York. There is a Park and Ride facility at Poppleton Bar just outside the Parish to the North East and residents in the Boroughbridge Road area can access bus services outside the Parish along the A59.

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<sup>52</sup> City of York Council (2011) Local Transport Plan 3, 2011 to 2031 [online] available at: <https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/3725/ltp3pdf>

<sup>53</sup> Bus Services Yorkshire (2016) [online] available at: <http://getdown.org.uk/bus/search/knapton.shtml>

8.2.1.3 Road network and congestion

The A1237 passes through the east of the NP area and connects to the A59 and A64. The B1224 runs through the NP area through Rufforth village. Rufforth village has developed either side of the B1224, which is, primarily, a straight stretch of road with a significant ‘S’ bend in the centre, near the Church. The B1224 is well used by vehicles (including heavy goods vehicles) with few natural or other obstacles to slow down motorists. In many locations and in particular by the church in Rufforth the footpath is very narrow and can be hazardous, impacting on the ability of local children to walk to school. There are no current restrictions on the weight of traffic through Rufforth or the A59 past the Boroughbridge Road area. A 7.5 tonne weight limit is signed through Knapton.

8.2.1.4 Methods of travel

Figure 9.1 shows the availability of cars and vans in the Parish. The proportion of households with no access to a car/van (8.8%) is lower than York (26.1%), regional (27.6%) and England averages (25.8%). There are also fewer households with 1 car or van than other averages at City of York, regional and national scales, whilst the level of multiple car or vans is significantly higher than at other scales. Car or van ownership is generally much higher in Rufforth with Knapton Parish than national averages and the number of households with 4 or more vehicles is more than three times the national average.

Figure 8.1 Car and van ownership in Rufforth with Knapton Parish (%)<sup>54</sup>

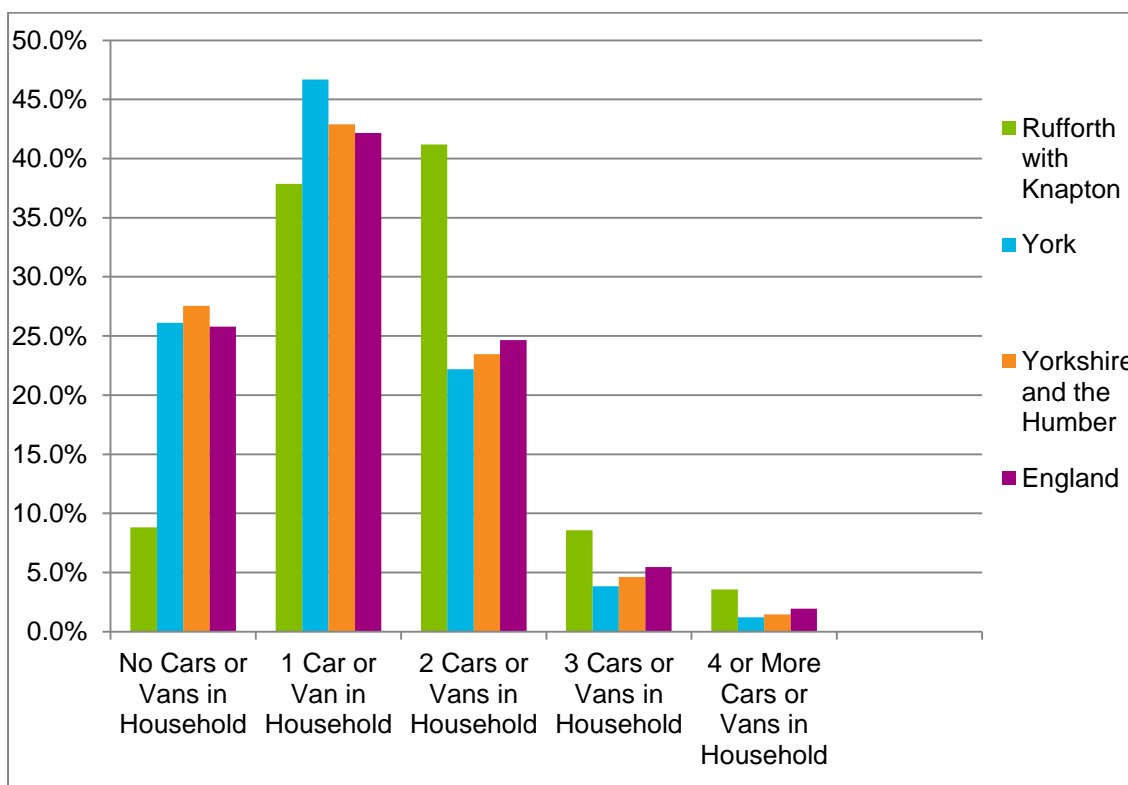
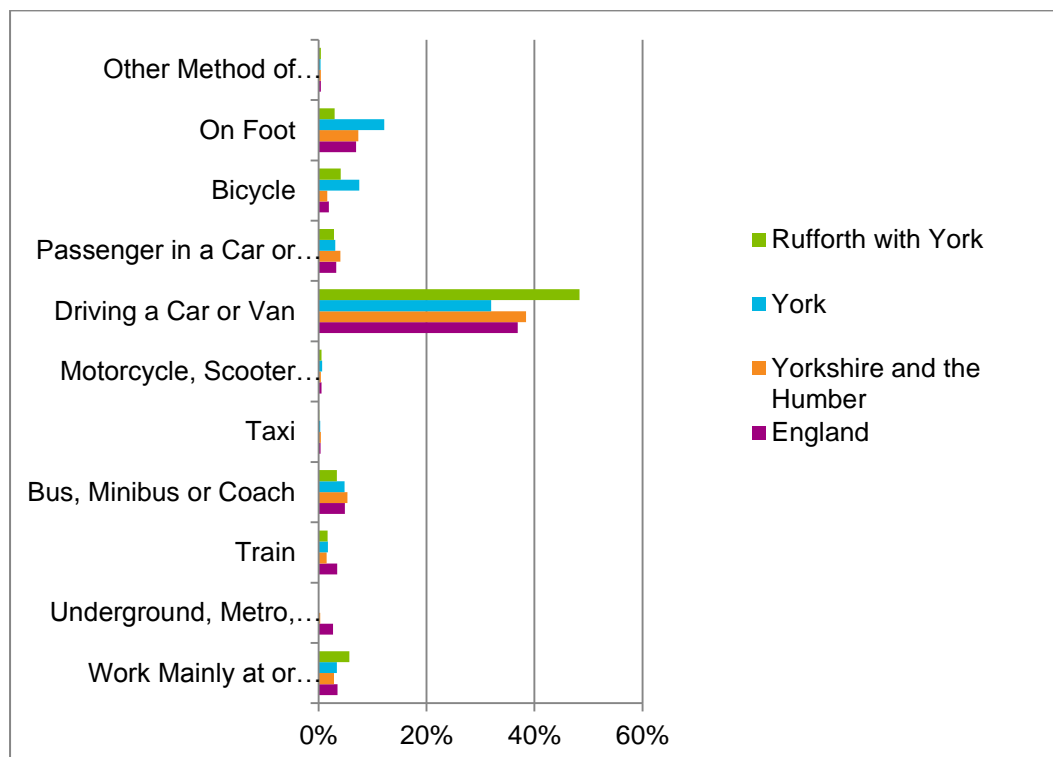


Figure 9.2 shows the method of travel to work for residents in the Rufforth with Knapton Parish area, compared with York, regional and England averages.

<sup>54</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011, Car or Van Availability (QS416EW) [online] available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census> Accessed March 2017.

Figure 8.2 Method of Travel to Work (Rufforth with Knapton Parish) (% of employed residents)<sup>55</sup>

As highlighted in Figure 8.2, the proportion of people who travel to work driving a car or van (48.31%) is higher than the averages for York (32%), Yorkshire and the Humber (38.6%) and England (37%). The percentage of people travelling to work on foot in the Parish (3%) is considerably lower than York (12.2%), regional (7.4%) and national (7%) averages. A smaller proportion of people travel to work by bus (3.4%) than all other comparators. However, travel by bicycle (4.1%) is more common than at a regional or national level, but less widespread than in York (7.5%).

## Summary of future baseline

Public transport usage has the potential to remain low compared to private vehicle use due to constraints imposed by the frequency of bus services and need to travel outside the NP area for a wider range of services/ facilities. However, there is potential to increase public transport efficacy and use, and to encourage further active forms of travel such as cycling. There is potential for the relatively high number of people working from home in the NP area to increase due to modern working patterns.

Whilst negative effects of new development on the transport network are likely to be limited by the scale of development, there will be a continuing need for development to be situated in accessible locations which limit the need to travel by private car.

### 8.2.2 Scoped in or out?

Taking the above into account, including the current baseline and future baseline without the implementation of the plan, it is considered that **transport should be scoped in** to the SEA process.

## 8.3 Headline sustainability issues

- There are no mainline or branch line railway stations present in the NP area.
- A small number of residents walk or cycle to work, although in both cases the proportion doing so is higher than the regional and national average. Both modes of transport should be encouraged, facilitated and supported through future development.

<sup>55</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011, Method of Travel to Work (QS701EW) [online] available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census> Accessed March 2017.

- There are regular bus services to York and Wetherby, the former of which has a major railway station connected to London and major northern cities like Edinburgh, Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle.
- Ownership of multiple cars is very high. New development areas should be situated in accessible locations which limit the need to travel by private car.

## 8.4 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the transport SEA theme?

**Table 8.1 SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions for transport**

<b>SEA objective</b>	<b>Assessment questions</b>
Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development?</li> <li>• Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel?</li> <li>• Enable transport infrastructure improvements?</li> <li>• Facilitate working from home and remote working?</li> </ul>

